



**OPINION 6**  
A NEW STANDARD FOR  
GLOBAL POPULISM

**WORLD 8**  
UKRAINE TROOPS CONTROL NEARLY  
500 SQ MILES OF KURSK REGION

**MONEY 9**  
MARKETS SETTLE  
ALMOST FLAT

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IVA JOVIC  
BEATS MAGDA IN  
FIRST ROUND  
10 SPORTS

## Protests singe City of Joy

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

Many people, including policemen, were injured in pitched battles intermittently fought at various locations of Kolkata and Howrah between the men in uniform and students protesting against the rape and murder of the lady doctor at a medical college in Kolkata. Several protesters were taken into custody. The students under the banner of a relatively obscure Paschim Banga Chhatra Samaj — with apparent blessings of the Opposition BJP — marched towards the State Secretariat Nabanna to demand the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee when clashes took place.

Initial jostling turned into skirmishes with the police repeatedly bursting tear gas, charging water jets and resorting to lathicharge as the charged up agitators that included many women refused to relent and turned aggressive. The pitched battles continued for more than five hours giving the police a harrowing time, sources in the administration said, adding additional combat forces and RAF had to be called in from the neighbouring districts.

At various places people profusely bleeding from head were seen being carried away by their co-agitators to the hospitals. Similarly the policemen who often got isolated were also attacked. At Babu Ghat a crowd of agitators badly beat up two policemen with lathis, rods, bricks and even shoes. Some even spit on them while



Tear gas shells being used by security personnel to disperse students during their protest march towards West Bengal Secretariat over the alleged sexual assault and murder of a trainee doctor, in Kolkata, on Tuesday

journalists covering the incident tried to intervene by appealing the people not to take law into their own hands. Intensity of the protest was such that the agitators who were quickly joined by swarms of political activists, moved dangerously close to the seat of State power, Nabanna with the police armed with riot gear having a trying time to push them back. The scene was almost same on both sides of the Hooghly River as the agitators broke through firmly erected barricades one after the other at Mahatma Gandhi Road, College Square, Princep Ghat, Esplanade, Hastings, Santragachi, Vidya Sagar Setu leading to Nabanna, Howrah Maidan, Sarat

### Safety of healthcare workers: Portal floated, public view sought

ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for the safety and security of healthcare professionals held its inaugural meeting under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary on Tuesday. It decided to conduct broader consultations with key stakeholders to identify critical issues and develop a comprehensive framework for

protecting those in the healthcare field. Soon after the NTF panel also favoured setting up an online portal seeking suggestions from the public, the Union Health Ministry shared a link in this regard, posting on the X social platform, "Suggestions to N T F" — <http://serviceonline.gov.in/directApply.do?serviceId=2987> for seeking suggestions from individuals and different stakeholders across the country.

Chatterjee Road and elsewhere shouting the hitherto familiar slogan "we want justice."

At Princep Ghat and Mahatma Gandhi Road the police chased away the agitators who were trying to break the cordons. At Kona Express Way too, the police fought intermittently with the agitators who were trying to enter Nabanna area from Howrah side.

In the melee more than 50 people, including policemen were hurt, sources said, adding that the count could go up as "more information from other zones are still awaited." The police had detained more than 350 people, the BJP sources said.

While the police accused the agitators of resorting to violence first by throwing bricks the opposite side said the students got agitated as news spread that four of their leaders who had been organising the movement for the past several days had "mysteriously gone missing" as they had allegedly been picked up around midnight on Monday. Incidentally most of the agitating doctors at various medical colleges and the members of the civil society remained indifferent to the Tuesday's march but continued their cease work at their workplaces, sources said.

The Tuesday's clashes were the culmination of fortnight long protests by the people from all walks of life against the brutal rape and murder of a lady doctor at the RG Kar Medical College Hospital and allege effort by the Kolkata Police and the powers that be to shield the real guilty.

## PM Modi shares perspectives on Russia-Ukraine conflict with Putin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and shared "insights" from his recent visit to Ukraine. During the telephone talks, Modi reiterated India's firm commitment to supporting an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

A day earlier on Monday, Modi had briefed US President Joe Biden on his visit to Ukraine and conveyed India's full support for the early return of peace to the region through dialogue and diplomacy.

As regards talks with President Putin, Modi said in a social media post, "Exchanged perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and my insights from the recent visit to Ukraine. Reiterated India's firm support to an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict." The Prime Minister also said he and President Putin also discussed measures to further strengthen Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

A statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) here said Modi had on Tuesday a telephone conversation with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

The Prime Minister recalled his successful visit to Russia last month to participate in the 22nd India-Russia Bilateral Summit. The two leaders reviewed progress on a number of bilateral issues and discussed measures to further



FILE PHOTO

strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. They also exchanged views on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The two leaders exchanged views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as Modi shared with Putin insights from his recent visit to Ukraine. He underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as well as sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to achieve an abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch.

Modi's talks with Putin took place days after he met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. During his meeting with the Ukrainian President, Prime Minister Modi had said India is "not neutral as it is always on the side of peace".



## NDA touches majority mark in Rajya Sabha, 11 elected unopposed

RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

In a major setback to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and a big relief to Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha, the Supreme Court on Tuesday granted her bail in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan passed the order after noting that the investigation is over and trial will take a long time to conclude. The bench also questioned the fairness of the prosecution agency (CBI/ED) and criticised their selective approach in treating some accused as approvers. It also

## BRS leader Kavitha gets bail in Liquorgate

RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

In a major boost to the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), nine candidates from the BJP and two from allies have been elected unopposed in the bypolls for the Rajya Sabha. This is the first time that the NDA has reached a majority mark in the Upper House. Currently, it has the support of six nominated and one Independent member.

As nine of the BJP members were elected unopposed, taking its tally to 96 and taking NDA to 112 in the Rajya Sabha. Among the three others to get elected unopposed were one each from NDA allies NCP faction of Ajit Pawar faction and Rashtriya Lok Manch. One member of the Congress also got elected, taking the Opposition numbers in the Upper House to 85. Rajya Sabha has 245 seats, though currently there are eight vacancies — four from Jammu and Kashmir and four nominated. With the House's current strength of 237, the majority mark is 119.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN n KOCHI

The controversy over casting couch in the Malayalam film industry took an interesting turn on Tuesday as Mohan Lal, popularly known as the superstar and South Indian Amitabh Bachchan, quit as president of Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), the apex body of film stars. All office bearers, including the executive committee members of AMMA, too, submitted their resignation along with Lal as the industry



Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha

asked the ED and the CBI about the "material" they had to show that Kavitha was involved in the alleged scam. The bench noted that the investigation is complete and chargesheet/prosecution complaint has been filed in both the CBI and ED cases. Hence, the custodial interrogation of the petitioner, who has been behind the bars

for over five months, is no longer necessary. Also, the trials in both cases are unlikely to be completed soon since there are about 493 witnesses to be examined and the documentary evidence runs into nearly 50,000 pages.

"The appellant (Kavitha) is directed to be released forthwith on bail... on furnishing bail bonds in the sum of 10 lakh in each of the cases," the bench said, while allowing her appeals against the July 1 verdict of the Delhi High Court which had denied her bail in the two cases. "The appellant (Kavitha) shall not make any attempt to tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses. The appellant shall deposit her passport with the learned Trial Judge. The appellant

shall regularly attend the Trial Court and cooperate with the expeditious disposal of the trial," reads the order. Later in the day, a city court issued release warrants for Kavitha, paving the way for her release from jail. The Supreme Court's decision has given hope to AAP convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal whose bail petition is pending in the apex court. Kejriwal's legal team is expected to argue the case on the basis of bail granted to Kavitha and Manish Sisodia in the same case. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja issued the release order for Kavitha after being informed that the politician was granted bail earlier in the day by the SC in both the cases.

## Mollywood's MeToo movement topples South Indian superstar

is plagued by allegations of sexual misconduct. A number of stars and directors, including Ranjith, (chairman, Chalachitra Academy), Siddique (general secretary, Amma), Mukesh MLA, Jayasoorya, Manian Pillai Raju, KP Prakash, Babu Raj (joint secretary, Amma) Babu (former general secretary, AMMA) have been



named by female artists as people seeking sexual favours in lieu of work or inappropriate behaviour or even attempt to rape. Those who raised the issue include Bengali actress Sreelekha Mitra, Revathy Sampath, Minu Muneer, Geetha Vijayan and a number of junior and senior artists giving the Malayalam film

industry a bad name. Lal's decision to quit was preceded by a WhatsApp chat with other office bearers and members of the executive committee. "We can expect more such allegations in coming days and it is better to quit rather than face the charges. Let a new team of office-bearers take over after the general body meeting," Lal reportedly told his colleagues. Though other office-bearers persuaded Lal to continue, the super star remained adamant and resigned.

## Rise of daughters in Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI n JAMMU

In the absence of any 'son'rise, it is time for the 'Laadli betis' to make their presence felt in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. On Tuesday, two daughters with strong claim to political legacy from the Jammu and Kashmir divisions filed their nomination papers for the first round of polling on September 18.

From Kishtwar, 29-year-old Shagun Parihar filed her nomination as the BJP candidate in the presence of J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina. She is the niece of late BJP leader Anil Parihar. Anil Parihar was killed by

terrorists along with his brother Ajeet Parihar while they were returning home on November 1, 2018. Anil Parihar had considerable influence in the area and was an active member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. "It is the love of the people of Kishtwar that has motivated me to file my nomination. I am confident of my victory. I am also certain that the brothers, sisters, and elders of Kishtwar will support my candidature and ensure my victory by a large number of votes," the BJP nominee told reporters after filing her nomination at the office of the returning officer in Kishtwar. She emphasised that this mandate is not just



for her family, but for the families of all martyrs in the region. Shagun Parihar, pursuing a doctorate in electronics, expressed gratitude to the BJP for honouring the families of martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation and the party. She stressed that peace, security, employment, and

women's empowerment would be the core areas of her work for the uplift of the mountainous district. In the Valley, 37-year-old Iltija Mufti, daughter of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti, made her electoral debut by filing the nomination papers from the Srigufwara-

Bijbehara constituency of south Kashmir. Bijbehara is a traditional bastion of the PDP. It has been represented from 1999 to 2018 by senior party leader Abdul Rehman Veeri. "The party has reposed faith in me by fielding me from the Bijbehara Assembly constituency," Iltija told

## DAHI HANDI SHOW



Devotees form a human pyramid to break the 'dahi handi', an earthen pot filled with curd, as part of Janmashtami celebrations, at Dadar, Mumbai, on Tuesday

media persons in Anantnag on Tuesday. She said that her grandfather, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and mother Mehbooba Mufti had also started their political career from Bijbehara. "Today, it is a very emotional moment for me and I am truly honoured," she said. Mehbooba Mufti has vowed not to contest Assembly elections until Statehood is restored. In Kishtwar, BJP candidates Sunil Sharma and Tariq Keen also filed their nomination papers from Paddar Nagseni and Inderwal seats, respectively. Meanwhile, the BJP on Tuesday named 29 more candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, taking to 45 the number of

seats for which it has announced its nominees. The BJP has made one change from the now-revised list, which was put out on Monday, as it has named Baldev Raj Sharma from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi seat in place of Rohit Dubey. All other names are the same for the same set of constituencies, announced on Monday before being withdrawn. In Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference released a list of 32 candidates which included Omar Abdullah for the Ganderbal Assembly seat, a constituency that he represented from 2009 to 2014 when he was the Chief Minister of the NC-Congress coalition Government.



# CM's initiative brings regional industry conclave to Gwalior today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Following the success of the Regional Industry Conclave initiated by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav at the divisional headquarters, the next event will take place at Gwalior headquarters. Prominent industrial representatives and investors have been invited to accelerate the industrial development of the Gwalior-Chambal region. Preparations for the conclave, which will be held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University in Gwalior, a historic city in Madhya Pradesh, are now complete. The "City of Music," Gwalior, is ready to warmly welcome its distinguished guests. The one-on-one meetings will be the highlight of the conclave, where prominent industrialists

and investors will explore investment opportunities in the Gwalior-Chambal region. Established industrial units in the region, including Jamna Auto Industries, Godrej Consumer Products, Supreme & Mandlays, Sanghvi Food, and Montage Enterprises, are set to expand their operations, bringing in approximately ₹2,260 crore in capital investment. This expansion is expected to create employment for over 4,500 people. In the Gwalior "Regional Industry Conclave", Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and SEZ Limited along with senior directors and officials from prominent companies like Reliance Industries, AGI Green Pack, Accenture Industries, Prime Gold, OFV Tech, BR Group, Marble Vinyls and Modern Techno are com-

ing with industrial investment. **Trade commissioners of 6 nations to attend** Trade commissioners and industrial representatives from half a dozen countries are coming to participate in the Gwalior Conclave. These include Zambia's Secretary of Economy and Trade, Ireen Akombelwa Apuleni and Secretary of Press - Tourism, Benny Mundando, Mission Attaché of Togo, Maz Viayo Mendeli, Chief Diplomatic Agreement of Costa Rica, Sofia Salas Monge, Mexico's Economic and Commercial Affairs Officer, Ricardo Daniel, Delgado Munoz and Kharlo Mario Quinonez, Trade Commissioner Miss Priya of Netherlands and Ravi Tiwari of Canada. Senior officials of the Principal Secretary level of the state gov-

ernment will give a presentation on the industrial possibilities of Madhya Pradesh including the Gwalior-Chambal region. A presentation will be given on "Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh" by Principal Secretary Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion. Presentations will be given on "Opportunities in MSME and start-up sector in Madhya Pradesh" by Secretary MSME, Managing Director Handicraft Handloom Development Corporation Mohit Bundas "Opportunities in rural handloom and handicraft industries in Madhya Pradesh", Principal Secretary Mineral Resources Sanjay Kumar Shukla, on "Opportunities in the field of Mineral Resources in Madhya Pradesh", "Opportunities in ITESDM/ITES sector in Madhya Pradesh" by Principal

Secretary Science and Technology Sanjay Dubey and Principal Secretary Tourism Sheoshekhar Shukla on "Opportunities in the field of tourism in Madhya Pradesh". At the Regional Industry Conclave, the exhibition sector will feature stalls showcasing industrial products. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, along with other distinguished guests and entrepreneurs from India and abroad, will visit the exhibition. During the conclave, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will hold one-on-one meetings with industrialists. Round table discussions will cover topics such as the Gwalior PCB cluster, opportunities in the start-up and footwear sectors, and sectoral sessions will explore tourism opportunities, MSMEs, exports, and the "One District-One Product" initiative.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurates the bhoomi puja programme for the world class hygiene non-woven unit being set up by TWE-OBT Industries Group in Acharpura Industrial Area in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# Congress SC wing protest at CM House, police stop using water cannons

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Massive protest was staged by Madhya Pradesh Congress Scheduled Caste Wing against the incidents happening with the Dalit class in Madhya Pradesh. Police stopped the Congress workers in front of Arera Hills Police Station where they were going to the CM House in Bhopal. Police instructed them to return, but the workers remained adamant on their stand. Police removed the protesters by using water cannons. Earlier in the general meeting, State Congress President Jeetu Patwari said, every Congressman and citizen of the country has to take an oath to protect it. Stand up, raise your hands and take an oath. Until the caste census is done in the state and the country, every colleague of the state and follower of our Baba Sahab

Ambedkar, will not remain in peace. State Congress President Jeetu Patwari attended the general meeting. Congress officials presented him with a copy of the Constitution. Jitu Patwari said, the post of Chief Minister has a culture. His language has credibility. The language of the Chief Minister has become like that of goons a small-time local leader. Patwari said that this fight is not a small one. Rahul Gandhi has vowed to protect the Constitution. Which talks about protecting reservation, caste census. Whoever has more shares, his participation will be more. Former minister PC Sharma said, people of Dalit class are being discriminated against and treated unjustly. Rahul Gandhi has talked about caste count. It should be known how many people belong to which

class, so that they can get its benefit. A public meeting of Congress was held at Roshanpura Chauraha. After this, they proceeded to surround the CM House. Congress held a public meeting at Roshanpura Chauraha. After this, they proceeded to surround the CM House. State President of Congress Scheduled Caste Department Pradeep Ahirwar said that more than two thousand workers from the entire state have come to join this siege. Be it Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe class, a lot of atrocities are being committed on them in the entire state. The land allotted to these classes in Digvijay Singh's government is still occupied by the goons. Our reservation is also in danger. We are protesting on all these issues. Pradeep Ahirwar said, Dalits are killed after stripping them, Dalit daughters die under suspicious

circumstances. In Ashoknagar, a woman from Scheduled Caste is killed by entering her house. In Sagar, BJP is building a temple of Sant Ravidas ji at a cost of Rs 100 crores, the entire country knows how people from the same class are killed. Madhya Pradesh has become a state of hell under Mohan Yadav's government. When Congress fights for Dalits and demands a CBI inquiry, BJP said that Congress is doing politics. In-charge of Congress departments and calls JP Dhanopia, said, Dalits, Adivasis and deprived classes are being oppressed in Madhya Pradesh. The incident of Barodiya Nonagiri in Sagar is in front of everyone. Recently, a person was shot dead in public in Singrauli. They kill by hanging in jail and claim that person died of suicide. There is no concern of Dalits, nor Adivasis nor backward classes in the state.

# State government committed to encourage investment: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has established itself as the world's fifth-largest economy, with Madhya Pradesh making steady progress towards development. Significant advancements are being made in agriculture, industrialization and employment. Yadav emphasized the need for large-scale industrialization in the state and noted that efforts are underway to achieve this. The Bhoomi-Pujan ceremony held today marks a step in this direction. He also announced the establishment of a police station in Acharpura area of Bhopal to enhance security for employees and improve police management as industrial activities continues to expand. Yadav was addressing the Bhoomi

Pujan programme for the TWE-OBT Industrial Group's new world-class Hygiene Non-Woven Unit in the Acharpura Industrial Area of Bhopal. Chief Minister announced that a series of regional industry summits has been launched to enhance industrial growth across the state. Summits have already taken place in Ujjain and Jabalpur, with future events scheduled for Gwalior, Rewa, and Sagar. These gatherings have been key in attracting investment and spurring industrial growth throughout Madhya Pradesh, creating around 75,000 new jobs. Similar summits have been held in major industrial centers like Mumbai, Coimbatore, and Bangalore, with another set for Kolkata on September 19th. The goal of these summits is to draw significant investors and industrialists to Madhya Pradesh for expansion oppor-

tunities. Chief Minister Yadav emphasized that Madhya Pradesh offers comprehensive facilities for investment and industry. The state is home to humble, diligent, hardworking, and dedicated human resources, with no signs of labor strikes. Both the political leadership and administrative system are supportive of industrial growth, backed by an industry-friendly policy. Yadav noted that industries benefit not only industrialists but also create employment opportunities, generate revenue and enhance the state's reputation both nationally and globally. The government remains committed to attracting investment and enhancing industrial activity throughout the state. Chief Minister said that initiating a non-woven fabric unit in the state by the TWE-OBT

industry group is commendable. Its production in the country will reduce our dependence on other countries and increase our self-reliance. He expressed the hope that this industry group will establish more units of non-woven fabric in the state. Chief Minister Yadav also invited TWE-OBT to set-up employment-based units like carpet manufacturing in Madhya Pradesh. Bhopal MP Alok Sharma said that, under Chief Minister Yadav's leadership, industrial activities are growing across the state. The Berasia area of Bhopal, traditionally known for its agricultural focus, is now emerging as an industrial center. Berasia MLA Vishnu Khatri also addressed at the event. Additionally, Jörg Artmeier and Rudra Chatterjee from the Group provided details about their organization's activities.



