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BHAKER ARRIVES HOME TO ROUSING WELCOME 12 SPORTS

# HEARTBREAK FOR INDIA AT PARIS OLYMPICS

PTI ■ PARIS

In a shocking reversal of fortunes, Vinesh Phogat was disqualified on Wednesday from the Olympics after being found overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final here, leaving her medal-less within hours of coming close to an unparalleled gold.

Vinesh had scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the gold medal bout in her category on Tuesday night. Before this morning, she was assured of at least a silver medal but will now be coming back empty-handed due to the disqualification.

The shattered 29-year-old had to be taken to the polyclinic inside the Games village due to severe dehydration earlier in the day. "She was found overweight by 100gm this morning. The rules do not allow this and she has been disqualified," said an Indian coach.

The Indian Olympic Association requested privacy for the wrestler, who was competing in her third Olympics. "It is with regret that the Indian contingent shares news of the disqualification of Phogat from the women's Wrestling 50kg class. Despite the best efforts by the team through the night, she

## PM Modi crowns Vinesh Phogat Champion of Champions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out to Vinesh Phogat and called her a "champion among champions." He also asked the wrestler to come back stronger. Modi urged the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to lodge a strong protest with the organisers of the Paris Olympics and spoke with IOA chairperson PT Usha and asked her to explore options to help Phogat's case, sources said. The issue also echoed in the Lok Sabha.

Usha met teary-eyed Phogat at hospital. "Phogat, you are a champion among champions! You are India's pride and an inspiration for each and every Indian. Today's setback hurts.



weighed in a few grams over 50kg this morning," the IOA stated.

"No further comments will be made by the contingent at this time. The Indian team requests you to respect Vinesh's privacy. It would like to focus on the competitions on hand," it added.

International rules stipulate that any grappler found overweight at the time of weigh-in ends up at the bottom of the final standings. She had taken down defending champion Yui Susaki of Japan en route the finals on Tuesday

in a remarkable performance and was to face American Sarah Ann Hildebrandt in the summit bout this evening. Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who lost to Vinesh in the semifinals, replaced the disqualified Indian in the final.

"Vinesh failed second day weigh-in. According to the article 11 of the International Wrestling Rules, Vinesh will be replaced by the wrestler who lost against her in the Semifinal. Therefore Yusneylis Guzman Lopez will compete in the Final," the Paris Games organising committee said in a statement.

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## Reformed Waqf Bill on Lok Sabha table

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, proposing sweeping changes to the Act of 1995, is likely to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. The legislation circulated to members aims to bring about far-reaching changes in the present Act, including ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies. The proposed legislation "omits Section 40 relating to the powers of governing Waqf Board to decide if a property is waqf property". The legislation is likely to be tabled in Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Bill proposes to rename the Act as the "Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995" and seeks to ensure the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in Waqf boards, as well as the inclusion of "Aghakhani waqf" and "Bohra waqf" in addition to the existing Sunni and Shia Waqf boards. The Bill aims to empower women by securing their rights in welfare from Waqf and includes a clause related to the "welfare, maintenance of widow, divorced woman and orphan in such manner, as may be prescribed by the Central Government."

It also curtails the powers to declare a property as Waqf, stating that no person shall create a Waqf unless they are the lawful owner of the property and competent to transfer or dedicate such property. The Bill addresses the contentious provision related to the creation of "waqf-alal-aulad," clarifying that it shall not result in the denial of inheritance rights of heirs, including women heirs, of the Waqif. The term Waqf will be clearly defined by a person practising Islam for at least five years



and having ownership of such property. According to its statement of objects and reasons, "Based on the recommendations of the High-Level Committee under the chairmanship of Justice (Retired) Rajinder Sachar and the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf and Central Waqf Council and after having detailed consultation with other stakeholders, comprehensive amendments were made in the Act in the year 2013.

Despite the amendments, it has been observed that the Act still requires further improvement to effectively address issues related to the powers of the State Waqf Boards, registration and survey of waqf properties, removal of encroachments, including the definition of the "waqf" itself," according to a statement of objects and reasons of the Bill.

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## Chopper crashes in Nepal, 5 killed

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Four Chinese tourists and a Nepali pilot were killed on Wednesday when a helicopter crashed in the mountains northwest region of Kathmandu. The crash took place in the border area between Kathmandu and Nuwakot districts.