Police use water cannons to disperse Congress SC ST cell workers during a demonstration protesting against the injustice, discrimination and exploitation of Dalits in the BJP led state Government regime, in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# Ajay Chitnis, The Journey of a Documentarist and a Trailblazer

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Noted Documentary and short film maker Ajay Chitnis was in Bhopal, exploring the potential in Madhya Pradesh. He has made more than 100 Documentaries so far and covered eminent personalities including the entrepreneurs across the country. In Bhopal, he talked to The Pioneer at length about his journey. He feels that there are big faces in Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur and other cities of Madhya Pradesh. "Soon I shall explore the possibilities. There are major industrial groups in the State that I would like to cover," he said. He developed passion towards film direction during his academic years. He has covered several eminent personalities including Dr Neelkanth Kalyani, Founder Chairman, Bharat Forge, Ram Jethmalani,



Anna Hazare, Govind/ Rajesh Uttarakhandani from Syska, Arvind Vohra, Gionee, Priyamvada Bhaynkar, Soujanya Colours Pvt Ltd, the second largest colourant manufacturing company in the world, Rajesh Nigam, Karam Group, Mukhtar Amin, Super Industries, Manipal Dhaliwal, NRI Businessman, Lord Ramji Rangan, Raman Aggarwal, Legal Jupitice, Rajesh Bhatwal,

Neetiraj Group and Rohit Gadia, Capital Via. He never forgets to mention the story of lawyer Payal Chawla from Delhi, whose biopic had received accolades from all over the world. When he came across the story of Payal Chawla who fought against leading MNC at the highest court in India, on pregnancy and young mother-hood discrimination. "Although, she lost the litigation, I found fascinating that a woman who is so highly educated could have suffered blatant harassment at the hands of her employer. Amazingly, her entire case which was documented in detailed letters, was very rare in gender bias," he said, adding that the

Documentary on gender bias titled Payal Chawla 'The Mind that Matters' is the story full of intrigue and anguish in equal measure. "This Documentary has given me immense joy, solace and creative satisfaction. This subject is very close to my heart," he said. The poster of Payal Chawla's story was displayed on Times Square in New York on March 8, the International Women's Day. Ajay Chitnis has done his schooling and college in various parts of the country, primarily in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. His impressive work ethic and passion for film making brought him several accolades. He has produced and directed a music video 'Dama dum Mast Kalandar' for Times Music and produced five commercials for a leading diamond brand. Chitnis has his primary target set on direction of Documentaries.

# Residents at Khejra Baramad protest against electricity employees

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Locals protested for over four hours after employees of the electricity department went to disconnect a temporary power connection at Khejra Baramad on Tuesday. People got angry at the team which came to cut the temporary electricity connection. In protest, they sat on the road and closed the main roads. After assurance, they left the spot. They have complained to Minister Krishna Gaur. Residents said that they are being asked to deposit Rs 1 lakh or more in the name of permanent connection. How to pay such a huge amount? Khejra Baramada located in Ward-74 was flooded two days ago on Saturday-Sunday. There are major colonies like Radhakrishna, Tirupati City, Punyadharm Colony, Nikunj Dham Colony, Pushpanand City in this area. There are more than 300 houses. Khejra Baramada has mostly illegal colonies. Due to this, illegal electricity connections are being made legal here. People here have tem-

porary connections. These are being cut and permanent connections are being made. The electricity company is providing connections up to 7 kilowatts. In return, Rs 70,000 to Rs 1.25 lakh are being deposited. Resident Mukesh Sahu said that he lives in Pratibha City. He has applied for a domestic electricity connection. In return, he has been asked to deposit Rs 1,24,000. Resident Honey Sharma said that the team of the electricity company reaches the colony every day to cut temporary connections. On Tuesday also, they had come to cut the connection. People got angry with this and blocked the road. Many people sat on the road itself. People sat on the road for about four hours in Khejra Baramada. During this time, children and women were also present on the spot. Due to the protest, the team of the electricity company had to return. The department has given a few days' time. The residents also complained to Minister Gaur. He said that he is ready to deposit the amount as per the rules.

# Governor Mangubhai Patel falls ill, hospitalized

Bhopal: Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Mangu Bhai Patel, was admitted to AIIMS Bhopal on Tuesday morning with a complaint of fever. Upon his arrival, a team of senior doctors immediately attended to him, ensuring that he received the highest standard of medical care. The medical team, comprising experts from various specialties, conducted a thorough evaluation and initiated appropriate treatment. As of the latest updates, Mangu Bhai Patel's condition is stable and showing signs of improvement. The doctors are closely monitoring his health, and he is responding well to the treatment provided. Prof (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, assured that with the medical team is taking all necessary precautions and following the best practices in managing the Hon'ble Governor's health. He stated, "The Hon'ble Governor is under our close observation, and we are committed to providing him with the best possible care. His condition is improving steadily, and we are hopeful for a swift recovery."

# Murdered body of a 22-year-old youth found near Transport Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 22-year-old youth was killed by slitting his throat at a forest near Transport Nagar under Bilkharia police station area, body was found on Monday two days after he left home for some work. The body of the young man was found in the forest adjacent to Transport Nagar. The police received information about this on the evening of Monday. According to the police, the throat of the young man has been slit, although it will be officially confirmed only after the autopsy report is received. The young man used to work as a laborer. After the body was found police were informed by the locals and a team reached the spot. In the initial investigation the details of the deceased were searched and the deceased was identified as Supyar Shilpi who left home on Saturday. After the postmortem the body has been handed over to the family. A case has been registered against unknown persons and the

**In the initial investigation the details of the deceased were searched and the deceased was identified as Supyar Shilpi who left home on Saturday**

matter is being investigated. A broken vegetable cutting knife has also been found in the young man's hand. Supyar's brother Manoj said that Supyar had left on Saturday night saying that he would return in an hour. Later the family received information about his death. Police have started an investigation and would question friends and family members to reveal the reason behind the killing. It was not confirmed where Supyar had gone and with whom in the evening on Saturday. The knife found in his hand would be investigated. The statements of the family members are yet to be recorded which might provide clues of murder.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan with BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma being garlanded during the Raksha Bandhan celebration programme at Phanda village, near Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# Dr Rupinder Kaur awarded Stree Shakti Samman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Prof Singh's visionary approach has not only propelled AIIMS Bhopal to new heights but has also inspired faculty members to excel in their respective areas of research. Their dedication is being recognized and honored at both national and international forums. A recent testament to this

progress is the prestigious Health Research STREE Shakti Samman 2024 awarded to Dr. Rupinder Kaur Kanwar, Head of the Department of Translational Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal. Dr. Kanwar was recognized for her outstanding contributions to medical research and inspirational guidance. The award celebrates her adoption of innovative medical technologies, active partnerships in medical research,

and significant contributions to the future of medicine, particularly in the field of Nanomedicine and Biotechnology. The Health Research STREE Shakti Samman is a distinguished honor awarded in memory of the eminent leader and public servant, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, recognizing excellence in Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship (STREE).

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# Ujjain is moving rapidly in the direction of industrialization: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that Ujjain is moving rapidly in the direction of industrialization. Textile industry will play a key role in women empowerment. CM Dr. Yadav directed to prepare a project to promote textile industry in Malwanchal and also to ensure all necessary arrangements by the police administration for women safety in industries. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav visited Best Life Style Industries (Textile Industry) located at Naghiri in Ujjain on Tuesday. He observed the work of textile manufacturing being done by more than 1000 women here. CM Dr. Yadav also commended the efforts of working women during a cordial interaction with them. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

also operated the machine. More than 1000 women working in the industry thanked CM Dr. Yadav for providing employment. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav discussed with the women artisans preparing clothes about salary and household-family. Women artisans said that they are satisfied with getting employment. Now there is no difficulty in running the household and the family and we have become self-reliant. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav discussed in detail with the officials in the Best Life Style office regarding the activities of industrial development in Ujjain. He said expeditious efforts should be made towards making Ujjain a medical tourism destination. CM Dr. Yadav stated that land should be provided promptly for the investment proposals submitted by prominent indus-



trialists of the country who are interested in establishing their industrial units in Ujjain. He said that like Bengaluru, an IT park should be established in Ujjain too so that IT engineers of Malwa can get employment and Ujjain can become a hub of start-ups. He directed the district administration to allocate land for the IT Park soon. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the clothes being prepared in Ujjain's Best Apparel Park are

of high quality and international standard level. The clothes prepared from here are being exported to countries like America, Canada etc., due to which Ujjain's name is emerging as an industrial area at the international level. Ujjain's prosperous textile industry is now being revived. The skill of Ujjain's women is being hailed all over the world. Along with this, he directed that night shift should also be started soon in Best Apparel Park to increase more employment. He said that like Indore, readymade complex, plug and play industrial park should be developed in Ujjain too. He directed to expand the success of Vikram Udyog further. Yadav also talked about encouraging farmers for cotton cultivation and said that industries should source raw materials locally to enhance farmers' income.

In the meeting, Vice President of Best Life Style, Puneet Jain told that Best Life's unit in Ujjain is one of the largest textile industry units in the country. More than one lakh clothes are being manufactured here every day. An investment of Rs 358 crore has been made in Best Life Style of Ujjain, creating employment opportunities for over 1,000 women, which is being increased to 4000 women. Executive Director MPIDC presented the roadmap of industrial development in Ujjain in the meeting, mainly providing information on accelerating the proposed IT Park, Readymade Complex, Plug and Play and the plan to expand Vikram Udyogpuri. On this occasion, MLA Anil Jain Kaluhera, Mayor Mukesh Tatwal, Vivek Joshi and other public representatives and officials were present.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav after the inauguration of Best Life Style Industries (Vastu Industries) located at Naghiri in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. Pioneer photo



Police investigate the site after a building collapsed while workers were dismantling its portion in MP Nagar zone-2, in Bhopal on Tuesday. Two workers were injured in the incident. Pioneer photo

## House collapses, labourer rescued

**Bhopal:** A labourer got trapped after an old building collapsed in MP Nagar on Tuesday afternoon he was rescued safely from the debris. The building owner was getting it demolished. The work was going on for several days. Today, 3 laborers were working during the accident and all are safe. MP Nagar police station in-charge Jai Hind Sharma said that no one was injured in the accident. The incident took place at plot number 85 of zone 2 of MP Nagar. It is near Hakim Restaurant. Locals said that the good thing was that there was no one around the building. The laborer who was rescued from the debris has suffered a minor injury in his leg.

The building is owned by Rajesh Pardarshani. The house was built 30 years ago and was demolished to build a new house. Zone in-charge Shailesh Chauhan said that some workers were demolishing the rear portion, when the portion started breaking. Some bricks hit the worker in the front portion. He got injured due to this. Injured worker Mangal Singh said that when the accident happened, he was working on the first floor. Some other workers were also present there during the incident, but they all managed to get out safely. A total of three floors were being demolished at the construction site, out of which the roofs of the remaining floors had already been demolished.

## Hindustan Zinc hosts the maiden Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon on September 29

**New Delhi:** Hindustan Zinc Limited (NSE: HINDZINC) is poised to take a monumental leap in the fight against hunger with the launch of the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon. Set against the stunning backdrop of Udaipur, Rajasthan, this inaugural marathon is scheduled for 29th September 2024. As an official member of the Association of International Marathons (AIMS) and Distance Races, this event has received AIMS certification and is a globally listed marathon, further cementing its significance on the global stage. Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon is open to all and to register visit <https://www.townscript.com/e/vedanta-zinc-city-half-marathon-2024>. What sets the Vedanta Zinc City

Half Marathon apart is its breathtaking route, which winds around the serene Fateh Sagar Lake, cradled by the majestic Aravali ranges. Participants will traverse a path along Udaipur's rich heritage, passing by iconic monuments like the Maharana Pratap Smarak, lush green oases like Saheliyon Ki Bari, and the revered Neemuch Mata Mandir hill. With categories including the half marathon (21 kilometres), Cool Run (10 kilometres), and Dream Run (5 kilometres), this event promises an unforgettable experience for runners professional and amateur runners from around the world. As Udaipur, proudly known as Zinc City, hosts its first-ever marathon, the event also heralds the arrival of autumn—one of the most picturesque times to visit this

enchanting city. The marathon's theme, #RunForZeroHunger, resonates deeply with the philosophy of giving back to society, aligning with the broader goal of combating hunger. This initiative also coincides with Nutrition Month (Poshan Maah), a government-endorsed campaign, highlighting the critical role of zinc in nutrition and underscoring the mission to eradicate rural malnutrition, ensuring that no child goes to bed hungry. By participating, runners will not only be part of Udaipur's history but will also directly contribute to providing nutritious, zinc-rich meals to those in need.

## Continuous encouragement for modern science and technology

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced that a National Seminar on Synthetic Chemistry will be held at Madhav Science College, Ujjain, an occasion of great pride for everyone. He highlighted that the college is his alma mater and emphasized that such events foster scientific activities. Madhav Science College, the first institution in the state to receive an A+ grade, will host discussions on synthesizing elements and polymers in its chemistry lab during the seminar. These events are expected to yield significant insights into future scientific research. Chief Minister Yadav addressed the gathering on Tuesday after inaugurating the two-day national seminar on Organic Chemistry. The seminar, held on August 27th and 28th, was organized by the Anushandhan National Research Foundation, the Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology in Bhopal, and the Public Participation Committee of Madhav Science College, Ujjain. Titled "A Conventional Discussion on Synthetic Organic Chemistry and Beyond," the event aims to advance research and innovation in Chemistry and support the successful implementation of the

National Education Policy. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively promoting diverse modern research initiatives across the country. Emphasis is being placed on generic medicines and the applications of polyester and other manufacturing materials. During the seminar, it was highlighted that this conference aims to explore organic chemistry and various synthetic chemical forms. Numerous research papers have been submitted for the event, which will include technical and significant sessions. These papers will be published in a journal following the conference. Researchers will present their findings during the sessions, and the Chief Minister also released the conference proceedings booklet. In the seminar, MP Shri Anil Firojia, MLA Shri Anil Jain Kaluhera, Mayor Shri Mukesh Tatwal, Shri Vivek Joshi, Vice Chancellor Vikram University Shri Akhilesh Kumar Pandey, Dr. Arvind Chaudhary of Anushandhan National Research Foundation, Vice Chancellor Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Vedic University Acharya Vijay Kumar CG., Principal Government Madhav Science College, Ujjain, scientists, professors and students were present.

## State-level Shikshak Samman on September 05

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The state-level teachers felicitation ceremony of the Directorate of Public Instructions is being organized on 5th September on the occasion of Teacher's Day at the Golden Jubilee Hall of RCVN Noronha Academy of Administration, Bhopal. As many as 14 teachers will be honoured with state-level teachers awards and 2 teachers who were awarded the National Teachers Award-2023 last year will also be felicitated. Applications and nominations have been received from teachers and recommendations of the District Selection Committee and Divisional Selection

Committee have been obtained for the State-Level Teachers Award. After this process, 8 teachers in classes 1 to 8 primary secondary category and 6 teachers in classes 9 to 12 higher secondary category have been selected by the state-level selection committee, thus a total of 14 teachers have been selected for the state-level teachers award. All these teachers will be given an honorarium of Rs 25,000, shawl, shripthal, and citation in the ceremony. A block-level educational seminar will be organized by the School Education Department on 'Use of Technology and Joyful Learning in the Perspective of New Education Policy-2020' on the occasion of Teacher's Day. In

this series, a seminar will be held on "Need and contribution of primary schools for elementary education" at the district level. In the seminar to be held at the state level, the topic "Need and importance of employment-oriented education in the Indian scenario" will be discussed. The School Education Department has instructed the District Education Officers to ensure maximum participation in these seminars. The seminar will be held on 4 September. The first, second, and third position teachers selected from the state-level educational seminar by the state-level jury will also be honored in this program with a shawl, shripthal, citation and honorarium.



Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Vishwas Kailash Sarang being garlanded during Raksha Bandhan celebration programme in ward 37, 71 and 77 in Narela constituency in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

## Training to teachers at ELTI

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The English Language Teaching Institute (ELTI) is being run by the Directorate of Public Instructions in the Rajya Shiksha Kendra of Bhopal for the upgradation of English language teaching. The work of training English language teachers of the state is being done through the institute. The institute which was established in the year 1964, is being run in the Madhya Pradesh Rajya Shiksha Kendra, Bhopal. Continuous cooperation and guidance is being taken from the Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad for upgradation and stratification in the field of English language teaching.

नाम परिवर्तन	
मैं ललिता मालवीय (Lalita Malviya) सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करती हूँ कि मेरी पुत्री के शैक्षणिक दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम त्रुटि से ललिता बाई मालवीय (Lalita bai Malviya) अंकित हो गया है जो कि गलत है जबकि मेरे सभी शासकीय अर्थ शासकीय दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम ललिता मालवीय (Lalita Malviya) अंकित है जो की सही है। इस प्रकाशन के उपरांत मुझे ललिता मालवीय (Lalita Malviya) के नाम से ही पढ़ा लिखा एवं पुकारा जाए।	गलत नाम: ललिता बाई मालवीय (Lalita bai Malviya)
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**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान भोपाल**  
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL**  
 (An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India)  
 साकेत नगर, भोपाल (म.प्र.) - 462020, www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in

**NOTICE**  
 Institute level Stray Vacancy round counselling is scheduled on 30th August 2024 at 12:00 Noon at AIIMS Bhopal campus for filling up the MD/MS seats at AIIMS Bhopal for the July 2024 Session which remained vacant after the Open round of Counselling held by AIIMS Delhi.

Sl. no	Subject	Seat	UR	OBC	SC	ST	EWS
1	Anatomy	3	1	0	1	0	0
2	Biochemistry	4	1	1	1	0	1
3	Emergency Medicine	2	1	1	0	0	0
4	Microbiology	2	0	0	1	1	0
5	Physiology	3	1	1	1	0	0
6	Transfusion Medicine & Blood Bank	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total		15	4	4	3	2	2

For details of vacant seats, requirement of documents and other information, please visit AIIMS Bhopal website [www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in](http://www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in)

Dean (Academics) AIIMS, Bhopal

## No alert for heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh for next two days: Met

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The strong system of rain which was active in Madhya Pradesh for 3 days has lost its intensity due to this, there is no alert of heavy rain for the next 2 days. On Tuesday, light rain occurred in Indore, Dhar, Ratlam, Guna and Satna. The sunshine was bright the entire state including Bhopal, Gwalior, Narmadapuram, Ujjain. There were clouds at some places. A strong system will be formed again from August 29-30. In such a situation, September will also start with heavy rain. This time more rainfall has been recorded in June, July and August than the quota of the monsoon season. So far 88% of the season i.e. 33 inches of rain has occurred. Senior meteorologist told that due to monsoon trough, deep low pressure area, cyclonic circulation

and western disturbance, there was a period of heavy rain in the entire state. Heavy rain occurred in many districts on Monday also, but monsoon activity will decrease from Tuesday. On the other hand, Alirajpur Collector Dr. Abhay Arvind Bedekar has declared a holiday for schools from nursery to class 8 in the district today due to rain. He gave orders for this late on Monday evening. The former Sarpanch's house was destroyed due to lightning in Bilav village of Bhind district. Thankfully, there was no loss of life. The incident happened on Monday night. The villagers were celebrating the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, when suddenly lightning struck an old building. The rainfall in Mandla- Seoni is more than 45 inches. Bhopal has received 108 percent more rain than normal. Shivpuri, Bhind,

Sheopur, Seoni, Niwari and Singrauli have also received more rain than normal. There are 5 districts in the state where more than 40 inches of rain have been recorded. Mandla has received the highest rainfall of 45.97 inches. Seoni has received 45 inches, Bhopal, Sheopur-Chhindwara have received more than 40 inches. Narmadapuram, Raisen, Sagar, Dindori, Rajgarh and Guna have also received good rainfall. More rain than expected is recorded in the state capital. The Meteorological Department had predicted 106% or 40 inches of rain in Bhopal, but so far about 108% of the rainfall has been recorded. This figure will increase further, because the whole of September is still left. Due to good rains, all the dams and ponds of Bhopal have also overflowed. On Tuesday, the rain stopped a bit and bright sunshine

has shone since morning. An average of 40.5 inches of rain has fallen in Bhopal district. If we talk about the city only, then the figure is up to 55 inches. At the same time, there has been 10 inches more rain than last time. Last time there was 18% less rain i.e., 82% (30.9 inches). For the sixth time in the last 10 years, the highest rainfall has occurred in Bhopal. Earlier, 74 inches of rain had occurred in the year 2022. Bhopal has received 40.5 inches of rain so far. This year, 3 inches more rainfall than the normal rainfall has been recorded. Due to heavy rains, 6 gates of Kaliyasot, 3 of Bhadbhada and 4 of Kerwa Dam were opened on Sunday. On Monday, one gate of Bhadbhada and 2 gates of Kaliyasot Dam remained open. These were closed in the evening. After a heavy rain, the dam gates will open again.

**kotak** Pujari Chambers Block B1, Third Floor, Pachpedi Naka Road Raurva - 492 001, Chhattisgarh  
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**DEMAND NOTICE**  
 Demand Notice 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the Kotak Mahindra Bank as secured creditor against the following borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) of our Branch.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) & Loan A/C No.	Facility availed and Sanction Limit	Outstanding Amount/ NPA Date	Demand Notice Date/Return Date	Detail of Hypothecated Assets
1	1. Elite Stone Crusher (Borrower) through Auth. Umesh Chand Agrawal 102 City Mansion Patel Nagar City Centre Gwalior-474001 Madhya Pradesh - India 2. Kamal Sharma (Guarantor BO-Beneficial Ownership) Fiat No-T2 B-Block Harishankar Puram Gwalior-474001 Madhya Pradesh - India 3. Umesh Chand Agrawal (Guarantor BO-Beneficial Ownership) 95, Saket Nagar, Tansen Road, Gwalior Gird 474011 4. Asha Jain (Guarantor BO-Beneficial Ownership) 125 Sharda Vihar Near New High Court City Centre, Gwalior 474011 5. Madhu Jain (Guarantor BO-Beneficial Ownership) 125 Sharda Vihar Near New High Court City Center Gwalior	4,13,62,025/-	5,07,97,477.52/- as on 16/07/2024 18/01/2021	16/07/2024	1. Construction Equipment - OTHER Construction Equipment - Caterpillar - CB_CATERPHAR 400 INA DG SET Engine No. - H3G00565, Chassis No. - K6C002571 2. DGSET - DG SET - Caterpillar - CB_CATERPILLAR 600 KVAZEN SET Engine No. - 58H00419, Chassis No. - LES3E19D9507 3. Construction Equipment - Wheel Loader - Liugong Corporation, China - Cb_liugong_wheelloader_CLG_856 Engine No. - 90056923, Chassis No. - LG1856HZJUN5 91252 4. Construction Equipment - Crusher - Puzzolana Machinery Fabricators (Hyderabad) - C8_250 TPH Crusher Engine No. - PCC26110267

You have committed default in repayment of outstanding loan amount mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The Bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount on the above mentioned branch. Due to irregularity in repayment of outstanding dues, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on above mentioned dates. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon in the above account to us as Secured Creditor within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above Security Interest Act, 2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec. 13(2) of the said Security Interest Act, you shall not, after receipt of the notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other right/ remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action.

Date - 28-08-2024  
 Authorised Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank  
 Mumbai



# BJP targets 10 cr new members in one month

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

The BJP will launch a fresh membership drive with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to get the certificate for the renewal of his membership from the party President Jagat Prakash Nadda. The BJP this month set a target of enrolling at least 100 million new members across the country except in the election-bound Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand. The first phase of the membership drive will go on till September 25 and then a review of the exercise will be carried out before the launch of the second phase on October 1. It will continue till October 15. Party sources said that Sadasyata Abhiyan 2024 will be launched in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 2, in the National Capital. According to BJP leaders, Union



Ministers, Chief Ministers and elected representatives from Sarpanch to parliamentarians will spearhead the BJP's nationwide membership drive starting from September 2, an exercise which will serve as the launch pad of the party's internal polls leading to the election of its new President. BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde, who is also the head of the membership drive, appealed

to people to join the party in a big way. "A strong BJP will lead to the making of a 'Viksit Bharat', he said. Active members, a term for party workers who can contest organisational elections after making a certain number of new members, will be enrolled between October 16-31. Sources said there was no plan as of now to appoint a working President before a full-fledged President is

elected. They, however, added that the party leadership may take a fresh call depending on organisational needs. Tawde said party workers across the country have been trained for the drive, which relies heavily on the digital medium. The party is relying on its 10 lakh active members to carry out the exercise, he added. All existing members of the BJP have to renew their membership every six years. The current drive will be marked by the renewal of existing membership as well as making new members. The BJP had earlier announced that the party aims to induct more than 10 crore members during the drive that will not cover the States going to polls in the coming months. The party's membership strength was 18 crore after the last such exercise, and it has expressed hope that the party will cross the figure this time.

About 110 million people signed up as BJP members in 2014 and about 70 million in 2019 when the membership drive was opened for a limited period. New members will be made through four methods - calling a mobile number (8800002024), scanning QR code, by NaMo app and through the BJP's website. However, in remote areas, the party will use the traditional method with papers to enrol new members. The campaign will set membership targets for each unit, from Booth to State levels, based on the party's performance in recent elections. Notably, State workshops were conducted on August 19 to 21 and district workshops on August 22 to 24, whereas, Mandal workshops had to be conducted on August 25 to 27. On August 31, a meeting of Page Pramukhs is also to be held at all booths to prepare for the campaign.

# Amit Shah to throw light on new criminal laws at police think tank meet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend 54th foundation day of Indian police's think tank Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) as the chief guest on Wednesday where he will deliver Anand Swaroop Gupta Memorial Lecture on "New Criminal Law - Citizen Centric Reforms". The minister will also honour the recipients of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) and President's Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM) for the years 2023

and 2024. A special edition of the Bureau's publication "Indian Police Journal" on new criminal laws will also be released by him during the function, said a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, BPR&D is committed to transform the Indian Police Forces into SMART forces to successfully meet the challenges of policing as well as internal security by equipping them with the necessary intellectual, physical and organizational resources," it said. BPR&D has been serving as the think tank of the Indian Police since its inception in 1970 by developing policies and procedures for police and correctional services, exploring new technologies for enhanced service delivery to the citizens, capacity building of law enforcement agencies, promote cooperation and coordination between States and central police organisations, it said. Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director General of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), heads of central police organisations as well as senior officials of the Home Ministry and other departments will also attend the inauguration ceremony.

# NEP advocates access, equity, quality and Bharat-centric education, says NIOS chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Chairperson Prof Saroj Sharma on Tuesday said the New Education Policy introduced by the Narendra Modi Government focuses on value education so that today's students become a responsible citizens.



Addressing the National Symposium on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at Jiva Public School in Faridabad, Prof Sharma said the NEP advocates access, equity, quality and Bharat-centric education. "The NEP envisages creation of 'New India'. It focuses on value education. The NEP is rooted in our ancient culture and traditions which we need to preserve," she said. "There is a difference between literacy and knowledge. We may be fully literate in a few years now but then knowledge can only bring the change in society and prevent untoward incidents like the recent West Bengal traumatic incident," she said, differentiating that though all were literate and getting good education but knowledge to keep society healthy failed. "I understand there is a problem with the education system and most of the things have been addressed in the NEP," Prof Sharma added. She further said: "India aims to achieve 100 per cent literacy by 2030, and to achieve this NIOS will impart education to students who are not attending regular schools besides covering marginalised sections into our education system which includes special and underprivileged children." Addressing the symposium, Shiksha Sanskriti Uththan Nyas Secretary, Dr Atul Kothari, said: "NEP focuses on development of human values. The world knows that it is only India which understands the value system and can teach the world about it. There is a growing demand for this from various countries and institutions. Our educators should prepare for this challenge." Stating that the NEP focuses on a holistic approach to education, Dr Kothari said: "We need to create a model for effective implementation of the NEP." Addressing the symposium, NCERT's Head of Teacher Education Department, Prof Sharad Sinha, said that bringing out NEP in a diverse and huge country like India was a Herculean task. "There is so much diversity. There are different school formats like Government schools, private institutions, trust etc, several languages across the length and breadth of vast Bharat, teachers and educators of vivid vision had to be taken into account in making of the epic over 600-page National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for School Education," she said.

# BJP alleges scam in land to Trust run by Kharge's family, seeks CBI probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday alleged a "scam" in allocation of a piece of land to a trust run by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's family in Karnataka and demanded a CBI probe into the matter. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia demanded Mallikarjun Kharge's resignation as the Congress President and that of his son Priyank Kharge, who is a Minister in the Karnataka Government. He also demanded Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation. "There is a consistency in the

Congress' acts of corruption. Wherever we will go we will do corruption is the new slogan of the Congress. It will not be wrong to say that the Congress has become synonymous with corruption," Bhatia said. "We saw the MUDA scam and Valmiki Development Corporation scam happening under the nose of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Now a case of allocation of five-acre land to a trust run by Mallikarjun Kharge and his family in Karnataka has emerged," he added. The land has been allocated to the Kharge family-run trust by flouting of rules, the BJP Spokesperson said, claiming that Mallikarjun Kharge, his wife, his son-in-law Radhakrishna

and sons - Priyank Kharge and Rahul Kharge - are in the trust. "As per information with us, several companies and organisations had given application for the land but it was allocated to the Kharge family-run trust by flouting the rules," Bhatia claimed. The BJP spokesperson demanded that Mallikarjun Kharge immediately resign as the Congress President and his son Priyank Kharge as the state Minister. "There should be an impartial probe into it by an independent agency CBI to ascertain the truth," he said. BJP leader Lahar Singh Siroya, also a Rajya Sabha member, had on Sunday questioned the alleged allocation of Karnataka Industrial Area

Development Board (KIADB) land to a trust run by Kharge's family and asked when did they become aerospace entrepreneurs to be eligible for the land. He had also sought to know whether the case was about misuse of power, nepotism and conflict of interest. Karnataka Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil said on Monday that the educational trust run by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge's son Rahul Kharge was allotted a Civic Amenity (CA) plot at Aerospace park at a prescribed price in accordance with the norms. In a statement, Patil dismissed the allegations made by Siroya and insisted that no rules were violated in the process.



# BJP demands WB CM Mamata's resignation, calls her dictator

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Accusing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of shielding those involved in the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, the BJP on Tuesday called her a "dictator" and demanded her resignation to ensure a fair probe into the matter. The BJP has also demanded that the CBI conduct a polygraph test on Banerjee and Police Commissioner Vineet Goel, who the party alleged had initially said that the victim died by suicide. The BJP condemned the incident of lathicharge by the West Bengal Police on the students, who had taken out a rally in Kolkata demanding justice for the victim and the Chief Minister's resignation. "Whatever is happening in West Bengal is worrisome. It's akin to tearing the Constitution to shreds. It's clearly visible that if at all there is a dictator in the country, it's Mamata Banerjee," BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia told a Press Conference at the party headquarters here. He accused Banerjee of shielding those involved in the rape and murder case, and demanded that she immediately resign as the Chief Minister so that a fair probe into the case can take place. The BJP spokesperson also demanded that the Police Commissioner, who had called the case of the victim's rape and murder a suicide earlier, should also resign and face investigation. "Truth must come out. The CBI is investigating the case. It should conduct a polygraph test on Mamata Banerjee and the police commissioner to ascertain the truth," he added. BJP co-in-charge for West Bengal Amit Malviya said that Sanjoy Roy, accused in the trainee doctor rape and murder case, was on that fateful night riding a bike registered in the name of the Kolkata Police Commissioner, "as per the Kolkata Police and the TMC". "This is serious and needs investigation. Both Mamata Banerjee and Kolkata Police Commissioner must step down immediately for a free and fair probe," he said in a post on X. The CBI should take them into custody, go over their phone records and subject them to polygraph test to unearth the conspiracy behind the young woman doctor's rape and murder, Malviya demanded.

# Monkeypox: Testing kit to deliver result in 40 minutes

ARCHANA JYOTI  
NEW DELHI

As Monkeypox increasingly threatens global health, India has taken a significant step forward with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSCO) approving a new indigenously developed RT-PCR testing kit that can deliver results within 40 minutes. The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay, created by Siemens Healthineers, is designed to detect both clade I and clade II variants of the virus. This advancement marks a crucial milestone for India's "Make in India" initiative and is a pivotal addition to the country's arsenal in combating the Monkeypox public health emergency. "IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay will be manufactured at our molecular diagnostics manufacturing unit in



Vadodara, which has a manufacturing capacity of 1 million reactions per year. The factory is all set to make the kits available," said Siemens Healthcare Private Ltd. Explaining about its functioning, the company said that "The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay is a groundbreaking molecular diagnostic test that targets

two distinct regions in the viral genome, spanning both clade I and clade II variants of the virus. Hariharan Subramanian, Managing Director, Siemens Healthcare Private Limited, said that the urgency for precise and accurate diagnostics couldn't be more crucial than now amid the WHO announcement of its second public health emergency of global concern due to the virus. The new strain of this virus (Clad-1) is considered to be more transmissible and has higher mortality rates. The WHO has launched a global Strategic preparedness and response plan to stop outbreaks of human-to-human transmission of mpox through coordinated global, regional, and national efforts. Dr. Anurag Agrawal, Scientists and Head, Koita Center for Digital Health at Ashoka Dean, BioSciences and Health Research, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University highlighted the ongoing need for vigilance and investment in diagnostics and vaccines. The former director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, a national laboratory of CSIR noted that leveraging the infrastructure developed during the COVID-19 pandemic could enhance

global cooperation and containment efforts. Reflecting similar opinion, Gautam Menon, Dean of Research and Professor of Physics and Biology, Head of Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability (3CS) at Ashoka University stressed the importance of monitoring and tracking travelers, along with keeping up-to-date with the latest epidemiological insights into Monkeypox. He suggested that Indian medical agencies must lead in understanding the virus's transmission dynamics and potential asymptomatic spread. India has not recorded any Mpox case so far but as a precautionary step amid rise in cases of zoonotic virus cases in neighbouring Pakistan, the Government has kept the airports on the alert and identified nodal hospitals to handle the cases when needed.

# Women's groups demand action on sexual violence after Kolkata tragedy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

In response to a series of recent rape cases across the country, a battery of Women's rights groups on Tuesday issued a joint statement demanding urgent action and systemic change to end sexual crimes and break the silence surrounding gender-based violence in the country. The 35 organizations who made the appeal included, the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM), All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), All India Mahila Samskritik Sanghathan (AIMSS), All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA), All India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA), All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ), calling for an end to sexual crimes and gender-based violence. The trigger for the outburst was a tragic rape and murder of a 31-year-old medical practitioner at RG Kar Hospital and Medical College in Kolkata. The groups criticised both the brutal nature of the crime and the subsequent handling by authorities, which they allege involved a "cover-up". They also accused the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led West Bengal Government of mishandling the case by initially labeling it a suicide and transferring key hospital officials amidst national protests. The women activists in the statement said that sexual violence cases from various parts of the country including Kolkata, Manipur, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh are a grim reminder of the ongoing



threat to women's safety in India. The statement also highlighted the challenges of securing justice in an environment where the Government has been accused of releasing and even honouring individuals convicted of heinous crimes, such as those involved in the Bilkis Bano case, the Kathua case, and the violence in Manipur. Despite the existence of mechanisms to monitor the laws to protect the women, the groups argued that they are often ignored, creating a climate of impunity that allows gender-based violence to continue unabated and cited data from the NCRB, which reports an average of 86 rapes per day in India, with a national conviction rate as low as 27 per cent. The statement also criticised the recent budget allocations, questioning the lack of funding for monitoring the implementation of key protective laws. The Ministry of Women and Child Development's refusal to disclose whether mandated mechanisms are in place and functioning is seen as further evidence of governmental neglect, the statement said.

# CBI to consult AIIMS experts on DNA, forensic reports in Kolkata horror case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will consult experts from the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) on the DNA and forensic reports related to the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College, officials said Tuesday. In order to build a watertight case, the CBI will send the reports to AIIMS to seek their opinion in the case, they said. The reports will also help the agency to ascertain if Sanjay Roy was the only accused who committed the crime or there were others involved, they said. So far, the agency is working on the leads that Roy was the only accused in the crime but involvement of others will only be ruled out after receiving the opinion of AIIMS experts, the officials said. The rape and killing of the junior doctor in a seminar hall of the hospital has sparked widespread



protests. The medic's body with severe injury marks was found inside the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department in the morning of August 9 by a doctor who was on round. Kolkata Police had arrested Roy on August 10 based on CCTV footage in which he was seen entering the seminar hall at 4.03 AM on August 9 when the crime was allegedly committed. Based on CCTV footage, Roy was put through extensive interrogation and

the Kolkata Police to the CBI, which started its investigation on August 14. The CBI took over all the forensic evidence from Kolkata Police and also subjected Roy, former principal of the medical college Sandip Ghosh, four doctors who were on duty with the victim, and a civic volunteer to polygraph tests to get further leads about the crime. The initial reports from CFSL are being analysed and corroborated with evidence to get further direction to the probe, the officials said. A polygraph test can help in assessing inaccuracies in statements of suspects and witnesses. By monitoring their psychological responses - heart rate, breathing patterns, sweating and blood pressure - investigators can determine if there are discrepancies in their response, these are not admissible evidence during the trial and can only be used to get further leads in a case.



# Seven killed in rain-related incidents in Gujarat, more than 6,000 relocated

PTI n AHMEDABAD

At least seven persons have died in rain-related incidents in different parts of Gujarat, and heavy showers continued to pound the state for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, throwing normal life out of gear and flooding low-lying areas, officials said. More than 6,000 persons have been relocated to safer places as water levels in dams and rivers rose amid incessant rainfall, they said. According to officials, seven persons lost their lives in rain-related incidents on Monday. Four persons were killed in wall collapse incidents in Gandhinagar, Kheda and Vadodara districts, while one person died after a tree fell on him and two others drowned in Anand district. The administrations of Panchmahal, Navsari, Valsad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Kheda, Gandhinagar, Botad and Aravali districts shifted hundreds of people to safer locations as a precautionary measure amid flooding in low-lying areas as water levels rose in rivers and dams. In Panchmahal, the district administration shifted around 2,000 people, while 1,000



were relocated in Vadodara, 1,200 in Navsari, and 800 in Valsad, among other areas, officials said. As per data shared by the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), the state has received nearly 100 per cent of its average annual rainfall so far, with Kutch, Saurashtra and south Gujarat accounting for more than 100 per cent of their average annual rainfall this season. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast isolated extremely heavy rainfall in most parts of the state on Tuesday, in the Saurashtra-Kutch region on Wednesday and Thursday, and heavy to very heavy rains across the state till Thursday. Tankara taluka in Morbi

district received 347 mm of rainfall in 24 hours ending at 6 am on Tuesday, the highest in the state, followed by Morva Hadaf in Panchmahal (346 mm), Nadiad in Kheda (327 mm), Borsad in Anand (318 mm), Vadodara taluka (316 mm) and Anand taluka (314 mm). At least 24 out of 251 talukas received more than 200 mm rainfall, and 91 talukas received more than 100 mm showers in 24 hours, the SEOC said. A fresh spell of rainfall on Tuesday battered Rajkot city, inundating low-lying areas, roads and underpasses. Rajkot city alone received 142 mm of rainfall in four hours since 6 am, the SEOC data showed.