A Nuwakot district police official said all five persons, including the pilot, on board the helicopter belonging to private airline, Air Dynasty, were killed in the crash.

The 9N-AJD helicopter crashed at the Shivapuri National Park area in Nuwakot district, some 30 km North-West of Kathmandu at around 2 pm local time, he said.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), the helicopter was heading towards Rasuwa's Syafrubesi area from Kathmandu with four Chinese passengers.

The chopper took off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport at 1.54 pm and lost contact with the tower just three minutes after take off, the CAAN said in a Press release. The chopper was piloted by captain Arun Malla. There were three male and one female Chinese nationals in the chopper.

The dead bodies were taken to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital at Maharajgunj in Kathmandu for postmortem, the airline's officials said. The crash comes just two weeks after a Saurya Airlines plane crashed at the Tribhuvan International Airport on July 24.

## Supreme Court notes Constitution is Supreme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expunged some "scandalous" and "unwarranted" observations made against the apex court by a single judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in a contempt case, saying it was "pained" by these remarks.

A five-judge special bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud took suo motu note of the remarks and said these observations of Justice Rajbir Sehrawat of the high court were a "matter of grave concern".

Observing that no court including the High Courts and the Supreme Court is "supreme", the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy, said such observations were wholly unnecessary for the conduct of the proceedings before the high court and moreover, the Constitution is "supreme". It, however, did not issue a notice and initiate proceedings against the high court judge for his "scandalous" observations at this stage.

"We, accordingly, expunge the observations which have been made by Justice Sehrawat in the order dated July 17, 2024 and expect a greater caution



should be exercised in future while dealing with orders of the Supreme Court and for that matter, the orders passed by a division bench of the high court," the bench said. The top court noted it has been apprised that a division bench presided over by the high court's Chief Justice has taken suo motu notice of his observations and stayed his order.

It said every judge is bound by the discipline which the hierarchical nature of judicial system proposes on judicial functioning. "Judicial discipline in the context of the hierarchical nature of the judicial system is intended to preserve the dignity of all institutions whether district courts, the high courts or the level of the Supreme Court," the bench said.

## Eyeless in Dhaka, Bangladesh gropes for normalcy

PTI ■ DHAKA

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus-led interim government in Bangladesh will take oath on Thursday, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, General Waker said the interim government is likely to be sworn in at 8:00pm on Thursday.

He also said the advisory council may have 15 members.

Yunus, the 84-year-old economist, was on Tuesday appointed as the head of interim Government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following deadly protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs.

Meanwhile, students carried out traffic management as volunteers for the second consecutive day on Wednesday in Bangladesh, as a top police official called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain law and order. Chaos reigned supreme in Bangladesh after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina Government on Monday, with police absent from their duty to keep law and order or manage traffic, local media reports said.

Additional Inspector General of Police (AIG) AKM Shahidur Rahman, who was appointed as the focal person of the Bangladesh Police on Tuesday to handle the



## Away from home, they pray for peace

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Initially happy at the fall of the "dictatorial" regime of Sheikh Hasina, most Bangladeshis who had come to Kolkata for medical or other reasons are now praying for peace to return. This because they are now a stranded lot as all the trains and bus services between the two countries have been stopped for indefinite period.

"How can we go back home because both Maitryee and Bandhan Express have been suspended and the buses too are not plying... if we have to go we have to make break journey first by crossing the border on foot and then by taking auto-

rickshaws, local buses... and even that is not certain," says Saheb Kamal (name changed) a Bangladesh tourist who had come to India to visit relatives. "I am waiting for peace to return so that I can go back home," he said, adding even flights have been cancelled between the two countries.

"We are stranded... we are sure of our families' safety back in Bangladesh... but we are really concerned about our minority friends who have often been so good to us often arranging for our stay in Kolkata... at present I have postponed my journey and will wait for the things to cool down," said Rafikul Rehman.

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current crisis, called on every member of the police force to resume their duties gradually and maintain public safety and law and order.

The students, including members of Bangladesh Scouts, were seen controlling the traffic movement at several places, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

"The police are friends of the people and work for the public. We cannot imagine a society without the police. Therefore, I request our police members once again to ignore rumours and return to their duties in a phased manner, ensuring that security arrangements are properly in place," said Rahman, who has now been appointed as the Director General of RAB in a fresh reshuffle on Wednesday.

There were reports of attacks on police stations and facilities across the country on Tuesday, resulting in numerous police casualties, which have led to this unprecedented situation, the newspaper said.

The authorities reconstituted the top positions of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Wednesday. "AKM Shahidur Rahman has been appointed as Director General of RAB while Md Mainul Hasan will replace Habibur Rahman as the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police," news portal Prothom Alo said.

India recalls non essential staff from Dhaka Mission, P4

## Kejriwal present in CM house during Maliwal assault: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In its chargesheet against Bibhav Kumar, a close aide of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi Police has said there could be a larger conspiracy behind the alleged assault on Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at the CM's residence. The Delhi Police also said Kumar and Kejriwal were "together" at the CM's official residence "for a significant period of time" after alleged offence was committed. Kumar, who is in judicial custody, is accused of assaulting Maliwal on May 13 at the CM's residence. "The complainant, in her subsequent/supplementary



statement recorded after the bail hearing qua the accused before the Delhi High Court on July 10, 2024, had stated that the manner in which the entire AAP leaders and workers came in support of the accused (Kumar), against one of their own MP, shows that there is a larger conspiracy behind the attack and had urged the police to probe into it," the final report said.

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## To hoist or not to hoist: AAP and BJP squabble over August 15 protocol

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed in Tihar in the alleged excise policy-linked money laundering case, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday reportedly wrote to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena informing him that Cabinet Minister Atishi will hoist the national flag at the city Government's Independence Day function on August 15. Behind bars for long, the AAP chief has neither resigned from the Chief Minister's post nor named anyone as his replacement.

"Kejriwal has written to the L-G from jail saying Atishi will hoist the Tricolour on his behalf on August 15," an AAP statement said. Every year, the

Government's Independence Day function is held at Chhatrasal Stadium where Kejriwal has been unfurling the national flag and addressing the gathering since taking the reigns of Delhi. However, Raj Niwas officials have claimed that no such letter has been received by Saxena. "With regard to the AAP claim regarding the flag hoisting on August 15, it is clarified that the LG Secretariat has not received any such communication whatsoever," an official said.

Prominent among the senior AAP leaders who have been at the forefront of party activities since Kejriwal was jailed on March 21, Atishi holds various portfolios, including that of Water Resources.



Rebuffing the AAP's statement, BJP's South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri requested Saxena not to allow Atishi to hoist the flag in Kejriwal's absence. "In the Independence Day programme organised by the Delhi Government, only the Chief Minister can hoist the flag. If Kejriwal wants Atishi to hoist the flag, he should first resign from the post of Chief



Minister and then nominate her in his place," he stated. "This is not a personal choice of the CM to nominate someone or any of his Ministers to hoist the national flag in his place," Bidhuri said. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the letter proves that the AAP and its leaders were anarchists yesterday and remain anarchists today. "Perhaps the framers of the

Constitution and the national flag protocol never imagined that one day, there would be a stubborn Chief Minister who would not resign even after going to jail," he claimed. The Delhi BJP chief called the letter 'anarchic' and said, "It brings back the horrific memories of his declaration to disrupt the Republic Day celebrations on Rajpath in 2014 by staging a sit-in protest." He said Kejriwal tarnished the dignity of Republic Day in 2014 and has now tarnished the dignity of Independence Day in 2024. "During the Independence Day celebrations of the Delhi Government, only the Chief Minister of Delhi can hoist the flag. If he is unable to do so, then traditionally, the LG will

hoist the flag. From 1991 to 1993 and in 2014, when there was no Chief Minister in Delhi, the LG hoisted the flag," said Sachdeva, adding that if he wants his Minister Atishi to hoist the flag, then he should trust her and resign, allowing her to take the oath as the Chief Minister. It is noteworthy that only Governors hoisted the national flag in States till 1973 which was changed by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi who launched a campaign for the right to hoist national flag for the Chief Ministers. In February 1974, Karunanidhi wrote to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi demanding the right to hoist the national flag on the Independence Day.