# Central team to visit Tripura to assess flood damage : CM

PTI n AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said the Centre will send a team to the state to assess the damage caused by the floods. At least 26 people died as the floods devastated the state. A total of 17 lakh people were estimated to have been affected, and of them, 1.37 lakh were rendered homeless, officials said. "Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured me that he will be sending a central team shortly to assess the damage caused by the floods. The central team will physically visit the flood-hit areas," Saha told reporters on the sidelines of a Jannashtami programme on Monday. He said the state government will present a "true picture of devastation" caused by the floods when the central team arrives. Saha also expressed gratitude to Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav and UP CM Yogi Adityanath for extending financial support to the state. "Yogi Adityanath has spoken to me and donated Rs 10 crore for restoration works in flood-affected areas. The



Madhya Pradesh government also donated Rs 20 crore for restoration works. The Centre will certainly assist Tripura during these difficult times but it is praise-worthy the way other states are also lending a helping hand," he said. Speaking to the reporters, Revenue Secretary Brijesh Pandey said all district magistrates were asked to conduct an assessment of damage caused by the floods. The flood has caused extensive damage to roads, buildings, power lines, embankments and farmlands. It is estimated that the flood caused damage worth about Rs 15,000 crore, officials said. Despite waters receding in all major rivers, around 70,000 people are still in 471 relief camps, they said.

# Decision on shifting Darshan to another prison likely soon: Min

PTI n BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister KG Parameshwara on Tuesday said a decision is expected to be taken by authorities in a couple of days on shifting Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is currently in judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Central jail here in the Renukaswamy murder case, to another prison. A photograph of Darshan hanging out with three others, including a rowdy-sheeter, on the lawns of the jail had gone viral on Sunday, sparking a row. In the picture, the actor is seen in a relaxed mood, sitting on a chair and holding a cigarette and a coffee mug. Also, a purported video of Darshan speaking to a person over a video call from the prison too had surfaced on social media. Parameshwara said an IPS officer has been appointed to review all the systems in the state's prisons. The Minister said the government cannot take a decision on shifting Darshan to another prison. "It will be decided by the prison authorities in consultation with authorities from court and others.



Government doesn't decide it. There are certain norms as they (Darshana and co-accused) are undertrial, based on which authorities will decide," Parameshwara told reporters in response to a question. Asked as to when the authorities would decide, he said: "They will decide in a couple of days." Nine prison officials, including the Chief Superintendent of the Parappana Agrahara jail, were suspended on Monday over their "lapses" after a preliminary probe into "special treatment" to Darshan. Also, three FIRs were registered, including against Darshan, under sections of the Prisons Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Noting that certain lapses were found in the prison, Parameshwara said inmates were allowed to move from one barrack to another and it is captured in the CCTVs. "So, action was taken against prison officials." "Nine officials have been suspended, they will be replaced. Even the Chief Superintendent and the Superintendent have been suspended, also others who have helped Darshan and group by supplying them with chairs, coffee, cigarettes...All these things have been captured in CCTV, based on that all of them have been suspended," he said. "The inquiry is in progress, the Minister said, adding, an IPS officer will be appointed for further probe. "Based on the findings given by the officer, we will have to find some permanent solutions. After going through the report, we will do it," he said. He added that he has come to know about a report submitted earlier for reforms in prisons. Also there is a national level report on police and prison reforms submitted during the tenure of the Manmohan Singh government

# MP police arrest main accused in attack on Chhatarpur police station

PTI n BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh police on Tuesday arrested Haji Shahzad Ali, the main accused in the stone-pelting incident at a police station during a protest against a Hindu seer in Chhatarpur city, an official said. The police had issued a lookout circular for Ali to ensure he didn't flee the country. The local administration also razed his palatial house, citing that it was built without due permission. Hindu seer Ramgiri Maharaj had allegedly made objectionable remarks against Islam at Shah Panchale village in Sinnar taluka of Maharashtra's Nashik district during a religious event. Following this, around 300-400 people led by religious leaders came to Kotwali police station on August 21 to submit a memorandum demanding a case against Ramgiri Maharaj, who already faces multiple FIRs in Maharashtra over his alleged objectionable remarks against the Prophet. The crowd suddenly became aggressive and started pelting stones, it was stated. Talking to PTI, Chhatarpur's Superintendent of Police (SP) Agam Jain said Ali, the main

accused of the August 21 incident, was arrested from Chhatarpur during the day, and further legal steps will be taken after presenting him in the court. Jain said the police had formed 10 teams to apprehend the accused. Ali has a criminal record and has six cases, including murder and offences under the Arms Act to his name, since 1988, the SP said, adding that the administration is also investigating complaints of illegal encroachment lodged against Ali. The police are probing to find out where Ali stayed when he absconded after the incident and who was handling his social media account where he shared his videos during this period, Jain said. Efforts are underway to arrest other absconding accused, he said. Officials had earlier said a case was registered against 46 named and 150 unidentified persons under various provisions of law in connection with the violence. The Congress and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi condemned the demolition of Ali's house and termed the administration as "bulldozer justice".

# SC notice to Gujarat Govt on Sanjiv Bhatt's plea in custodial death case

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Gujarat government's response on former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt's plea against his conviction in a 1990 custodial death case in which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. "Issue notice returnable in four weeks," a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale said. The court also tagged the appeal with other matters related to the case. Bhatt has moved the top court challenging the Gujarat High Court's January 9, 2024 order dismissing his appeal. The court also upheld the conviction of Bhatt and co-accused Pravinsinh Zala under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. The high court had dismissed the state government's appeal seeking to enhance the sentences of five other accused who were acquitted of murder but convicted under Sections 323 and 506. While Bhatt and Zala are behind bars, the court cancelled the bail bonds of the five other accused who are out of jail. "We have also gone through the reasoning recorded by the



trial court while convicting the concerned accused persons for offences punishable under section 302 of the IPC," the division bench said while reading out the order. "From the evidence based on record, we are of the opinion that the trial court has rightly convicted (five) accused...For offences punishable under Sections 323," the judges had said. Bhatt and Zala, both police officers, were convicted for murder by the sessions court in Jamnagar on June 20, 2019. On October 30, 1990, then additional superintendent of police Bhatt detained around 150 people following a communal riot in Jamjodhpur town following a 'bandh' call against the halting of BJP leader L K Advani's 'rath yatra' for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Prabhudas Vaishnani, one of the detained persons, died in hospital after his release. Vaishnani's brother accused Bhatt and six other police officials of torturing him in custody and causing his death. Bhatt was arrested on September 5, 2018, in another case where he is accused of falsely implicating a man for drug possession. The trial in the case is underway. He is also accused in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots cases along with activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat director general of police R B Sreekumar. Bhatt had also hit the headlines when he filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court alleging then chief minister Narendra Modi's role in the 2002 Gujarat riots. The allegations were debunked by a special investigation team. He was suspended from service in 2011 and sacked by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2015 for 'unauthorised absence'. In the custodial death case, the Jamnagar court sentenced the other five policemen -- sub-inspectors Dipak Shah and Sailesh Pandya, and constables Pravinsinh Jadeja, Anopsinh Jethva and Keshubha Jadeja -- to two years in prison.

# Over 50 lakh vehicles used Atal Setu in seven months



PTI n MUMBAI

More than 50 lakh vehicles have used the Atal Setu, the country's longest sea bridge connecting Mumbai with its satellite city Navi Mumbai, since it was opened for traffic over seven months ago, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has said. In a release issued on Monday, the MMRDA said 50,04,350 vehicles, including Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST), Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) and Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation's (MSRTC) Shivneri buses, have travelled between January 13 and August 26 on the sea bridge, which indicates a

daily average of 22,000 vehicles (over 227 days). "The vehicles comprise 47.40 lakh cars, 50,020 mini buses and light motor vehicles, 59,799 double-axle vehicles, 73,074 three-axle vehicles, 80,277 four-six axle vehicles and 503 oversized vehicles," a spokesperson said. The sea bridge - Mumbai Trans Harbour link (MTHL) - officially named Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu linking Sewri in Mumbai and Nhava Sheva in Navi Mumbai, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 12, while it was thrown open to the public the next day. "The extraordinary usage highlights the bridge's role in easing congestion and reducing travel time between south Mumbai and key destinations such as Panvel,

Pune, and Navi Mumbai. Atal Setu's impact extends beyond mere traffic management. It has significantly improved connectivity between south Mumbai and other major regions, including the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport," the release said. "The Worli-Sewri elevated road, now 75 per cent complete, will soon provide a rapid 5-10 minute connectivity from Worli Seaface to Atal Setu. The development of an elevated road between the Chirle Interchange and the Mumbai-Pune Expressway promises even faster commutes between South Mumbai, the western suburbs, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Pune, and the Mumbai-Goa Highway," it added.

# Effective governance key to achieving our developmental goals: Siddaramaiah

PTI n BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that effective governance is key to achieving the state's developmental goals and that the government is investing in technology and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the administrative processes. Addressing a meeting with NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery here, the chief minister said that sustainability is at the core of the state government's development strategy. "We are committed to environmental conservation and are implementing policies aimed at reducing our carbon footprint. For example, Karnataka is a leader in renewable energy; 53 per cent of our installed capacity of 32 Giga Wats comes from renewable energy sources. "Our efforts also include protecting natural resources and encouraging sustainable



agricultural practices. We recognise that environmental stewardship is essential for long-term prosperity and quality of life," he said. The chief minister said the state government is investing in technology and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in administrative processes. "For example we have a strong set of e-Governance solutions. Using these we were able to roll out the five guarantees in a record time of less than three months. Using our DBT module, we are transferring over Rs 54,000 crore to the beneficiaries directly into their bank accounts," he said.

Siddaramaiah further said that by adopting e-governance tools and fostering a culture of responsiveness, the government aims to improve service delivery and citizen engagement. "Our partnership with NITI Aayog has been instrumental in shaping our development strategies. We appreciate the guidance and support provided and are keen to continue collaborating on various Initiatives. We believe that through shared knowledge, resources, and expertise, we can address the challenges we face and unlock new opportunities for growth," he said. He emphasised on the state's dedication to contributing to the collective vision of a progressive and prosperous India. "We are committed to working together with all stakeholders to achieve our common goals and make a positive impact on the lives of our citizens," he added.

# Goa Govt mulls hike in fine up to `1 crore for illegal hill-cutting: Min

PTI n PANAJI

The Goa government did not grant permission to anyone for hill cutting in the state in the last six months and it plans to amend regulations to raise up to Rs 1 crore the amount of fine for illegal hill cutting and other such activities, a minister has said. Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane issued the statement on Monday amid apprehensions that his department was allowing rampant cutting of hills in the eco-sensitive areas like slopes. "In the last six months, no permission was granted to anyone for hill cutting in the state," he said. The TCP Department is moving to amend regulations so that the minimum fine for hill cutting and other illegal activities, will range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore, depending on the size of the plot, he said. As directed by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant recently in a

press conference, local officials, like deputy collector, mamlatdar and talathis must take action against such illegal activities, Rane said. The Goa government has pulled up its sleeves in the wake of devastating landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district. In the future, new guidelines will be formulated, including requirement for soil stabilization reports from engineers, he added. While the TCP department has not granted any fresh permission for hill cutting, it is also the responsibility of other departments to act for prevention of illegal hill cutting. The minister, who recently drew flak after a real estate giant constructed buildings on a slope of a hill in Reis Magos village near Panaji, claimed that permission for that was not granted by him. "Regarding the case of Reis Magos, the project's conversion 'sanad' was obtained in 1994 and the change of zone was done in Regional Plan 2001.

# Court convicts man for outraging woman's modesty by winking at her

PTI n IMPHAL

A court here has convicted a 22-year-old man for outraging the modesty of a woman by winking at her and holding her hand but refused to impose any sentence on him considering his age and the fact that he has no criminal antecedents. Magistrate Aarti Kulkarni observed that while the offence committed by the accused, Mohammed Kaif Fakir, deserves a sentence not less than life imprisonment, considering his age and the fact that he has no criminal antecedents, he should be given the benefit of probation. The order was passed on August 22. The court said it couldn't ignore the mental agony and harassment the woman underwent, but imposing a sentence on the accused would affect his future and his image in society. The court convicted Fakir under section 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court ordered that Fakir be released after furnishing a



bond of Rs 15,000 and directed him to appear before the probation officer as and when called. As per the complaint lodged at Byculla police station in south Mumbai in April 2022, the woman had ordered groceries from a local shop, and the accused, who worked at the establishment, came to her house to deliver the same. The accused asked the woman for a glass of water, and when she was handing it over, he allegedly touched her hand inappropriately and winked at her. He touched her hand the second time while handing over the bag of groceries and

again winked at her, she alleged. When the woman raised an alarm, the accused ran away. The woman then told her husband about the incident, and they lodged a police complaint. The accused claimed that he had touched the woman's hand by mistake and had no intention to outrage her modesty. The court held that although only the victim and the accused were present at the time of the incident, the evidence and the woman's statement were strong enough to prove the accused's complicity.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Step in the right direction

### Modi Govt launches assured pension scheme for Central Govt Employees, amid concerns of financial implications

The Modi Government has announced the fixed pension scheme for the central government employees. This must be music to the ears of central employees who were not happy with the ongoing market-linked pension scheme and were demanding its scrapping. In a significant policy shift, the Indian government has approved a new pension scheme guaranteeing central government employees 50% of their base salary as a pension. This move marks a departure from the current National Pension Scheme (NPS), which links payouts to market returns. The newly introduced Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is set to be implemented from April 1, 2025, and will impact over two million federal employees. The shift towards the UPS stems from growing dissatisfaction with the NPS, which was adopted in 2004 as part of a broader fiscal reform. Under the NPS, employees contribute 10% of their base salary, and the government adds 14%, with the eventual pension amount depending on the market returns from investments, primarily in federal debt. However, as some states began reverting to the older, more fiscally burdensome system of guaranteed pensions, the Modi government faced mounting pressure to reassess the NPS.



The decision to approve the UPS aligns with demands from trade unions and the Opposition parties, who have long advocated for a guaranteed minimum pension. The issue gained political traction during recent general elections, where the lack of pension security under the NPS became a contentious topic. The UPS guarantees that employees who have completed at least 25 years of service will receive 50% of their base salary, calculated over the last 12 months before retirement, as a pension. This assured payout provides a safety for retirees, addressing concerns about the volatility of market-linked pensions. While the UPS offers greater security for employees, it also imposes a significant financial burden on the government. The expected cost to the exchequer for the fiscal year 2024-25 is approximately Rs 62.5 billion. This annual expenditure is likely to fluctuate based on the number of employees retiring each year. However, the shift to the UPS raises several concerns. First, the financial sustainability of the scheme is a critical issue. The guaranteed nature of the pension could strain government finances, especially if economic growth slows or tax revenues decline. Additionally, the UPS may lead to disparities between central and state government employees. Moreover, there is a risk that the shift back to a defined benefit pension system could set a precedent for other sectors, potentially leading to broader demands for similar guarantees. This could exacerbate fiscal challenges, particularly in a country where social welfare spending is already under pressure. As India prepares to implement the UPS in 2025, careful management and ongoing evaluation will be essential to ensure that the benefits of the scheme are balanced against its fiscal impact.

## PICTALK



A painter gives final touches to the Goddess Durga's idol ahead of Durga puja, in Kolkata

# A new standard for global populism

## Kamala prioritises the everyday citizen over corporate interests and her message is getting traction not only in the US but across the globe



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The global economic landscape could shift dramatically if the US Democratic Party's presidential nominee, Kamala Harris, succeeds in implementing her bold stance on prices and corporate control. This move could send shockwaves across the world, compelling nations like India to reconsider their current economic models—just as they did during the liberalization era when corporate power surged. It appears the tide is turning, as people worldwide demand freedom from the manipulative tactics that drive up prices. Harris's message is clear: Americans can no longer tolerate skyrocketing costs. Her aggressive, populist economic agenda aims to rein in corporate power and lower the cost of living, potentially setting a new standard for global economic policies.



A 74-year-old Indian blogger after a lavish Indian corporate marriage in July blurted out on X-twitter, "In my 74 years, I have not seen, or even heard of, a more tasteless, egotistical or pretentious wedding than the recent, 24X7 televised extravaganza. The perversity and its real portent lie elsewhere. "It lies in the way money was expended, at a time when the average Indian has never been worse off economically, when inequality and unemployment have reached record heights, when 67 percent of the GST is paid by 50 percent of its poorest citizens, when the top 1 percent control 40 percent of the country's wealth, when 800 million people have to be provided free/ subsidized foodgrains to survive". Not much different is the weekend speech of Harris. She says, "We know that many Americans don't yet feel that progress in their lives. Costs are still too high and it feels too hard to get ahead." No wonder Republican nominee Donald Trump calls her too liberal. It seems so similar to the echoes of severe price rises and joblessness during the June Lok Sabha elections in India amid rows of mutton, muslim, mandir and mujra, mehngai and berogari. Yes, Indians and Americans need food, a minimum quality of



AMERICANS CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE SKYROCKETING COSTS. HER AGGRESSIVE, POPULIST ECONOMIC AGENDA AIMS TO REIN IN CORPORATE POWER AND LOWER THE COST OF LIVING, POTENTIALLY SETTING A NEW STANDARD FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC POLICIES

ers. An addition is tax incentives for builders, who build affordable rental housing. It could be a welcome scenario for most Indians. As now being debated in India on capital gains tax indexation or also rentals, Harris is keen on preventing corporate landlords from using algorithmic price-setting tools to increase rents by large margins. It is gradually becoming a problem in areas in the national capital regions of Noida, Gurgaon, Delhi's Dwarka, Bengaluru, and Chennai. India has just started feeling it. Medical costs and health insurance fraud are the worst in the US. Many Indian companies now have emulated it. Medical expenses are increasing in India and the US. Both countries are discussing it intensely and often end up saying the United Kingdom has the best medical facilities. Harris promises to eliminate medical debt for millions of Americans, possibly by using federal funds to buy and forgive outstanding debt from health providers. She wants to limit Americans' annual out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs to \$2,000. Thousands of kilometres apart the conditions are so similar! The one difference is that India wants to repeat the US insurance follies and they are trying to change it. Though in some cases like PM

JanAushadhi, India is doing better in providing generic medicines at low prices. Harris does not have that option and says would cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin at \$35 per month for all. As direct benefit pensions are given to kisans in India, Harris would give a child tax credit that would provide \$6,000 per child to families for the first year of a baby's life. Indian budgetary novelties introduced as direct benefits or pensions in various ways have fascinated Harris. Each of Harris's proposals, whether in terms of food, medicine, housing or child care is "populist", involving government intervention against corporate interests on behalf of consumers. Socialism, direct or indirect, despite big companies ruling the roost, is returning to world politics. What Harris does may just create a flutter, but countries like India, who claim to be the next global leaders, have to trudge more cautiously to safeguard the poor, farmers and the working class. Harris has borrowed quite a few of it from the Indian budget. Now it is India's turn to ensure how it could check the corporates to serve people's interests. The world is changing and India's populism is winning big one's heart. (The author is a freelance writer and columnist; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CELEBRATING KRISHNA'S BIRTH

Madam — Krishna Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, is a joyous celebration that embodies the triumph of love and divine joy over evil and negativity. This auspicious occasion marks the arrival of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu, who brought hope and redemption to a world plagued by darkness and despair. As devotees around the world honor Krishna's birth, they are reminded of his profound teachings in the Bhagavad Gita, which emphasize the importance of spiritual growth, self-realization, and the eternal victory of good over evil. Through vibrant festivities, soulful bhajans, and heartfelt pujas, Krishna Janmashtami celebrates the unconditional love and divine joy that Krishna embodies, inspiring devotees to embrace their own spiritual journey and revel in the bliss of the divine.