# SC judgement on aldermen calls for introspection by AAP Govt: LG's office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's office on Wednesday said the Supreme Court judgement on aldermen appointment in the MCD calls for "soul searching and introspection" by the city Government even as it expressed hope that the civic body will expedite the process of formation of the standing committee. This is the first reaction from the LG's office after the Supreme Court gave its verdict, which had been reserved for 15 months, on Monday.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala on Monday rejected the Delhi government's plea that the LG is bound to act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers in nominating 10 aldermen to the MCD.

"The Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has expressed the hope that with the Three-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court having categorically ruled in the matter of appointment of Aldermen, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will expeditiously take steps to put into place statutorily required bodies and processes, hitherto lying pending for the past about 19 months," a



statement from the LG Secretariat said. Accusing the Delhi government of getting into "pointless litigation", the LG office said that the government not only wasted the time of the apex court but also "deliberately" crippled the MCD.

"This judgement calls for a soul searching and introspection by the government in power and its leaders. Public interest is paramount and cannot be sacrificed on the altar of turf battles," the statement added. The LG office said the works pending in the corporation due to the non-formation of the standing committee, the highest decision making body of the MCD, could have cleared if the statutory committees were put in place well in time after the LG's decision in the appointments in January last year.

It said that the LG had noted in his file on the matter that he made the appointments in pursuance of the power vested upon him as per the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, (1957), adding that the same was observed by the apex court in its ruling. "The Lt. Governor in his noting on file in the matter of appointment of Aldermen had expressly written, 'in pursuance of Section 3(3)(b)(i) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, read with Article 239AA of the Constitution... I nominate following 10 persons in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi."

"The Supreme Court while dismissing the Writ Petition filed by GNCTD against the office of the Lt. Governor, has observed "we are of the opinion that the section of the DMC Act is a parliamentary

enactment vesting the power of nomination... with the Lt. Governor," the statement read. "It is a matter of concern that despite the point of law and constitutional position being as clear as it were, the GNCTD decided to get into pointless litigation, in the process not only wasting the time of the Court and public money in terms of litigation fees, but also deliberately crippling the MCD, which could have done the required works had the statutory committees been put in place well in time after the LG's decision in January, 2023," the statement said.

The LG Secretariat further alleged that the ministers of the Delhi government have also engaged in similar "violations of due processes" by means of "motivated and pointless litigation" in the apex court in various others routine matters. It said that the constant "shadow boxing" by the Delhi government has brought crucial public services to a "grinding halt". "Similar violation of due processes by means of motivated and pointless litigation in the Apex Court, have also been done by Ministers of the current Government in various other routine matters, wherein the position of law has been clear ever since NCTD came into existence in 1993.

# West Bengal flags border traffic from Bangladesh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There being a likelihood of the ripples of Bangladesh spreading to this side of the hedge the Bengal Government has directed the district administrations along the international border to keep a close track of people entering and leaving India via border points. "A list of the identity of all the people crossing the border — coming in and going out — must be maintained ... the Government has told the district administration, particularly along the border," a senior official said.

The instructions were issued following a review meeting held by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday. Top bureaucrats including the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and the Director General of Police were present in the meeting and were asked to "collect continuous feedbacks on a daily basis," officials said adding the State administration was vigilant and was strictly following the instructions issued by the Centre.

Earlier the Chief Minister had asked the people of the State to "act responsibly despite provocations" and "maintain peace and harmony in Bengal." She said "with folded hands I request the people not to maintain a communally peaceful

behavior... we all are brothers and sisters and so we should keep peace and harmony in spite of the concern that we have for the situation in Bangladesh," adding "She said, "if our brothers and sisters are in trouble then the Government of India will look into it... the national government is will take decisions and we will abide by those decisions... but in any case there should not be any breach of peace and people should not spread disinformation neither they should get provoked by such campaigns."

Hours after Banerjee's statement the Trinamool Congress reacted sharply to Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari's "loaded statements" on possibilities of one crore displaced Hindus entering India in the backdrop of the present crisis.

"Suwendu Adhikari's political compulsions are understandable but there could have been different occasions for such statements and not this one," said TMC leader Kunal Ghosh. "The leaders must hold their tongues in this hour of crisis... there is no reason why internal politics should fall prey to political opportunism at the cost of safety, security of the people of the country... certain provocative statements are better avoided," he said.

# Double shifts by bus drivers will be prevented at any cost, says Gahlot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday said double shifts by bus drivers will be prevented at any cost by implementing Aadhar-Based duty allocation and Biometric Monitoring and breathalyser tests for deterring drunken driving will be taken to avoid bus accidents. Addressing a press conference, Gahlot said that in the last few days, there have been some bus accidents, including fatal ones, and he has taken serious note of them and meetings were held on bus safety measures. "Some drivers are doing multiple duties that lead to fatigue. All drivers of the Delhi government buses will have an Aadhaar-based duty chart. A database is being created. Double shifts by drivers will be prevented at any cost," he added.

The AAP leader said that to address the recent incidents that have raised concerns that some drivers may be performing multiple duties in a day, it was discussed and decided that Aadhaar card-based duty allocation will be implemented to ensure no driver is assigned double duty. "A biometric face recognition system will also be installed in all depots to monitor drivers performing multiple shifts," Gahlot said. He added that periodic training



of drivers on simulators is another key measure. "The procurement of two simulators is in progress by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), with the financial bid already finalized. Training sessions are currently being conducted at the Nand Nagri Depot," he added. Further, a common pool of DTC drivers will be created, allowing concessionaires to appoint drivers as needed. "This pool will be linked with Aadhaar numbers to monitor driver activity across DTC and DIMTS. This measure will ensure that drivers blacklisted by one department or operator are not hired by another," Gahlot stated, adding that to prevent drunk and driving, breathalyzer tests will be implemented at each depot and drivers will be required to undergo these tests before commencing their duties which will be done at Delhi government hospitals only.

# Modi Govt's responsibility is to save Hindus in Bangladesh, claims Uddhav

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the chain of events in Bangladesh, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said that if India could give temporary shelter to former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, it was equally the BJP-led NDA Government's responsibility to intervene and protect the Hindus in the neighbouring country from the ongoing atrocities on them.

Talking to media persons in the national capital where he is currently on a three-day visit, Uddhav said: "We have not heard anything from Modi over the developments in Bangladesh. He was not present at the all-party meeting on Bangladesh held yesterday. If he could stop the war between Russia and Ukraine, he should display courage, intervene in the situation in Bangladesh and stop the ongoing atrocities on Hindus there."

"Since India gave shelter to Hasina Shaikh after she fled Bangladesh, it is equally the responsibility of New Delhi to take necessary steps to protect the Hindus from being killed and attacked in Bangladesh," the Sena (UBT) chief said. Uddhav said that the recent events in Bangladesh, Israel and Sri Lanka had proved that "the common people are strong and powerful and the powers-that-be should not test their patience"



"If we see what is happening around the world, we are realising that the patience of people is fast running out. Thousands of people come out on the streets in Israel recently to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. We witnessed similar people's unrest in Sri Lanka. We saw similar developments in Bangladesh," he said. "The common people are supreme. The rulers should not do any such thing that would erode their patience. Ultimately it is the people's court that matters most. Just a few days ago, we witnessed what happened in Bangladesh. The people have delivered their verdict... people were called 'a'ankwadis' and 'razakars'. There is a limit to the patience of people," Uddhav said.

"Such things can happen anywhere, anytime... Hence, the powers-that-be must take serious note of what's happening around the world and not consider themselves as above God," the Sena (UBT) chief said. "The situation in Bangladesh is akin to the problems in Kashmir and Manipur. The Hindus are being killed and subjected to atrocities by majority Muslims. If Modi and Shah cannot go to Manipur, they should show courage and at least go to Bangladesh now to ensure the well-being of our Hindus there, and stop the violence in that country," Uddhav said. "If late Indira Gandhi could extend military support to people during the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan, and paved the way for the creation of Bangladesh, what's holding the Modi government from protecting the affected Hindus in Bangladesh?" the Sena (UBT) chief asked. Meanwhile, during his ongoing visit to the national capital, Uddhav will meet all leaders of the Opposition INDIA block, including Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

# Raj Niwas asserts all medical vacancies filled

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the accusations made by Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena of sabotaging health services and not filling up vacant positions, officials of Raj Niwas have claimed that the process for appointment of nearly 3,000 doctors and medical staff has already been initiated through Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) with intervention of Saxena.