Purva Pandya | Ujjain

### STALIN'S NEW MOVE

Madam — As against the Sanatana Dharma before the Lok Sabha elections, the DMK has changed its stand now by a mix in the Dravidian model by supporting the individual's faith of choice and wanting to help them in their religious pursuits. By inaugurating the two day Global Muthamizhil Murugan Conference, the Chief Minister of TN M K Stalin is bringing in a new colour other than black and red as he's well aware that this will help him in the forthcoming assembly elections to woo the votes of the Hindus by using the Murugan card to play to DMK's advantage. We welcome this change and are happy if something good for the people happens from the leadership of M K Stalin whom I respect for his flexibility of principle if he finds something worth it. One hopes Stalin's new found alliance with the Lord Murugan may bestow the blessings for the people for the prosperity of the state. A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

## Unified pension scheme launched



This refers to the news report, "Unprecedented Unified Pension Scheme by Modi Government" (August 25). Though driven by the huge political pressure after jolts in recently held Lok Sabha polls, the NDA Government's decision to roll out a new guaranteed Unified Pension Scheme for its employees is a step in right direction. In fact, pension is a social welfare measure which is granted to ensure that a retired employee lives with dignity in his

old age. Reversing its 21 year old pension reforms partially, the Government has introduced OPS features like assured pensions, inflation-linked adjustments, family pensions, and a guaranteed minimum pension in the UPS. Employees are still required to contribute 10% of their basic pay and dearness allowance to UPS remains only major difference between the OPS and the UPS. The government will also contribute to the UPS, which will increase from 14% (currently contributed to NPS) to 18.5%. Thus, the UPS will lead to higher burden on the exchequer. Thus, it remains to be seen whether state governments adopt the UPS, which certainly would not augur well for their financial health.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

### PM MODI BROKERS PEACE

Madam — Modi's visit to Kyiv will strengthen India-Ukraine bilateral relationship. Like with Russia in March 24 Modi is likely to have had the message of peace with Zelenskyy about ending the war and restoring peace. The catch is both Russia and Ukraine are not keen in fighting any further but both wanting to end the war on their own terms. Kyiv does not want to compromise on its sovereignty and territorial integrity which could lead to an instability and even a revolution in Ukraine. Kyiv wants to retrieve all the Ukrainian territory occupied by Russia something that Russia is unwilling to do. The US and NATO have rejected Russia's demand to end the war. Under this situation it is extremely unlikely that a peace can be brokered by PM Modi as an one off attempt. Unlike other leaders of the world PM Modi enjoys a special relationship with Putin who in his words has called Modi as his best friend. India also in none of the resolu-

tions passed by the UN has gone against Moscow. While on the same lines has been maintaining good equation with Zelenskyy (post his ire after having a hug with Putin in March 24) through telephone calls and the sidelines meetings in summits. With Modi's Aug 23 personal visit and signing of the trade agreements and India's commitment to be on the side of the PEACE and just a not a neutral country one can expect PM Modi will make attempts for a peace talk between the two warring leaders. Besides, PM Modi's initiative also takes care of the growing Chinese influence in the region and places India at par with it if not above, India must be more proactive in the region to safeguard its own interests. With US already started feeling the heat of recession and a leadership change in the offing one can see the light at the end of the tunnel!

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The risk of monetising public education

### Commercialisation of these institutions undermines their core mission which is to provide inclusive, affordable high-quality education to all



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

The Vice-Chancellor of JNU, Prof. C Santhishree D Pandit recently remarked that the country's top university is facing a financial crunch with little regular income generated from its resources. The VC has decided to repurpose the university's properties with private participation. This culture of looking at public academic institutions as a source of revenue has been rhyming among our policymakers during the past several years.



Students in a classroom.

One reason is the huge prime land area holding maintained by the public sector institutions and another is the change in the societal perception. Today's society evaluates everything based on money. The primary objective of public sector academic institutions is to offer an inclusive and excellent education to all sections of the population. Central to these institutions is the concept of education as a public good—a valuable asset that has advantages for society as a whole, rather than solely for individuals. Education, in this view, is not simply a product that can be purchased and

sold, but rather a profound process that moulds individuals into knowledgeable, reflective members of society who are capable of making meaningful contributions to the collective welfare. Their value should be assessed based on the number of enlightened minds generated by these institutions. As we can see it's these enlightened minds who are driving the wheel of the government machinery, and the nation's progress. Public sector academic institutions have been under growing pressure in recent decades to implement business-oriented strategies, which include prioritising income creation. The transition has been prompted by several circumstances, such as decreases in government financing, increasing operational expenses, and the expanding

impact of market ideology in public policy. Consequently, numerous public universities and colleges have resorted to alternate sources of income, such as raising tuition fees, extending online programs, providing executive education courses, renting out spaces and forming alliances with private industry.

Private parties, if allowed to rent out spaces, should work closely with the academic and research community of the university. It should also help in imparting knowledge and transformation to students. In many NITs, the guest house rate has been increased tenfold, as mandated by the policymakers. Unfortunately, people who visit these institutions including academicians and parents of students have to pay more than what is the market rate in that area. Although these initiatives can offer significant financial support, they also pose a potential threat of altering the core purpose of public sector institutions. It can be detrimental to maintaining high academic standards and fostering a wide range of intellectual perspectives.

Additionally, it can generate pressures to give higher priority to programs and research areas that provide greater profits, perhaps overlooking subjects that are less financially rewarding but equally crucial for societal progress. It is vital to provide students with a well-rounded education that encourages critical thinking and broad-based knowledge. Public sector academic institutions hold a distinct and crucial role in maintaining the social fabric of the nation. Their objective is not to earn financial gain but rather to generate enlightened minds capable of critical thinking, and contribute to the development of the nation. The great minds working in every field, including the bureaucrats and political leaders are groomed by these public sector institutions. For this to continue, we should not put a price tag on every facility a public sector university offers to the student or society at large.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)





## FIRST COLUMN

### LIVE IN THE PRESENT

### MOMENT, IT MATTERS MOST

One needs to inculcate habits of equanimity, and remaining calm, whatever the circumstance



RAVI VALLURI

The romance was in the air as India attained freedom from the British yoke. The period was the 1950s as India embarked upon the socialistic pattern to revive the country, which had inherited an impecunious economy. Two bright students from coastal Andhra landed in rain-washed Delhi University to pursue their dreams. To remain connected with their past, they made recurrent trips to the New Delhi Railway Station to receive students arriving in droves from their state and revive those nostalgic moments. When it is repetitively said, "Those good old days!", in one stroke we send a signal to our Universe that the present is not congenial. As Buddha says, "The mind is everything. What you think you become." If we live in the past, we keep fretting and fuming about the missed opportunities and those past impressions create roadblocks in our physical and metaphysical advancement.

On completion of their studies, the more aspiring students stayed back and the less enterprising ones returned home. The person in Delhi aspired to be a civil servant like his more illustrious siblings and their children. But destiny had carved out its plan. His friends and acquaintances qualified for the coveted job, a sinecure that eluded him. So, the mind became envious of his siblings, their children and friends and started implanting his failed mission upon his children, much to their discomfiture. How does one reach that state of 'present moment'? Before dwelling on some techniques, it will be useful to read a fasci-



inating Buddhist parable. One afternoon a Buddhist monk was carrying a bucket filled with water in a dense forest. Suddenly he heard a rustle. It was a tiger, smacking its lips and intently looking at the potential prey. The monk ran for his life, with the tiger in pursuit. The monk reached a precipice and had a choice to make, either be devoured by the ferocious tiger or jump off the cliff. Death stared in his face. The monk jumped and fortuitously clung onto a branch of a strawberry tree. He ate the strawberry—considering it to be his last meal—and thoroughly relished it. The monk had never had such a meal, as was absolutely in the present moment. A simple yet profound technique of sadhana is to be a witness to all the actions and activities that take place. The actor in us becomes the spectator too. This is what is espoused in the esoteric philosophy of Ashtavakra Gita (a classic dialogue between King Janaka—who himself was a Raj Rishi—and the sage Ashtavakra).

Any individual, householder or seeker needs to inculcate habits of equanimity, equilibrium, and equipoise to remain calm, whatever the circumstance or situation, to be contented and remain in the present moment. The protagonist who stayed back in Delhi could fulfil his dreams only partially. His son did qualify for the civil services, but could not join the service of his choice; this was due to excessive pressure applied by family members already in the elite services. Eventually, the son turned into an alcoholic. Perhaps it was because both father and son were not grateful to the Universe and did not adhere to the Law of Gratefulness.

Thus, lives were ruined. Meanwhile, the friend who returned home did not lose his way in the sands of time. He became a trade union leader and politician, living in the present. "Life is one big road with lots of signs. So, when you are riding through the ruts, do not complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief, and jealousy," sang Bob Marley.

*(The writer is a faculty at Art of Living, views expressed are personal)*

# Catalyst for cinematic evolution and excellence



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

The 70th National Film Awards once again celebrated the rich tapestry of Indian cinema, where diverse languages and cultures converged to showcase the best talent

The National Film Awards: A Platform for The Great Leap Forward. At the 70th National Film Awards, India's cinematic excellence once again took centre stage, showcasing vibrant and diverse storytelling from across the nation's many languages. Southern cinema emerged as a dominant force this year, with films and artists from the region sweeping some of the most prestigious honours. The Malayalam film 'Aattam' captured the Swarna Kamal for Best Feature Film, while the Kannada blockbuster 'Kantara' clinched the title of Best Popular Film.

Rishab Shetty, the driving force behind 'Kantara', took home the Best Actor award, sharing the limelight with Nithya Menon and Manasi Parekh, who shared Best Actresses for the Tamil film 'Thiruchitrabalam' and Gujarati film 'Kutch Express' respectively. Meanwhile, the Haryanvi film 'Fouja' gathered acclaim, earning Pramod Kumar the award for Best Debut Director, while Pavan Raj Malhotra secured Best Supporting Actor. The epic Tamil drama 'Ponniyin Selvan: I' also made its mark, with AR Rahman's power-packed music earning him the Best Music Director (Background Music) award, alongside wins for Best Sound Design by Anand Krishnamoorthi and Best Cinematography by Ravi Varman. In the Hindi cinema category, 'Gulmohar' emerged as the Best Hindi Film, adding another feather to Sharmila Tagore's illustrious cap with her third National Film Award.

This year's awards not only celebrated individual excellence but also highlighted the ever-evolving and dynamic landscape of Indian cinema. The lifeline and longevity of any artist and any film is fuelled by the adrenaline of 4A's "Acknowledgment, Awards, Appreciation, and Applause". Globally, awards are given for excellence in the celluloid space which has opened a new phase of creativity, innovation perspective perspective-building through storytelling and film narration. Since its inception in 1954, the National Film Awards for Excellence in Cinema have symbolised the journey of excellence and creativity. The awards have offered an equal platform to cinemas of various languages, cultures, diversities, themes, and perspectives, where all the creative energies of India converge to speak the unified language of artistic excellence. These awards in the last seventy-odd years have showcased the gold standard of filmmaking across different verticals reinventing and shaping the diverse landscape of cinema in this country.

Each edition of the National Film Awards has strengthened inclusivity and converged the diversity of celluloid space seamlessly. The National Film Awards are unique in terms of their magnitude, canvas, and spectrum. Every award ceremony has been an opportunity to witness the emergence of different forms and categories of cinema that reflect continuity and legacy. The landscape of the National Film Awards is deep and insightful, promoting diversity, storytelling, and narration.

It has truly elevated parallel, regional, and experimental cinema; voiced social concerns; and embraced and adapted to contemporary standards, content, and style



THIS YEAR'S AWARDS NOT ONLY CELEBRATED INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE EVER-EVOLVING AND DYNAMIC LANDSCAPE OF INDIAN CINEMA

of presentation. Over the years, Indian cinema has witnessed a remarkable evolution, with regional films gaining recognition for their artistic brilliance. It all began in 1954, as the film "Mirza Ghalib" made history as the first recipient of the Best Feature Film award.

This milestone paved the way for a treasure trove of cinematic gems from various regions. Bengali cinema, in particular, has been a shining beacon, with timeless classics like Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali", "Apur Sansar", and "Charulata" earning the prestigious Swarna Kamal. The legendary Soumitra Chatterjee a revered Bengali actor has been lauded for his performances in classics like "Apur Sansar" and "Charulata," earning him National Film Awards for his works.

The spotlight has also turned to Southern cinema, which has produced its own set of trailblazers. In 1965, the Malayalam masterpiece "Chemmeen" captivated audiences and critics alike, winning the Best Feature Film award. Kannada cinema made a powerful statement with "Chomana Dudi" in 1976, sweeping the National Awards for Best Feature Film, Best Actor, and Best Story. Tamil cinema joined this illustrious list in 1990 when Marrupakkam became the first Tamil film to clinch the Best Feature Film award.

The northeastern region of India has also produced its share of winners at the National Film Awards, bringing regional tales to the national stage. "Halodhia Chorai Baodhan Khai", the first Assamese film to win the Swarna Kamal for the Best Feature Film in 1987. Rima Das, a director has been recognized for her movies "Village Rockstars" and "Bulbul Can Sing," which capture the essence of life in Assam by portraying simplicity and resilience. At the 60th National Film Awards, Jahnua Barua's Assamese film "Baandhon" won

the Best Feature Film in the category while "Ko;Yad", a Missing film won the Best Feature Film in the non-Eighth Schedule language category. At the 62nd National Film Awards the movie "Phum Shang", from Manipur was honoured with the Best Investigative Film award showcasing the contributions of filmmakers from North East India.

Such examples also prove that the National Film Awards serve as a crucible for bringing together a convergence of ideas, creativity, and talent. They offer hope that creativity knows no barriers in India, allowing unknown filmmakers and names to become stars. One of the most coveted awards of the National Film Awards is the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema honouring the artists' lifetime achievement. Named after Shri Dadasaheb Phalke, the visionary often hailed as the father of Indian cinema, this award is a tribute to those whose contributions have indelibly shaped the landscape of Indian filmmaking.

This award was introduced in 1969 and was presented to Devika Rani. Since then this distinguished honour has been awarded to Waheeda Rehman, Satyajit Ray, B.N. Reddy, L.V. Prasad, Bhupen Hazarika, Sivaji Ganesan, B.R. Chopra, Soumitra Chatterjee, Lata Mangeshkar, Raj Kapoor, Shyam Benegal, Amitabh Bachchan and Rajnikant are some of the renowned names who have been recognized for their lasting impact and their outstanding contribution to cinema. The National Film Awards also spotlight the significance of non-feature films by inspiring emerging directors to experiment and push boundaries.

This platform has nurtured talent, with acclaimed works like "Ek Tha Gaon" and "An engineered Dream", the Marathi film "Girni" and the Bengali film "Aamaar Katha: Story of Binodini" winners at the 52nd and the 62nd

National Film Awards. These awards bring attention to themes and innovative storytelling approaches demonstrating that Indian cinema thrives on creativity and embraces diversity beyond commercial considerations. The non-feature segment of awards over the years has acted as a catalyst for young film-makers who have unleashed their creativity across diverse subjects and narratives. This segment has showcased a unique simplicity, aesthetics and deep understanding of filmmaking and creativity. The recent changes to the regulations for the 70th National Film Awards demonstrate an evident wave of evolution. Changes like renaming awards and merging categories reflect an approach to acknowledging excellence in filmmaking.

The National Film Awards of India have witnessed several historic moments that have not only enhanced the country's cinematic excellence but also served as a stepping stone to celluloid success and international acclaim. One such landmark was the recognition of Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali" in 1956, which won the Best Feature Film award and subsequently brought Indian cinema to global attention. Another significant milestone was Aamir Khan's "Lagaan" in 2001, which not only won the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment but also earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. The National Film Awards have played an instrumental role in shaping the course of Indian cinema. By celebrating a variety of perspectives and pushing boundaries the awards not only recognize exceptional achievements but also inspire upcoming filmmakers and artists.

*(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; views are personal. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan)*

## How personalised and adaptive technologies are shaping the future of education

The future of education is personal, adaptive, and brimming with possibilities for individual success. It's time to embrace this change

The education system is witnessing a revolutionary shift, one that promises to reshape how we learn, grow, and succeed. At the core of this transformation lies advanced personalized and adaptive learning - a groundbreaking approach set to redefine the educational landscape.

With the global adaptive learning market projected to reach \$5.3 billion by 2025 and the personalized learning market expected to soar to \$19.86 billion by 2030, it's clear that these technologies are more than just a passing trend.

**Unpacking Personalized and Adaptive Learning** Personalized learning crafts educational experiences that resonate with each student's



VEDANT HAMIRWASIA

unique needs, skills, and interests. It's about creating learning journeys that allow individuals to flourish in their way. Adaptive learning takes this concept further, using AI to adjust content difficulty and style in real time based on student performance.

It's like having a high-tech tutor that ensures learning is always challenging but never overwhelming.

**The Power of Data-Driven Insights:** One of the most exciting aspects of these systems is their ability to harness data for good. Through sophisticated learning analytics, educators gain unprecedented insights into each student's progress. This foresight allows for timely interventions, ensuring no student falls behind. Predictive analytics even allows these systems to anticipate which students might struggle, enabling proactive support measures.

**Customized Learning Paths:** Gone are the days of one-size-fits-all education. Advanced personalized learning creates individual learning plans that adapt to each student's unique learning style.

Whether you're a visual learner who thrives on interactive simulations or prefer diving deep into text-based explanations, these systems have you covered. The flexibility extends to pacing as well, allowing students to linger on challenging concepts or race ahead in areas they excel.

**Engagement, the Secret Sauce of Success:** Engagement is crucial for effective learning, and these technologies serve it up in spades. Interactive content, gamification elements, and multimedia experiences make learning feel less like a chore and more like an adventure.

By catering to diverse learning preferences, these systems ensure that every student finds their groove and stays motivated.



**Levelling the Playing Field:** Perhaps one of the most profound impacts of these technologies is their potential to promote equity in education.

Assistive features embedded within these systems support students with disabilities, offering tools like

text-to-speech and customized interfaces. This push for inclusivity ensures that quality, personalized education is accessible to all, regardless of individual challenges.

**The Benefits and Challenges Ahead:** The benefits of advanced personalized and adaptive learning are clear and compelling. Studies consistently show improved learning outcomes, increased student engagement, and the potential to bridge achievement gaps.

However, it's important to acknowledge the challenges that come with this educational revolution. Privacy concerns surrounding student data and the persistent digital divide are hurdles

that must be addressed thoughtfully. Embracing the Future of Education The educational landscape is evolving rapidly, propelled by the transformative potential of advanced personalized and adaptive learning.

By embracing these technologies thoughtfully and addressing the challenges head-on, we can create an educational landscape where every student has the opportunity to thrive, learn, and reach their full potential. The future of education is personal, adaptive, and brimming with possibilities for individual success. It's time to embrace this change and unlock the potential of every learner.

*(The author is director, ODA Class; views are personal)*



# Ukraine troops control nearly 500 sq miles of Kursk region

AP n KYIV

The chief of Ukraine's army said ON Tuesday that the country's troops control nearly 1,300 square kilometres (500 square miles) of Russia's Kursk region since their surprise incursion three weeks ago. Gen Oleksandr Syrskiy also said that Ukraine has captured 594 Russian prisoners in its operation.

"The enemy drags troops from other directions, in such way weakening them. They attempt to create a ring of defence around our offensive group of troops and plan counter-offensive actions," Syrskiy said, commenting on the situation in the Kursk region. The seized territory is roughly the size of Los Angeles.

His claim, which could not be independently confirmed, came hours after Ukraine endured a second consecutive barrage of nighttime air and missile attacks from Russia. Five people were reported killed and 16 injured in the attacks, which President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said included 81 drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles. He said four people died, but the governor of the Zaporizhzhia region later said a fifth person had died there from burns in the attacks.

"We will undoubtedly respond to Russia for this and all other attacks. Crimes against humanity cannot go unpunished," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

The Kursk operation, the largest incursion into Russia since World War II, forced some 130,000 residents to evacuate their homes. Russia has sent reinforcements into the region, but it was not clear to what extent these movements might be weakening Russia's position in eastern Ukraine, where it was making slow advances in efforts to gain ground in the Kharkiv region. The Russian Defence Ministry said Tuesday that Ukraine has suffered heavy casualties in Kursk — some 6,600 troops either killed or injured — and that more than 70 tanks have been destroyed along with

## 5 people killed in missiles and drones strike across Ukraine

AP n KYIV

Nighttime Russian drone and missile attacks struck across Ukraine, killing at least five people on Tuesday, a day after a heavy barrage pounded energy facilities throughout the country.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the attacks included 81 drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles and that 16 people were injured. He said four people died, but the governor of the Zaporizhzhia region later said a fifth person had died there from burns in the attacks.