"Further, on LG's initiative, the DSSSB had also begun the hiring of para-medical and nursing staff in Delhi Government hospitals. In all, the process for appointment or hiring of nearly 3000 Doctors and Medical Staff has already been initiated through UPSC or DSSSB, with intervention of LG," an official stated. Calling Bharadwaj 'Delhi's Press Conference (PC) Minister', an official said that he has been weaving a web of lies on a daily basis to hide his and his government's colossal failures. "This is being done very deliberately and as a pre-mediated exercise to not only mislead the people of Delhi, who are suffering due to mal-governance over a decade, but also the judiciary, which has started taking suomotu

cognizance of mal-governance in various fields, especially health, sanitation and education," he added. He said, "The minister on January 2 wrote to Chief Minister Kejriwal proposing to "recruit / hire Doctors (Specialists and Medical Officers) and paramedics against their respective vacant sanctioned posts on contractual basis for a period of one year or till regular incumbents join through UPSC / DSSSB, whichever is earlier". He requested Kejriwal to take up the matter with the LG to expedite the selection and appointment of Doctors and Paramedics and sought LG's direction to the Health Department for hiring the Doctors on contractual basis. Stating that this task of appointment of doctors is exclusively within the domain of the National Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA), he said that Kejriwal is the chairperson of the authority and if he had the intention to hire he would have immediately convened a meeting of the NCCSA and done the needful.

AAP party sources said that had Saxena hired the doctors and paramedics as is being claimed, there would have been no need for the Sarin Committee to recommend the hiring on Contractual basis.

# Congress confident of defeating BJP-led ruling alliance in Assembly polls

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maintaining that the people had not forgotten the MahaYuti's "sin of selling Maharashtra to Gujarat", State Congress president Nana Patole expressed confidence that "they will defeat the BJP-led ruling alliance in the Assembly polls to be held in October this year". Talking to media persons after a meeting of senior Congress leaders held at Gandhi Bhavan here, Patole said that despite the fact the "self-proclaimed Vishwaguru" (Modi) addressed as many as 17 public rallies, the BJP-led NDA suffered a big blow in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

"Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis is now saying that people forget the LS poll outcome, but the self-respecting people of Maharashtra have not forgotten the sin of selling Maharashtra to Gujarat committed by the Mahayuti government. The people will teach the BJP-led Mahayuti a lesson in the Assembly polls as well," Patole said. On the ongoing seat adjustment talks among the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders, Patole said: "There is no big or small brother in the Mahavikas Aghadi. The decisions on seat allocation will be based on merit. We are con-

testing this election as the Mahavikas Aghadi, and the decision on the chief ministerial post will be made after the election," he said. "Our ally NCP President Sharad Pawar has also taken the same position. Today's meeting included preliminary discussions on seat allocation and various issues in the state," he said. Patole said that former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, who is the chairman of the manifesto committee, would prepare a manifesto that would meet the expectations of the people of the state, after consulting with various sections of society. On Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's ongoing visit to New Delhi, Patole said: "This is not for the first time that Uddhav Thackeray has gone to Delhi. He has visited before as well."

Defending Uddhav's proposed meeting with former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Patole said: "He (Uddhav) is meeting senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, in Delhi. There is no need to interpret this meeting differently. Sonia Gandhi is an important leader in the country, a symbol of sacrifice who refused the prime ministerial position. Under her leadership, the Congress-led UPA government was in power twice in the country."

# Reformed Waqf Bill...

From Page 1

Sources said the government's priority was to get the legislation passed in the Lok Sabha unanimously, and it was also open to sending it to a joint committee for further discussion. There is a strong possibility that the government may agree to refer the Bill, which is being opposed by some Muslim organisations, to a parliamentary panel. Sources said some parties, which have been supportive of the government's agenda, have also expressed their reservation over the proposed legislation. While the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has termed the proposed move as "unacceptable", Opposition parties on Wednesday demanded that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill be sent to Parliament's standing committee for scrutiny after it is introduced, with the government saying the Business Advisory Committee will take a call after assessing the sense of Lok Sabha.