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In the Kyiv region, which had struggled with blackouts after Monday's onslaught, five air alerts were called during the night. The regional administration said air defences destroyed all the drones and missiles but that falling debris set off forest fires.

After the Monday barrage across Ukraine of more than 100 missiles and a similar number of drones, Prime



Minister Denys Shmyhal said "the energy infrastructure has once again become the target of Russian terrorists" and urged Ukraine's allies to provide it with long-range weapons and permission to use them on targets inside Russia. President Joe Biden called Monday's Russian attack on energy infrastructure "outrageous" and said he had "re-prioritized US air defence exports so they are sent to Ukraine first." He also said the US was "surging energy equipment to Ukraine to repair its systems and strengthen the resilience of Ukraine's energy grid."

The Russian Defence Ministry said the attacks used "long-range precision air- and sea-

based weapons and strike drones against critical energy infrastructure facilities that support the operation of Ukraine's military-industrial complex. All designated targets were hit."

In Russia, meanwhile, officials reported four Ukrainian missiles were shot down over the Kursk region, where Russian forces are fighting Ukrainian troops that made a surprise incursion this month. The fighting in the region has raised concerns about the nuclear power plant there. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi arrived inspected the plant on Tuesday, but did not immediately give a public assessment.

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## Japan protests after Chinese plane violates its airspace

AP n TOKYO

Japan's top government spokesperson said on Tuesday a Chinese military aircraft had briefly entered Japanese airspace the day before, calling the incident an "absolutely unacceptable" territorial violation and safety threat. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said that a Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance plane briefly entered Japan's southwestern airspace Monday, forcing its military to scramble fighter jets. He added that it was the first time the Japanese Self Defense Force detected a Chinese military aircraft in Japan's airspace.

"The Chinese military aircraft's incursion into Japan's airspace not only is a serious violation of our territorial rights but also a safety threat," Hayashi told a regular news conference. "We found it absolutely unacceptable." The Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance plane circled above Danjo Island off the southwestern coast of Japan's main southern island of Kyushu for two minutes, the Joint Staff of the Japanese Self Defense Force said late Monday, adding that officials were analyzing the latest Chinese military activity. The Joint Staff said Japan scrambled fighter jets and warned the Chinese plane to leave.

Hayashi stressed that China's military activity around Japan in recent years has become "increasingly expanding and intensifying." Hayashi said Japan will continue watching Chinese military activity and do its utmost to respond to possible anti-airspace violations. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano summoned acting Chinese Ambassador Shi Yong to strongly protest the airspace violation. Okano also demanded that China take steps to avoid such incidents.

According to Japan's military, it scrambled jets nearly 669 times between April 2023 and March 2024, about 70% of the time against Chinese military aircraft, though that did not include airspace violations.

## Philippine defence chief says China is 'the biggest disruptor of peace'

AP n MANILA

The Philippine defence chief said Tuesday that China is "the biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia and called for stronger international censure over its aggression in the South China Sea, a day after China blocked Philippine vessels from delivering food to a Coast Guard ship at the Sabina Shoal. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr spoke at an international military conference organized in Manila by the US Indo-Pacific Command amid a spike in clashes between China and the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea and in its airspace.

China is "the biggest disruptor of international peace" in Southeast Asia, Teodoro told the conference, which was attended by military officials and senior diplomats from the US and allied countries. He later told reporters on the sidelines of the conference that international statements of concern against China's increasingly assertive actions in the disputed waters and elsewhere were "not

enough."

"The antidote is a stronger collective multilateral action against China," Teodoro said, adding that diplomats and defense officials should determine those stronger steps. Pressed by reporters to be more specific, Teodoro said a UN Security Council resolution condemning and ordering a stop to Chinese acts of aggression would be a strong step but acknowledged the difficulty of pursuing that. "The world is not that perfect," Teodoro said.

There was no immediate reaction from Chinese officials. China, like its geopolitical rival the US, is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and has power to veto such an adversarial step.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has paid "attention" to China's aggressive actions but should do much more, Teodoro said. The 10-nation Southeast Asian bloc includes the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, which have South China Sea claims that overlap with each

other, as well as China's and Taiwan's.

"ASEAN, to remain relevant and credible, cannot continue to ignore what China is doing in the South China Sea," Teodoro said.

In the latest incident in the South China Sea, Philippine officials said China deployed "an excessive force" of 40 ships that blocked two Philippine vessels from delivering food and other supplies to Manila's largest coast guard ship in the disputed Sabina Shoal in the latest flare-up of their territorial disputes in the busy sea passage. China and the Philippines blamed each other for the confrontation on Monday in Sabina Shoal, an uninhabited atoll both countries claim that has become the latest flashpoint in the Spratlys, the most hotly disputed region of the sea passage that is a key global trade and security route. China and the Philippines have separately deployed coast guard ships to Sabina in recent months on suspicion the other may act to take control of and build structures in the fishing atoll.

## China calls for more support for Ukraine peace plan with Brazil

AP n BANGKOK

China called on Tuesday for more countries to endorse its peace plan for Ukraine, after a round of diplomacy with Indonesia, Brazil and South Africa to support its plan. Envoy Li Hui called the three countries representative of the Global South and "important forces in promoting world peace" who share similar positions with China. "They have maintained communication with both Russia and Ukraine and stay committed to a political settlement to the crisis through dialogue and negotiation," said Li, China's special envoy for Eurasian affairs.

China and Brazil issued a joint peace plan earlier this year that calls for a peace conference with both Ukraine and Russia

and no expansion of the battlefield. China and Russia were absent from a peace summit hosted in Switzerland in June. Russia was not invited while China chose not to attend.

Initially, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said China had pressured other countries to not attend the peace summit. But since then, Ukraine has recognized China's role in a peace process, given its close relationship with Russia, with the Ukrainian foreign minister paying a visit to the country in July, the first since the war began.

While a diplomatic dialogue between Russia and Ukraine so far appears out of reach, the war has shifted. In August Ukraine opened a new front in the war by attacking the Russian oblast of Kursk, in a surprise move that

made clear Russia was also vulnerable. Zelenskyy has said the aim was to create a buffer zone to protect Ukraine from attacks. Li noted the incursion and criticized Western support for Ukraine. "All sides are worried that the West continues to relax conditions for Ukraine to strike the Russian territory with aided weapons," Li said. "And recent developments on the battlefield confirmed these kind of worries." The US and NATO have called China an enabler of Russia in the war. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg then said China provides equipment, microelectronics and tools that are "enabling Russia to build the missiles, to build the bombs, to build the aircraft, to build the weapons they use to attack Ukraine."

## Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) awarded to top Chinese general

PTI n ISLAMABAD

Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China General Li Qiaoming was on Tuesday conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of the top honours in Pakistan, for his "unwavering commitment" in promoting close cooperation between the militaries of the two all-weather friends. Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif and Army Chief General Asim Munir participated during a special investiture ceremony at the President's House and parliamentarians.

"The citation at the ceremony highlighted General Li Qiaoming's four-decade career, noting his significant contributions to the Chinese military. His intellect, administrative skills, and dedication have earned him a reputation as a courageous and capable officer, crucial in promoting peace and stability in China and beyond," the state-run news agency Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

"General Li is renowned for his exceptional professionalism and skills in maintaining peace and stability around China. As a friend of Pakistan, he greatly strengthened Pak-China military relations with unwavering commitment," it said.

Earlier on Monday, Qiaoming met with Prime Minister Sharif and discussed various aspects of the Pakistan-China friendship, particularly the bilateral defence and strategic partnership, the report said. Sharif underscored that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and trusted friends and highlighted that the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, "making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries." The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges and noted that the defence and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region.

## Malaysian ex-leader charged with sedition for mocking former king

AP n KUALA LUMPUR

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged Tuesday with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king, Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia from March 2020 until August 2021, pleaded not guilty in a court in northeast Kelantan state. According to the charge sheet, Muhyiddin made the seditious remarks last month during a by-election campaign in Kelantan.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. The monarchy plays a largely ceremonial role, but are revered by the nation's majority Muslims.

In his speech on August 14, Muhyiddin had questioned why then-King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah

didn't invite him to be prime minister following a hung Parliament in November 2022. Muhyiddin had claimed he had the backing of majority lawmakers.

Muhyiddin's Islamic nationalist bloc received stronger-than-expected support from Malays, who account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 34 million people. Sultan Abdullah appointed then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister after Anwar cobbled up support from rival parties to form a unity government.

Sultan Abdullah from central Pahang state, who ended his reign on Jan. 30 this year, didn't comment on the case. But his son issued a strong rebuke to Muhyiddin, saying his remarks were dangerous and could divide the people and undermine the royal institution. Muhyiddin was questioned by police following complaints against him. He had denied insulting the royalty, saying his remarks were factu-

al and that he had handed in sworn oath of support by 115 lawmakers in the 222-member parliament.

Zaid Malek from Lawyers for Liberty, a human rights and law reform group, slammed the use of the colonial-era Sedition Act against Muhyiddin. He said questioning or criticizing the exercise of constitutional power by the king wasn't seditious. The law, introduced by the British in 1948, criminalizes speech or actions with an undefined "seditious tendency," including that which promotes hatred against the government and monarchy or incites racial discord. "The king is a constitutional monarch, and not a feudal ruler. His exercise of his power can thus be debated, questioned or criticized. This is the very bedrock of our system of constitutional monarchy," Zaid said. Anwar had backedtracked on his pledge to repeal the Sedition Act, which has long been used to suppress dissenting voices, he added.

## PM Sharif reiterates 'resolve' to root out terrorism from Pakistan

PTI n ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in the restive Balochistan province as he reiterated the unwavering resolve of his government to root out terrorism from the country. Heavily armed Baloch gunmen killed at least 37 people in separate attacks in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Monday, as insurgent attacks spiked in the region bordering Iran and Afghanistan. Chairing a Cabinet meeting a day after violence in Balochistan stunned the country, Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist incidents that resulted in the death of innocent Pakistanis including the security personnel, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. He said the sacrifices rendered by the people and the Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war

against terrorism will not go waste. "The entire nation is committed for complete elimination of terrorism from the country," he said.

Prime Minister Sharif said all available resources would be provided to the Armed Forces to curb terrorism. He said time has come to eliminate terrorism. "We need to move forward towards this path with firm resolve," he said.

He said doors of dialogue are open for those who believe in Pakistan and its Constitution. However, no talks will be held with the enemies and terrorists, he added. Referring to the terrorist incidents, he said it is no secret now that the terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, operating from Afghanistan, are behind terrorist attacks. He said the government has already sensitized the Afghan government on the issue.

He said the terrorist acts being carried out in Balochistan are

aimed at creating anarchy and disturbance in Pakistan and to disrupt the steps being taken by the government for development of the country. However, their nefarious designs could not terrorize the people and disrupt the development process. Prime Minister Sharif stressed the need for forging unity, saying such despicable designs are only meant to impede the country's progress, ongoing CPEC projects in Balochistan and undermine the time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China.

He announced to soon visit Balochistan to hold in-depth deliberations on the situation and decide on immediate measures to deal with it. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited

Balochistan on Tuesday to support the provincial government in its efforts to tackle militancy. "My aim to visit is to let you all and the people of Balochistan know that the federal interior minister is standing behind the Balochistan chief minister. Whatever decision he (chief minister Bugti) makes, we will support him," he told the media in Quetta flanked by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti.

Naqvi ruled out any fresh operation, saying that a police station house officer was enough to tackle the law and order with proper and timely response. "They are terrorists and our civil armed forces, armed forces, and the police know how to combat them," the minister said.

## If anything happens to me, Army chief & DG ISI responsible: Imran Khan

PTI n ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday reiterated that the Army and the ISI are responsible for his condition and expressed fear for his life.

Khan, 71, lodged at the Adiala Jail since last year, also blamed the current dispensation for being averse to criticism, for deteriorating law-and-order situation across the country, and also for ruining Pakistan's cricket that is facing repeated defeats.

In a post on X from jail, Khan repeated claims about rigged elections and said only a government with a genuine mandate will be able to plan for fundamental reforms.

"The ISI controls all administrative matters related to my imprisonment. I'm saying it again: if anything happens to me, the Army Chief and DG ISI will be responsible," the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said in a detailed post on X.

Khan's comments come two days after the Pakistan government said that the

former prime minister's trial in cases concerning the violence on May 9 last year might go to the military courts.

"The events and vandalism on May 9 last year invited the application of the Army Act since military installations were attacked and damaged," Government spokesperson for legal affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik had said. On May 9 last year, violent protests erupted after Khan's arrest by paramilitary Rangers from the premises of the Islamabad High Court in connection with an alleged corruption case.

His party workers allegedly vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander House), the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. A mob also attacked the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

Khan's longish post on X started with "reminding" the nation of the two attempts on his life: first in Wazirabad, Punjab province and then again at the Judicial Complex in Islamabad.

The ISI stole the CCTV footage from

Wazirabad, and the night before the attack in Islamabad, the ISI had taken control of the area where it happened, he claimed.

"In their panic, they have made my conditions in jail even tougher. The staff assigned to ensure that my food isn't poisoned has been changed for the fourth time," he wrote.

He also described the conditions of his and his wife Bushra's cell — rats fall from the top when she prays — and said the court has been informed about it. Khan further said that he had already explained why the Islamabad rally was postponed and how it had nothing to do with "contacts with the establishment."

This entire government runs on lies; I don't even read the news about them. I have no contact with the establishment. If we do hold talks with them, it will only be for the sake of the country and the constitution," the PTI supreme added.

Drawing a parallel to the situation that unfolded in Bangladesh, he also came up with a curt comment: "Cattle can be

herded in a desired direction, not humans" and said, "The Army Chief, Chief Justice, and Police Chief were all loyal to the Prime Minister (in Bangladesh), but when the people took to the streets, they won their rights."

Anyone critical of the regime is labelled a digital terrorist. When internet services were shut down, people protested, but those in power couldn't handle the criticism. No one is permitted to even voice their problems. The nation blames a specific institution for this," he added.

What are his qualifications? Under him, the law-and-order situation across the country is deteriorating," the PTI leader asked and described terror attack incidents in KP and Balochistan. The former cricketer-turned-politician rued about "the embarrassing defeat against Bangladesh" on Monday and said it set a new low.

He also lamented the current condition of cricket in Pakistan, saying: "The blame for all of this collapse falls on one institution."

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**Tender Enquiry No. 1704/C&I/O&M/PC-2583 Dated: 23-08-2024**  
Chief Engineer/ O&M (P&P Cell-I), GHPT, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the Procurement of RTDs and thermocouple for Slage-I & II Units, GHPT, Lehra Mohabbat. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 23-08-2024 at 17:00 Hrs. onwards.  
**Note:-** Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> GHTP-73/24

76155/12/3350/2023/37011 Dated CHD - 8/27/2024

**M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)  
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Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636  
Ref. : MD/MK/04/NIT/1410 Date : 27.08.2024

**TENDER NOTICE**  
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering :-

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/1082	Rate Contract for 140 Kg 8 Mtr. Long PCC Pole	2808.30	23600	05.09.24 at 3:00 PM	17.09.2024 at 3:00 PM

Other details and full Tender documents would be available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. Website <https://mptenders.gov.in> shortly.  
M.P. Madhyam/116105/2024 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)



# Markets settle almost flat

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Stock market benchmark Sindices Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note after a volatile session on Tuesday due to the emergence of profit-taking near record high levels amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine. The NSE gauge, however, hit a new lifetime peak of 25,017. According to traders, profit booking in metal, consumer durable and FMCG shares negated gains in telecom, teck and IT stocks. After oscillating between highs and lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out a marginal gain of 13.65 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 81,711.76 — its sixth consecutive session of rise. During the day, it hit a high of 81,919.11 and a low of 81,600.51. The NSE Nifty ended almost flat, up 7.15 points or 0.03 per cent, at 25,017.75 — its ninth straight session of gains. "The domestic market witnessed profit-booking near record highs. While the positive expectations regarding a potential rate cut by the Fed in September remain, the recent geopolitical tensions



and rising crude oil prices have made investors cautious amid high valuations. "Further, the recent shift in FII stance towards the domestic market and the anticipation that the RBI will align with the Fed's actions are expected to foster a positive outlook in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. On the Sensex chart, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers. In contrast, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Titan, NTPC and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.58 per cent, and smallcap index went up by 0.50 per cent. Among the indices, telecommunication jumped 1.13 per cent, teck (0.70 per cent), financial services (0.68 per cent) and healthcare (0.44 per cent). On the other hand, metal, consumer durables, power, commodities and consumer discretionary were among the laggards. Trading session lacked momentum due to weak investor participation on

account of Janmashtami and ended almost unchanged from its previous close. Weak US market cues and subdued Asian indices prompted local investors to book profit towards the fag-end, indicating that intraday volatility will continue amid growing geopolitical tensions and sluggish global growth," Prashant Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory, while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower. European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. The US markets ended mostly lower in the overnight trade on Monday. "There are both headwinds and tailwinds for the market now. Headwinds are coming from the escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine. Brent crude has shot up above USD 81. The strongest tailwind comes from the expected rate cuts by the Fed which will spill over to other central banks, including the RBI," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

# GCCs offering up to 20 per cent higher salaries than IT services: Report

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India are offering up to 20 per cent higher salaries as compared with the IT services, especially at entry and mid levels, a report said on Tuesday. According to the report by TeamLease Digital, India has over 1,600 GCCs employing over 1.66 million professionals. It is poised to welcome 800 new GCCs in the next 5-6 years, which shows the country's growing prominence as a global tech hub. GCCs are centralized units established by multinational companies to manage specific business functions or processes, leveraging cost advantages, a skilled workforce, and favourable business environments in strategic locations worldwide. GCCs play a vital role in driving efficiency and innovation across sectors such as IT, finance, and research and development. On the other hand, IT products & services encompass development, production, and management



of hardware, software, networks, and services that enable organizations in the creation, management and optimization of or access to information and business processes. "GCCs are rapidly surpassing the IT sector in the talent market, especially at entry and mid levels. They offer salaries that are, on an average, 12-20 per cent higher than those in IT services and non-tech industries," TeamLease Digital CEO Neeti Sharma said quoting the report. This wage premium underscores the growing influence of GCCs as they attract top talent from the IT sector to fuel their expansion, signalling a shift in market dynamics where GCCs are emerging as the dominant

force, she added. The 'Digital Skills and Salary Primer for FY25' report is based on an analysis of 15,000 job roles from the 3 sectors, including GCCs, IT services and non-tech sectors. Currently, in GCCs, there are more opportunities for people with 0-10 years experience. The senior level has a wider salary gap for many of the functional areas, and the premium for niche skills is also higher. The report further showed that there is a growing trend of setting up GCCs in tier-II cities like Kolkata, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara, which indicates a geographical diversification of tech opportunities across the country. Skills that are seeing an increasing demand in GCCs are PyTorch, AWS, DevOps, NLP, Kubernetes, Fabric, Hyperledger, Blockchain, Tableau, SQL, and ServiceNow, the report added. In GCCs, the percentage of women tech professionals is expected to increase to 35 per cent from the current 25 per cent by 2027.