Notably, the department-related standing committees of Lok Sabha are yet to be constituted. The House may form a separate panel in the absence of the standing committee to scrutinise the Bill in case the government decides on such a course of action. In the last two months, the government has consulted about 70 groups on the bill, sources said. The bill is aimed at providing justice to poor Muslims and Muslim women apart from freeing Waqf properties from illegal occupation. After lands owned by government entities, including Railways and defence, Waqf accounts for the third-highest number of properties. However, the value of these lands and the revenue generated do no match. With properties valued in crores, the annual revenue does not cross Rs 200 crore.

The bill also proposes the establishment of a separate Board of Auqaf for the Boharas and Aghakhans. The draft law provides for the representation of Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Agakhans and other backward classes among Muslim communities. The bill also aims to clearly define "Waqf" as Waqf by any person practising Islam for at least five years and having ownership of such property. Any government property identified or declared as Waqf property, before or after the commencement of this Act, shall not be deemed to be a Waqf property," reads the new Bill.

# MP Anil Desai visits 'The Cottage'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking out time from the ongoing Parliament Session, Member of Parliament Anil Desai visited the Cottage on August 1, 2024 and appreciated the variety of Gift Options curated by the Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd from the offerings of Artisans and Weavers for PSUs, Corporates, Ministry officials. During his visit, options to increase sales from Maharashtra were also discussed with Manoj Lal, Managing Director, The Central Cottage Industries Corporation Ltd.

"The Cottage" has been at the forefront of "corporate gifting" and creating combo packs, customising the gifts as per the client requirement thereby enabling them an "awesome" experience.

# Heartbreak for India...

From Page 1

"Repechage Yui Susaki vs Oksana Livach (Ukraine) will become Bronze Medal Match," it added. This means, that the 50kg category will offer only one bronze medal in the Games as against the usual four, which are decided after bouts between the losing semifinalists and the two repechage round winners. Vinesh was not the only weight-related disqualification in the 50kg category.

On Tuesday, Italy's Emanuela Liuzzi was also forced to forfeit her preliminary bout after being found overweight. According to UWW (United World Wrestling) rules, wrestlers have the right, each in turn, to get on the scale as many times as they wish throughout the weigh-in period.

"If an athlete does not attend or fail the weigh-in (the 1st or the 2nd weigh-in), he will be eliminated of the competition and ranked last, without rank," the rule states. The Indian wrestling

contingent was expectedly distraught. Vinesh had stated before the Games that it would be her final outing in the quadrennial showpiece and it remains to be seen if she would change her mind after this setback. "Everyone here is feeling as if someone in the family has died. We don't know what has struck us. Everyone is shocked," India's national women's coach Virender Dahiya said.

Cutting weight is a painful process that wrestlers have to endure if their natural body weight is higher than the division in which they compete. Vinesh's natural body weight is about 56-57kg and it takes massive effort for her to get down to 50kg. While in invitational tournaments, UWW allows for a grace of upto 2kg, no such relaxation exists for showpieces like Olympics, the world championships and the Asian Championships.

Athletes competing in contact sports go without food and even water two days before the weigh-in.

# Kejriwal present...

From Page 1

It said her statement was "relevant for the present investigation in view of the complete U-turn being publicly taken by two responsible persons of the party regarding the same incident in the days following the commission of the crime."

The charge sheet, which runs into around 500 pages and has statements of about 50 witnesses, was filed in a city court on July 16 and its cognisance was taken on July 30. "Investigation has brought out the fact that the accused and the CM were together at the scene of crime i.e, the CM, Delhi residence, immediately after the commission of the crime for a significant period of time and, as such, the contrarian public stands taken by responsible public servants in the following days, also needs to be examined in its correct perspective to decipher if there was a larger conspiracy behind the brutal assault on the complainant/victim at the hands of the accused," it said. "The final report said that "selective footages" of CCTV cameras were leaked to the media before the relevant recording devices could be seized and this necessitated a probe to find whether

there was a "conspiracy" behind the offence. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Delhi Police to file its response by August 21 on the plea of Kumar for grant of bail in the assault case. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, told a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan that he needed three weeks' time to file a reply. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Kumar, opposed the grant of three weeks and said charge sheet has already been filed in the case. The apex court then asked Raju to file response by August 21 and posted the matter for hearing on August 27. The top court had earlier come down heavily on Kumar saying "Is this kind of goon supposed to work in the CM's residence?" The bench said it was shocked with the details of the incident recorded by the Delhi High Court. Kumar has challenged the July 12 order of the Delhi High Court denying him bail in the case and claimed that the allegations against him are false. He has also said his custody is no longer required as the probe is over.