# Over 200 global players to take part in Bharat Battery Show 2025



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Over 200 global players are likely to showcase cutting-edge battery and charging infra technologies at the Bharat Battery Show in January 2025. Industry body India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), in a statement, said it is organising the Bharat Battery Show at the second Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. According to the statement, the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 led by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to be held on January 17-22, 2025, across three major venues — Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi (IICC) Dwarka, and India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida. IESA, as a key industry partner, has been entrusted with the organisation of the Battery Tech Pavilion, Recycling Pavilion, and Charging Infra Pavilion under the umbrella of the Bharat Battery Show. Bharat Battery Show — part of the Bharat Mobility — will be organised at the central Delhi venue Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from 19 to 21 January 2025. The Bharat Battery Show (an expo on batteries and charging) will feature cutting-edge technologies in battery storage, battery recycling, and charging infrastructure, reflecting IESAs commitment to driving the adoption of clean energy and sustainable mobility solutions in India. IESA said that it is expecting 200+ global players to showcase their cutting-edge battery and charging infra technologies during this event. Some of the key firms already confirmed include Amara Raja, Replus Engitech, Epsilon Advanced Materials, Advik Hitech, Amphenol FCL, Bry-Air (Asia), Elcom International, EMO Energy, HENN Indo Pacific, Maestrotech Systems, Neenjas Electric, Polyprotic Chemicals, Huge Hippo Energy, MNE components, Hioki, Glida, Ipower batteries, and Molsynth, among others.

# Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 83.92 against US dollar

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
The rupee depreciated by 5 paise to close at 83.92 (provisional) against the American currency on Tuesday, on overnight jump in crude oil prices and a surge in commodity prices. However, positive domestic markets and a soft US dollar cushioned the downside, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.91 and touched an intra-day low of 83.95 against the US dollar. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.92 (provisional), 5 paise lower from its previous close. On Monday, the Indian rupee settled for the day 3 paise higher at 83.87 against the American currency. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on rise in global risk sentiments amid dovish Fed speak and



rising expectations of a rate cut by the Fed in September. "However, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and rising crude oil prices may cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from US consumer confidence data," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said. Forex traders said the rupee is likely to remain within a narrow range as the Reserve Bank of India has been actively intervening in the market, consistently absorbing inflows.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent lower at 100.79. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.87 per cent to USD 80.72 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex rose 13.65 points, or 0.02 per cent, to close at 81,711.76 points. The Nifty closed 7.15 points, or 0.03 per cent, up at 25,017.75 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 483.36 crore, according to exchange data. Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is constantly working on policies, systems, and platforms to make the country's financial sector strong, nimble and customer centric.

# India-Oman free trade pact talks at advanced stage: Official

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Discussions for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and Oman are at an advanced stage and both sides hope to conclude the pact early, Indian Ambassador to Oman Amit Narang said on Tuesday. The pact will give a significant push to bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, he said. The pact, officially known as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), is expected to boost Indian exports to the west Asian country by eliminating duties, especially on petroleum products, textiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and iron and steel. "Discussions for a bilateral CEPA with Oman are at an advanced stage. We hope to conclude these discussions early and once this is done, this will be a significant push



to bilateral, not just trade, but also bilateral investment ties," Narang said. Addressing an event organised by Ficci here, the Indian Ambassador to Oman also highlighted the significant potential for enhancing direct shipping links between the two nations as a large part of Indian exports to Oman come not directly but through the UAE. He said the India-Oman bilateral trade, which crossed USD 12 billion in 2022-23, has moderated and settled at USD 8 billion in FY24. "Between 2021 and 2023 the

commodities globally," Narang said. He pointed out that a large part of Indian exports to Oman come not directly but through the UAE and these are not reflected in the India-Oman bilateral trade but in India's trade with the UAE, adding that there is potential for enhancing direct shipping links. "Currently, I understand that there are two shipping lines... There is therefore huge potential for direct shipping to reduce cost of bilateral trade and that will have a significant impact in further improving our bilateral trade figures," Narang said. "In the past financial year, the bilateral trade has moderated a little bit, it has settled to USD 8 billion... Moderation is mainly on account of over dominance of hydrocarbons in the bilateral trade," Narang said. "India imports a lot of oil and fertilisers from Oman and this decline in the value terms of the trade this year is a reflection of the decline in values of these two

# India ranks 31st in JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Global property consultant JLL on Tuesday said that India's top real estate markets have entered into a 'transparent' zone for the first time, driven by institutionalisation of commercial assets and improvement in data access. JLL has released its 'Global Real Estate Transparency Index, 2024', which showed that India's tier-I markets have entered into the 'transparent' zone for the first time with a composite score of 2.44. India ranks 31st in the list of 89 countries. The consultant noted that "India has made a remarkable leap forward in JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2024, reaching the transparent tier for the first time". This progress is a result of institutionalisation in the commercial market and



improved access to diverse real estate data sets, it said. "India is the top global improver in the 2024 index, making significant strides in transaction processes and market fundamentals," JLL said, the country is leading the global front in enhancing transparency, with expanded data coverage and improved data quality across various property sectors. There are 13 countries featured in the high-transparency zone. The United Kingdom is at the top (with a score of 1.24) in

and Slovakia. The remaining countries are in 'semi-transparent', Low transparency and opaque zones. "India is the top global improver, with greater data coverage and quality across both core and niche property sectors — ranging from industrial to data centres - as institutionalisation in the market increases. "A more proactive financial regulator, new climate risk disclosure guidelines, streamlined building regulations and digitised land records have also contributed to its leading cities entering the 'Transparent' tier," the report mentioned. Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head-Research, India, JLL, said, "Increasing institutional participation, along with a push for transparency, has led to the adoption of best industry practices in India's commercial real estate

market." Notably, he said four existing listed REITs have driven growth in stabilised commercial assets, while standardised market valuation processes and REIT regulations have fostered market-based approaches. "Regulatory enhancements such as RERA and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code have improved investor protection, while digital land registry records and strict monitoring by RBI and SEBI have created a robust regulatory landscape," Das said. Karan Singh Sodi, Senior Managing Director (Mumbai MMR & Gujarat) and Head - Alternatives, India, JLL said, India's ascent to the transparent tier in JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index underscores the industry's cohesive efforts and governmental backing.

# Auto majors to offer 1.5-3 per cent discount on purchase of new vehicles against scrappage certificate

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Ahead of the festive season, several passenger and commercial vehicle manufacturers have agreed to offer discounts of 1.5-3 per cent on new vehicle purchase against scrapped old vehicles after a meeting with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, an official statement said on Tuesday. The statement further said Mercedes Benz India has offered a flat discount of Rs 25,000, which will be over and above all existing discounts. Union Road Transport and Highways (RT&H) Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday chaired a meeting with the SIAM delegation at Bharat Mandapam, where he addressed pressing issues in the automobile industry. "During this interaction, responding positively to the advice of the minister RT&H



and recognising the importance of Fleet Modernisation and Circular Economy, multiple Commercial Vehicle Manufacturers and multiple passenger vehicle manufacturers have agreed to offer discounts for a limited period against a certificate of deposit (Scrappage Certificate)," the statement said. It said commercial vehicle manufacturers are willing to offer discounts for a limited period of two years and

passenger vehicle manufacturers are willing to offer discounts for a limited period of one year. The statement noted that these discounts will further incentivise the scrapping of vehicles, thereby ensuring the plying of safer, cleaner and more efficient vehicles on roads. As per the statement, passenger vehicle manufacturers namely Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hyundai Motor India, Kia Motors, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Honda Cars, JSW MG Motor, Renault India, Nissan India and Skoda Volkswagen India, will offer discount of 1.5 per cent of the ex-showroom price of new car or Rs 20,000, whichever is less, against the passenger vehicle scrapped by the owner in the last 6 months.

# Gold climbs ₹550 to ₹74,350 per 10 gm; silver rallies ₹1,200

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Gold prices climbed Rs 550 to Rs 74,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh demand from local jewellers. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,800 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday. Silver prices also rallied Rs 1,200 to Rs 88,200 per kilogram on Tuesday from Rs 87,000 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also jumped Rs 550 to Rs 74,000 per 10 grams.



Traders attributed the rise in yellow prices due to a pick-up in demand by local jewellers and retailers in the domestic market. The bullion markets were closed in New Delhi on Monday on account of Krishna Janmashtami. In the Asian trading hours, gold is trading at USD 2,543.90 per ounce, down USD 11.30 per ounce.

"Gold declined marginally on Tuesday, weighed down by better than expected US macro data and an uptick in US Treasury yields," Samuil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. According to Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research, MOFSL, gold prices fell but remained in sight of record highs it hit last week as the prospect of lower US interest rates battered the US dollar and presented a brighter outlook for metal markets. Further, bullion surged to record highs last week, as market participants welcomed

dovish comments from the Federal Reserve. Some safe haven demand also buoyed gold as ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas yielded few results, while hostilities in the Middle East persisted, Modi added. Additionally, silver was quoted lower at USD 30.34 per ounce in the global markets. "Traders will focus on the US consumer confidence data going to be released later on Tuesday which will provide more insights on the direction of the bullion prices," Navneet Damani, Group Senior VP of Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL), said.

# Coal India's contribution to Govt exchequer rises 2 per cent in April-July

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
State-owned Coal India Ltd's contribution to the government's exchequer rose 2.06 per cent to Rs 20,071.96 crore in the April-July period of the ongoing fiscal year. Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, paid Rs 19,666.04 crore to the government exchequer in the year-ago period, according to provisional figures of the coal ministry. Total levies paid to the government in July went up to Rs 4,992.48 crore from Rs 4,789.42 crore paid a year earlier.



The amount paid to the Centre and state governments include royalties, GST, cess on coal, and other levies. Coal production generates substantial revenue for both central and state governments. Of the total amount paid to the government exchequer in the first four months of FY24,

maximum amount of Rs 4,417.12 crore was made to the state government of Jharkhand, followed by Rs 4,319.67 crore to the Odisha government, Rs 3,950.41 crore to Chhattisgarh, Rs 3,526.27 crore to Madhya Pradesh, and Rs 2,086.35 crore to Maharashtra, among others. State governments are entitled to receiving 14 per cent of royalty on the sale price of coal and 30 per cent of the royalty as contribution towards the proposed district mineral foundations (DMFs) -- which are meant to support people affected by various projects -- and two per cent of

NMET from dry-fuel produced by the coal companies and also the private sector. In case of captive, commercial mines, states are also entitled to receiving the revenue share offered by the auction holder in a transparent bidding process. Apart from this, state governments also benefit from increased employment, land compensation, increased investment in allied infrastructure like railways, road and several other economic benefits. Coal India is aiming to produce 838 MT of coal in the ongoing financial year.



**PARALYMPICS**

**INDIA EYE RECORD HAUL WITH LARGEST EVER CONTINGENT IN FRAY AT PARIS**

**PTI ■ PARIS**  
Battered by life but not beaten by its many challenges, an 84-strong contingent of Indian para-athletes, the largest ever in the country's history and a heady mix of youth and experience,

would be eyeing an unparalleled gold rush when the Paralympic Games begin here on Wednesday. India won a record 19 medals, including five gold, in the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021 for a 24th-place finish in the overall rankings. Three years

on, the country's target is more than 25 medals with a double-digit haul in gold. What has fuelled this ambition is the size of the contingent and the exceptional performances in the past one year. India won a record 111

medals, including 29 gold, at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games last year. This was followed by unprecedented success at the World Para Athletics Championships in May where the country snared 17 medals, including half a dozen gold for a sixth-place finish in the overall standings.

Several medal winners in Hangzhou are in this Paralympics team, including top stars like world record-holding javelin thrower Sumit Antil (F64) and rifle shooter Avani Lekhara (10m Air Rifle Standing SH1). Both of them would be defending their gold medals won in Tokyo. The Games, as such a celebration of sporting skills as human endurance, club athletes with similar functional abilities in terms of movement, coordination and balance into various classifications. The "degree and nature of their eligible impairments" decide these groups. For India, the para-athletics team has been a major medal giver in the past and this time too, it is expected to be the biggest contributor with as many as 38 names in fray. Other top medal contenders include the likes of para-archer Sheetal Devi, who shoots with her legs as she was born without arms, landmine blast survivors Hokato Sema (shot putter) and Narayana Konganapalle (rower) and



several other accident amputees. India is competing in 12 sports this time, as against nine by a 54-member team in Tokyo. Shooter Manish Narwal and shuttler Krishna Nagar are also among those who would be looking to defend their gold medals won in Tokyo. Antil, whose left leg was amputated owing to an accident when he was 17, had also won gold in the para world championships in May and he is hoping to cross the 75m mark in Paris at the same venue where his able-bodied counterpart Neeraj Chopra won an Olympic silver earlier this month. Lekhara was the best performer in Tokyo with one

gold and a bronze and one of the two athletes to win two medals, the other being Singhraj Adhana (silver and bronze). Adhana, however, could not make the current team. Lekhara was the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold medal. She is now primed to join the club of three medal winners in the Paralympics. Current Paralympics Committee of India (PCI) President Devendra Jhajharia, a javelin thrower, is the most decorated Indian Paralympian with two gold (2004 Athens and 2016 Rio) and a silver (2021 Tokyo). Joginder Singh Bedi won three medals in the 1984 Paralympics (silver in shot put,

a bronze each in javelin and discus throw). Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20; intellectual disability), Rio Olympics gold-medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump - T63), whose right leg was disabled after being run over by a bus, and Yogesh Kathuniya (men's Discus Throw - F56), born with a neurological disorder that damaged his nervous system, would be also aiming to add to their existing Paralympic medal tally. Shuttler Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6), who has overcome the disadvantage of his short height, is also looking good to defend his gold medal won in Tokyo, more so after

winning the title in the World Para Badminton Championships in Thailand in February. The other gold winner in Tokyo, Pramod Bhagat, is, however, serving suspension after whereabouts failure. Suhas Yathiraj (Men's Singles SL4 and Mixed Doubles SL3-SU5), who won a silver in Tokyo, will again be a medal contender. In para-archery, Sheetal and Harvinder Singh will be among the medal contenders. Harvinder had won a bronze in Tokyo in men's individual recurve open. Sheetal, the first and the only international para archery champion without upper limbs, bagged two gold medals in a stunning performance in the Asian Para Games in women's individual compound and mixed doubles, and a silver in the women's doubles compound event. In table tennis, after winning a silver in class 4 event in Tokyo, Bhavinaben Patel will hope to better the colour of the medal. The wheelchair-bound player is competing in women's singles S4 and women's doubles D10 events. Antil and shot putter Bhagyashri Jadhav, who won a silver in the F34 event in Asian Para Games, will be the joint flag bearers at Wednesday's Opening Ceremony to be held outside a stadium for the first time in the history of Paralympic Games.

**INDIAN BANK**  
Kotwali Road Branch, Bhopal

**APPENDIX - IV (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank), Kotwali Road Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice dated 04/04/2024 to the below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors, calling upon the borrowers and also the owner of the property/Surety to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 22nd Day of August of the year 2024.

The borrowers, guarantors & mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Kotwali Road Branch for the amount mentioned against the borrowers and Interest thereon, costs etc. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount Outstanding	Description of Movable / Immovable Property
Borrower & Mortgagor : Shri Vijay Sahu M/s Ratandeeep Furniture prop Vijay Sahu	₹ 1687531/- + Interest & other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No 131 Nagar nigam colony at chhola ward no 76 in City or Town Bhopal within the Registration sub-district Huzar And District Bhopal. Boundaries: East-Plot no 130, West- Plot no 132, North-plot no 134, South- 30 ft colony Road On the West by

Place: Bhopal, Date : 22/08/2024  
Authorised Officer, (Indian Bank)

**Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**

Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069

Sehore Branch : Office No. 5, First Floor, Tamrakar Mall, Commercial Plot No. 15, Sharda Nagar, Sehore - 466001, (M. P.)

Bhopal Branch : Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1st Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001, (Madhya Pradesh)

Guna Branch : P. H. No. - 75, Building 1st Floor, in front of Hero Showroom, Near ICICI Bank, Mahaveerpura, AB road, Guna-473001 (Madhya Pradesh)

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

S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	(Loan Code No. 1420000099 / Sehore Branch) Mukesh Kumar (Borrower) Basanti Bai (Co-borrower) Ramesh Silawat (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Khasra No. 82 6 3 1 H No 103 Plot No 26 2 Sai Dham Colony Block G Ward No. 4 Near Lakshmi Automobiles Kurwar Lasudiyaramnath, Rajgarh- 465667 Boundaries: East- Seller's Plot No. 07, West-Proposed Road 20 Ft Wide, North- Seller's Plot No. 27, South- Seller's Plot No. 26/1	08-05-2024 & ₹ 4,10,399/-	23-08-2024
2	(Loan Code No. 1420000124 / Sehore Branch) Sayyed Irfan Ali (Borrower) Aneesa Bee & Imran Ali (Co-borrower) Neeraj Rathore (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Diverted Nazul Sheet 37 Part Plot No 17 Sanjay Nagar Mandi Sehore Ward No 32 Near Wooden Machine, Sehore-466001(M.P.). Boundaries: East- Land of Seller, West- Land of Seller, North- Way 18ft then Rest Land of Seller, South - Land of Shri Ram Singh	08-05-2024 & ₹ 4,16,241/-	23-08-2024
3	(Loan Code No. 00600003002 & 00600004258 / Bhopal Branch) Mukesh Sahu (Borrower) Nicky Sahu (Co-borrower) Manish Sahu (Guarantor)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Part Kh No 146 2 Plot No 29 Jay Nagar B Ward No 66 Near New Little Foundation School Karond Kala, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh - 462010. Boundaries: East- Plot No - 30, West- Plot No - 28, North- Plot No - 34, South- Road	08-05-2024 & ₹ 8,66,448/- & ₹ 1,05,464/-	23-08-2024
4	(Loan Code No. 05810000136/ Guna Branch) Ramkrishan Prajapati (Borrower) Vinita W/o Ramkrishan (Co-borrower)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Mundra Road Ward No. 06 Aron Guna Madhya Pradesh 473001. Boundaries: East- Remaining Land of Seller, West- Mudera Khurd Road, North- Remaining Land of Seller, South - Land of Ashram	08-05-2024 & ₹ 4,12,382/-	23-08-2024

Place : Madhya Pradesh  
Date : 28.08.2024  
Authorised Officer  
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

**Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069

Bhopal Branch : Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1st Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001(Madhya Pradesh)

Biaora Branch: Guptaji Building, 1st Floor, Ward No.07,OLD A B Road, Near Axis Bank, Vishwanth Colony, Bakhatpura Biaora, Dist Raigarh-465674 (MP)

**E-AUCTION - SALE NOTICE**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1	(Loan Code No. 00600002014 / Bhopal Branch) Devendra Vishvakarma (Borrower), Bimard Vai (Co-Borrower) Bundel Singh (Guarantor)	15-11-2021 & ₹ 3,32,519/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No. 360 2 PH 21 Ward No. 11 Patel Nagar Sagar Road Near Govt School Shreeji Colony, Raisen, Madhya Pradesh- 464551. Boundaries: East- House of Toran Singh, West- Plot of Prakash Saxena, North- Plot of Harlal, South- Plot of Ram Ratan Maharaj	Rs. 9,60,000/-	Rs. 96,000/-	Physical
2	(Loan Code No. 13610000172 / Biaora Branch) Pachal Verma (Borrower), Anar Bai (Co-Borrower)	13-05-2024 & ₹ 14,27,098/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, House No 2/1497 Bhanwar Colony Ragarh Khujner Road Ward No 05 Rajgarh Madhya Pradesh 465661 Boundaries: East- Hosue of Gopal Dangli, West- Common Road to Colony, North- Plot of Laxminarayan Kusum, South- House of Ramkala Bai	Rs. 13,80,000/-	Rs. 1,38,000/-	Physical

1. Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is **26-09-2024 within 5:00 PM** at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on <https://bankeuctions.com>. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

2. Date of Opening of the Bid/ Offer (Auction Date) for Property is **27-09-2024 on https://bankeuctions.com at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM**.

3. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As Is Where Is Basis", "As Is What Is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis".

4. The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited Only.

5. Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://bankeuctions.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

6. The intending bidders should register their names at M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link <https://bankeuctions.com/registration/signup>, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website <https://bankeuctions.com>

7. For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore (Contact : 9977783890) OR the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: [tn@1india.com](mailto:tn@1india.com) & [support@bankeuctions.com](mailto:support@bankeuctions.com), Phone No. +917291981124 /25 /26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/ secured assets.

8. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. [www.aadharhousing.com](http://www.aadharhousing.com).

9. The Bid incremental amount for auction is **Rs. 10,000/-**.

Place : Madhya Pradesh  
Date : 28-08-2024  
(Authorised Officer)  
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

**GRAND CHESS TOUR**  
**Gukesh holds Caruana; Firouzja consolidates lead**

**PTI ■ SAINT LOUIS (USA)**

Grandmaster D Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw yet again, signing peace with top seed and local favourite Fabiano Caruana, while Frenchman Alireza Firouzja stretched his lead by a full point after the seventh round of Sinquefeld Cup, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour. The other Indian in fray, R Praggnanandhaa, drew his seventh game on the trot to remain on a fifty per cent score. Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia was happy with a quick draw as Praggnanandhaa decided to save his energy. With just two rounds to come, Firouzja, who put it across world champion Ding Liren of China, has five points in his kitty and Caruana continues to trail him a full point behind. As many as five players -- Wesley So of United States, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa -- share the third spot on 3.5 points each.



A half point behind are Liren and Nepomniachtchi while Dutchman Anish Giri is still at the bottom of the table on 2.5 points. Besides Firouzja's victory, Abdusattorov halted So's party with a clinical performance. In the other game of the day, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave drew with Giri. Gukesh continued with his uncompromising play but found Caruana adequately prepared in an Italian opening game. The Indian was much worse in the ensuing endgame but Caruana missed out on his 39th turn when he could have gotten a real advantage.

Exchanges at regular intervals thereafter ensured the draw for the Indian. Praggnanandhaa got nothing as white against Nepomniachtchi's Petroff defense and the Chennai-based player had to be content with repetition of moves very early in the middle game. The game lasted a mere 19 moves. The day belonged to Firouzja, who came up with fine resources in a complicated middle game against Liren. The Italian opening has been doing well for the Frenchman and he knocked down a couple of pawns when Liren erred in the middle game allowing the white to invade his camp. The rest was easy. Results round 7: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 5) beat Ding Liren (Chn, 3); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid, 2.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 3.5) beat Wesley So (Usa, 3.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 4) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 3.5).



**US OPEN**  
**16-year-old Californian Iva beats Magda in first round**

**AP ■ NEW YORK**

Iva Jovic, a 16-year-old from California, became the youngest American to win a women's main-draw match at the U.S. Open since 2000, eliminating 2023 Australian Open semifinalist Magda Linette of Poland 6-4, 6-3. "Surprised, but not surprised," Jovic said on Monday about the result against someone who's been ranked in the top 20. "I just had a plan about what I was going to do before we started, and there weren't that many needs for crazy adjustments, because it was just going well," Jovic said. "So just kind of sticking to that." Katrina Scott of the U.S. Was 16 when she won a match at the U.S. Open four years ago. Last year, Mirra Andreeva of Russia was 16 when she did it. Here's one indication of Jovic's youth: She still is planning to enter the junior event later in the tournament. Here's another: Jovic is still in school, taking online courses through a program she described as "convenient and ... Very lenient." Jovic grew up participating in a bunch of sports, including soccer, gymnastics and swimming. But she gravitated to tennis, which she began learning alongside her older sister on courts built atop the apartment complex in Torrance, California, they lived in. "I want to be the best that I can be," Jovic said. "Just get better every day, honestly.

Just keep working. I'm on a good path, but there's a lot more to do." She earned a wild-card entry for the main bracket at the year's last Grand Slam tournament by winning the U.S. Tennis Association Girls' 18s national championship. She also paired with Tyra Grant there to take the doubles title, which gave them a wild card for women's doubles at Flushing Meadows; the USTA granted Jovic and another American teen, Kaylan Bigun, a spot in the mixed doubles field, too. Jovic and Grant teamed up to win junior doubles titles at the Australian Open in January and Wimbledon in July; they also were the runners-up at the French Open in June. Jovic's favorite players are 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic - he's Serbian, and so are her roots; after the English portion of her news conference concluded Monday, she answered questions in Serbian - and Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic. Why? "Djokovic, I mean, do I need to say? We all know how great he is," Jovic responded. "And then Belinda, she just takes the ball so early and her footwork is very cutting the angle, so she just makes her opponents feel kind of suffocated. That's what I would like to try to do." Jovic would love the chance to have a conversation with Djokovic, but their lone interaction so far was when she asked if he would mind posing for a photo.

**India to face West Indies, South Africa in Women's T20 World Cup warm-up matches**

**PTI ■ DUBAI**

India will take on West Indies and South Africa in their two Women's T20 World Cup warm-up fixtures in Dubai, the International Cricket Council announced on Tuesday. India will take on West Indies on September 29 while Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. are slated to play South Africa on October 1. All 10 teams that have qualified for the Women's T20 World Cup will participate in the practice games, with every side playing two warm-up games each. The warm-up fixtures will start on September 28 with Pakistan taking on Scotland and Sri Lanka facing Bangladesh. Defending champion Australia will face arch-rival England on September 29, followed by West Indies on October 1 in Dubai. The warm-up fixtures will be 20 overs per side and will not have international T20 status, allowing teams to field all members of their 15-player squad. No two sides who belong to the same group will take on each other in the warm-up round. India has been clubbed in group A alongside Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka while group B comprises England, South



Africa, West Indies, Scotland and Bangladesh. The competition, starting October 3, was moved to the UAE by the ICC following the ongoing political unrest in Bangladesh, the original host.



**WARM-UP FIXTURES:**  
September 28: Pakistan v Scotland (Sevens, Dubai)  
September 29: Sri Lanka v Bangladesh (ICCA1, Dubai)  
September 29: New Zealand v South Africa (Sevens, Dubai)  
September 29: India v West Indies (ICCA2, Dubai)  
September 29: Australia v England (ICCA1, Dubai)  
September 30: Sri Lanka v Scotland (Sevens, Dubai)  
September 30: Bangladesh v Pakistan (ICCA2, Dubai)  
October 1: West Indies v Australia (Sevens, Dubai)  
October 1: England v New Zealand (ICCA2, Dubai)





Government of Madhya Pradesh



MP INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.



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Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister



Dr. Mohan Yadav  
Chief Minister

## REGIONAL INDUSTRY CONCLAVE, GWALIOR

“A CONVERGENCE OF HISTORY, LEGACY & INDUSTRY”

Inauguration

by

**Dr. Mohan Yadav**

Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

**28th August, 2024 - 10:00 AM**

Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya  
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Showcasing the industrial capabilities of Madhya Pradesh and Gwalior-Chambal region  
Harnessing regional potential and industrial growth

### CONCLAVE HIGHLIGHTS

**3500+**  
Participants

Foreign Delegates from  
**7 Countries**



**BUYER & SELLER MEETINGS**



**ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS**



**THEMATIC SESSIONS**

#### Key Focus Sectors

MSME & Exports - Focus on ODOP Sector  
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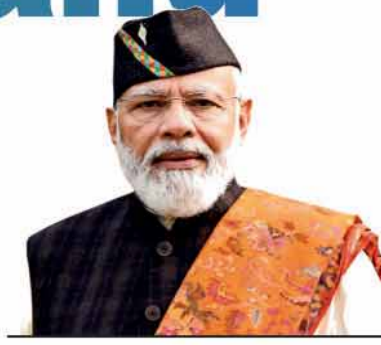


# Destination Uttarakhand

UTTARAKHAND PIONEERING SOCIAL REFORMS

**With the Uniform Civil Code, CM Pushkar Singh Dhama led Uttarakhand government has taken significant strides towards promoting equality and ensuring equal rights for all its citizens**

## Uniform Civil Code: Promoting equality



I congratulate Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

**Narendra Modi,**  
Prime Minister

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama led government, with the vision of bringing uniformity in the society by providing same set of laws regarding marriage, divorce, land, property and inheritance to all people of Uttarakhand - irrespective of their faith - has taken the initiative to implement Uniform Civil Code in the Himalayan state. With CM Dhama announcing to implement UCC before November 9 - the state foundation day - Uttarakhand is on path of becoming the first state of the country, since Independence, to implement UCC. The law that intends to increase social harmony, promote gender justice and empower women, is in compliance with the provisions of Article 44 of the Constitution.



>> Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Pushkar Singh Dhama, CM Uttarakhand

The proposed law has 392 sections divided into four parts and seven chapters providing equal rights to women in marriage, divorce, alimony, and inheritance of property, proscribes certain kinds of relationships, bans polygamy, sets the marriageable age for men and women (21 years and 18 years respectively), and makes registration of marriages mandatory

ent religious and ethnic communities coexist, the UCC would reinforce the principle that all citizens are equal before the law, thus promoting a more harmonious and integrated society.

### SIMPLIFYING LEGAL SYSTEM

The implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would simplify the legal system in Uttarakhand. The presence of multiple personal laws complicates legal proceedings and can result in conflicting judgments. UCC would establish a single legal framework for all civil matters, making the judicial process more streamlined and efficient.

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Uniform civil laws can have positive economic implications. By ensuring that property rights are clear and consistent, a UCC can create a more predictable environment for economic activities. This legal clarity can encourage investments and economic development, contributing to the overall growth of the state. Additionally, by securing women's property rights, UCC would empower women economically, allowing them to participate more fully in economic activities. As Uttarakhand leads the way, it sets a precedent for other states to follow, bringing India closer to the constitutional ideal of equality for all.

### WHAT UCC AIMS

- Provide security and empowerment to weak, poor, and sensitive section of society.
- Connect women, children, youth, and the elderly of every section with the mainstream of development.
- Promote the feeling of unity, integrity, and nationalism through a uniform law.
- Encourage daughters and sons for higher education by increasing the age of marriage.
- Create a prosperous society by ending evil practices that have been going on for years.
- Eliminate discrimination between son-daughter and man-woman by giving equal rights to people of all communities.

### UNIFIED LAW, UNIFIED GROWTH

Uttarakhand's initiative to implement the UCC marks a significant step towards realising the constitutional mandate of equal rights for all. The state's leadership has recognised that diverse personal laws can perpetuate inequalities and impede social justice. By adopting the Code, Uttarakhand aims to streamline its legal system, ensuring all citizens are subject to the same laws and thus fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

### TIMELINE TO THE HISTORIC BILL

The bill was introduced in the state legislative assembly on Feb 6 and was passed on Feb 7 during a special session of the Uttarakhand assembly. A nine-member panel drafted rules on Feb 10. Gurmit Singh, Uttarakhand governor, referred the bill sent by the state government to President Murmu for her approval, which she approved on March 11. This makes Uttarakhand the first state in the country to implement the UCC. Pushkar Singh Dhama, chief minister, Uttarakhand, declared it as a historic day and stated that his state will implement the UCC before State Foundation Day (November 9).

### ENSURING EQUAL RIGHTS TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

One of the primary benefits of UCC is the promotion of gender equality. UCC would eliminate disparities and gender biases, ensuring that women have equal rights to property and inheritance, regardless of their religion.

The UCC also promises to uphold children's rights by standardizing adoption laws. Currently, different religious communities have varying practices regarding adoption, with some not recognising it at all. The UCC would establish a uniform legal framework, guaranteeing that

all children have the same rights to a family environment, irrespective of their background.

### PROMOTING SOCIAL HARMONY

In a diverse state like Uttarakhand, where differ-



>> CM Pushkar Singh Dhama in discussion with UCC Panel

## Benefits of a Uniform Civil Code for Uttarakhand's judicial system

Uttarakhand's initiative to implement the UCC is a significant step towards legal simplification, promising numerous benefits for the state's judicial system. Read to know more...

The concept of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has long been a subject of discussion in India, aiming to replace the personal laws of various religious communities with a common set of rules applicable to all citizens. One of the primary advantages of the UCC is the simplification of legal processes. Currently, personal laws in India vary significantly among different religious communities, leading to complexities and inconsistencies in the legal system. For instance, laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption differ for different communities.

By introducing UCC, Uttarakhand aims to establish a single, cohesive legal framework that applies to all citizens. This uniformity will streamline legal procedures, reduce ambiguities, and enhance the efficiency of the judicial process.

### Legal reforms and social progress

In a country where we have more than 5 crore pending court cases, the UCC

will facilitate quicker resolution of legal disputes. With a standardised set of laws, courts can process cases more swiftly, as judges will no longer need to interpret varying personal laws. This will significantly reduce the backlog of cases and ensure timely delivery of justice. For instance, disputes over inheritance and property rights, which



>> CM Pushkar Singh Dhama presiding over a meeting on Anti Copying Law

often involve complex interpretations of personal laws, can be resolved more expeditiously under the UCC. This efficiency will not only benefit the judiciary but also provide relief to citizens who often endure prolonged legal battles. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

brings about a significant benefit by promoting equality before the law. The implementation of UCC will eliminate discrepancies, ensuring that all citizens are treated equally under the law. Furthermore, laws about parental rights on property, the legitimacy of children born in live-in relationships, and equal property rights will prove beneficial in the long term. The UCC represents a move towards gender equality and non-discrimination, upholding the principles of the Indian Constitution and fostering social justice and inclusivity.

### Economic growth through legal uniformity

The Uniform Civil Code aims to improve the transparency and predictability of legal outcomes. This will help citizens gain a clear understanding of their rights and obligations, leading to better compliance with the law. By adopting UCC, the state is aligning with the constitutional vision of uniformity and equality.

## Anti-Copying Law boosts job creation in U'Khand

After the implementation of the Anti-Copying Law, it has proven to be a game changer in the state

The Anti-Copying Law has addressed several concerns like cheating, corruption, and favouritism head-on. By establishing stringent measures to prevent malpractices the state has ensured a level playing field for all aspirants. With the law in place, government examinations have become more transparent and fair.

### POSITIVE EFFECTS

**Boosting job creation:** Ever since CM Dhama took charge, 15 thousand jobs have been created. And after the implementation of the Anti-Copying Law, Uttarakhand has conducted exams and more than 10,000 government positions have been filled, providing employment opportunities across various sectors. The implementation of this law has led to fewer exam delays and instances of

malpractice, enabling the government to speed up the recruitment process. **Restoring public trust:** Candidates now have greater confidence that their hard work and merit will be fairly evaluated, leading to more genuine and competitive participation in government exams. This renewed trust has also motivated

and competent individuals to public service, ultimately enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the government workforce. This, in turn, leads to better governance and improved public services, contributing to the overall development of the state. **Future prospects:** To sustain its effectiveness, it is crucial to ensure strict enforcement, maintain technological infrastructure to prevent malpractice, and continuously update the law to counter new cheating methods. Additionally, the government must focus on creating awareness among candidates about the law and its benefits

to foster a culture of integrity and honesty. With continued efforts and commitment to upholding the principles of this law, Uttarakhand can look forward to sustained progress and development in the years to come.

### Long-term benefits: A transparent and fair recruitment system attracts more qualified

## Opportunities for growth

Uttarakhand steers ahead towards a promising pathway to economic empowerment, social justice, and growth

The implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Uttarakhand presents a significant opportunity for economic empowerment and growth.

One of the foremost advantages of the UCC is the simplification of legal procedures related to property and inheritance. Currently, different religious communities in India follow their laws, leading to a complex legal landscape. This complexity can create ambiguities and disputes, deterring investment and economic activities. With the UCC in place, all citizens in Uttarakhand will follow the same set of rules. This clarity will boost investor confidence and encourage both domestic and international investments in the region.

### Empowering women: Bridging the gender gap

The UCC also holds the potential to significantly empower women economically. In many personal laws, women have traditionally been at a disadvantage regarding inheritance and property rights. The UCC, by providing equal rights to all individuals, irrespective of gender, can rectify these historical injustices. Empowering women in this way is not only a matter of social justice but also an economic imperative, as it can lead to higher household incomes, improved economic productivity, and overall economic growth.

### Economic empowerment: From equality to prosperity

Entrepreneurs and businesses will benefit from standardised laws, reducing the time and costs involved in legal compliance. This can make Uttarakhand an appealing destination for new businesses and startups, encouraging a thriving entrepreneurial environment. Simplified legal processes and decreased administrative obstacles can boost economic activity, job creation, and innovation in the state.

Furthermore, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) can contribute to social harmony and cohesion, which are crucial for maintaining a stable economic environment. A more harmonious society creates an environment that is favourable for economic activities, as it promotes trust, cooperation, and a sense of community. This stability can also attract more tourists, investors, and businesses to Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand stands to gain significantly in terms of economic development and improved quality of life for its citizens and a promising pathway to economic empowerment and growth.

## Ensuring progress

UCC has some key features that will help the CM Dhama led government promote social justice and equality

### KEY FEATURES OF THE UCC

#### Equal rights for husband and wife

Under the UCC, the rights and responsibilities of husband and wife are equal. This ensures that both partners have the same legal standing and obligations in their marriage.

#### Exclusion of scheduled tribes

The UCC thoughtfully excludes scheduled tribes from its scope, recognising the importance of preserving their distinct cultural practices and traditions. This respectful approach ensures that the unique identity and heritage are safeguarded.

#### Legitimacy of children born in live-in relationships

Children born during a live-in relationship are granted legitimacy under the UCC. These children are entitled to all the rights of a biological child, ensuring that they are not disadvantaged or stigmatised. This provision protects the welfare and rights of all children, promoting their acceptance in society.

#### Equal property rights

The UCC provisions equal property rights for sons and daughters across all religious communities. This ensures that inheritance laws are fair and non-discriminatory, empowering women with the same economic rights and opportunities as men.

#### Uniform marriage age

The UCC standardises the minimum age for marriage across all religions, setting it at 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls.

#### Mandatory registration for live-in relationships

To provide legal recognition and protection to live-in relationships, the UCC mandates their registration. This ensures that partners have clear legal rights and responsibilities.

#### Equal rights on divorce

The UCC ensures equal rights for both husband and wife, guaranteeing fair dissolution of marriage with equitable treatment.

#### Mandatory marriage registration

All marriages to be registered within a stipulated time. This mandatory registration helps maintain accurate records and provides legal clarity and protection to married couples.

#### Equality for men and women of all religions and sects

The UCC ensures equal rights for individuals of all religions and sects, thus fostering inclusivity and eradicating gender and religious-based discrimination.

## Anti-Copying Law: A bold step towards recruitment integrity

The new law underscores the state government's commitment to establish a fair and just recruitment system. Anti-Copying Law addresses the same

In a significant step to uphold the integrity of education and discourage misconduct in competitive exams, the Anti-Copying Law has been implemented in Uttarakhand. This new law entails strict penalties, including the potential for life imprisonment, for individuals involved in or aiding cheating.

### Anti-Copying Law: A necessary reform

The integrity of job examinations is crucial to maintaining a fair and merit-based recruitment process. However, with the increasing instances of cheating and unfair practices, the need for stringent measures has become more pressing than ever.

The Anti-Copying Law is designed to address this issue comprehensively by introducing stringent penalties for those who engage in cheating. It serves as a deterrent to potential offenders and reassures students, parents, and educators that the government is serious about creating a level playing field for all.

The introduction of an anti-copying law in job exams aims to address this challenge head-on, ensuring that only the most deserving candidates earn their positions. This law not only safeguards the credibility of the examination process but also reinforces the principles

of justice and transparency in employment. Chief minister Pushkar Singh led the Govt. ruling BJP government in Uttarakhand has brought the country's strictest anti-copying law and blamed previous governments for being slack in the matter. "Why has no one in the past tried to tighten the noose around

### Upholding the sanctity

The bill aims to ensure transparency and fairness in competitive exams in the Himalayan state. The state authorities clarified that the provisions shall remain applicable only in competitive exams and not in school and college exams.

Following actions punishable under this law: ● Any involvement in unfair exam processes may result in life imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore for individuals, printing presses, service provider organizations, management systems, or coaching institutes. ● Conspiring with such entities can lead to life imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore.

CM Dhama further said, "It will also

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT



>> CM Dhama distributing appointment letters