# Away from home, they...

From Page 1

Rehman come to India for treatment of his mother a heart and kidney patient.

"With money drying up steadily he only hopes peace to return fast. "Still I can bank on my Hindu friends' relatives who have assured to host us but what about those who are putting up in hotels," he wonders appealing to powers that be for peace. "Here they are hosting us and there we are killing them... it is shameful," he says. But Ajit Biswas (name changed for the purpose of security) a member of Bangladesh minority community is not so confident. He has left his kin back in Dhaka and wants to meet them urgently but there is no way he can go back lest he is killed en route. "I want to return home immediately but I fear for my life... the train and bus services have stopped and I have to cross over via Gede or Petrapol border and take auto-rickshaws and buses to Jessore or Khulna wherefrom I will be able to get a conveyance for Dhaka... but that is too long a journey fraught with risks as I have come to know that some

of my friends have already gone missing... either they are underground or they have been killed. Now I am standing nowhere."

Abdul Rehman Bulbul of Satkhira is a staunch bairer of Sheikh Hasina and is immensely happy about her fall but he too feels stranded now. "I was happy but now with the situation going out of control in Bangladesh I too am not sure of reaching my home safely... I don't know how our minority friends or those from the Awami League are," he says insisting "not all Awami League people are bad but the regime they backed was really, really dictatorial." Fatima Biswas (name changed) is another student from Narayanganj who had come to see her friend in Kolkata too wants to return as "my tourist visa will end in a week's time," but is not sure how to get it extended as "it is extremely difficult to return as protestors have become animals... If being a Muslim I am afraid to return home alone how must the minorities be feeling there... I can only imagine their situation... I have many of them."





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# WAVE OF SYMPATHY FOR VINESH PHOGAT

## President, VP, MPs back wrestler

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar expressed strong support and admiration for Vinesh Phogat who was disqualified at Paris Olympics.

President Murmu lauded Phogat's achievements and resilience saying her "extraordinary feats at the Paris Olympics have thrilled every Indian and done the country proud." She said "While we all share her

disappointment at the disqualification, she remains a champion in the hearts of 1.4 billion people. Vinesh embodies the truly indefatigable spirit of Indian women, and her epic fortitude and resilience are already inspiring future world champions from India. I wish her many laurels in the future," in a social media post.

Vice President Dhankhar echoed similar sentiments while pointing to Phogat's indomitable spirit and contribution to Indian sports.

"Vinesh Phogat's remarkable performance at the Paris Olympics has made India proud. We all share her pain and disappointment at the setback she suffered. Her undaunted spirit remains a testament to courage, conviction, and perseverance. She will remain a champion in the hearts of people of this country. I wish her continued success and many more accolades in life," Dhankhar said.

Members of Parliament, cutting across party lines also

backed wrestler Vinesh Phogat and praised her hard work and dedication to the sport. Lok Sabha members demanded accountability and a review of the decision.

In a shocking turn of events, Phogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics for being found overweight ahead of her women's 50 kg final.

Speaking outside Parliament, RLD MP Jayant Choudhary said, "It was very saddening to see Vinesh Phogat being disqualified. Watching her yesterday...All the hard work

and dedication she has put in to reach this point". "The effort and dedication that athletes and soldiers put in is beyond the reach of ordinary people. The entire nation is with her, and I believe the Indian Government is also prioritising this. The Prime Minister has taken notice of it and has given directions. The appeal process will be carried out," he said.

Congress MP Selja raised questions about the team management, saying, "Managers are there, it is their job. All our athletes and sports persons go there, and every little thing of theirs is monitored." "Their diet is watched over, what they are drinking, what they are eating and the type of food they are consuming. So, what was the reason for this girl's weight increased? Who didn't pay attention? This has to be answered," she said. "We were hoping since morning that this girl would bring home the Olympic gold medal, who has struggled on the streets, and today, this has happened to her. Why did it happen? How did it happen?" the Congress leader asked.

Congress MP Deepender Hooda called for a



review of the decision that led to Phogat's disqualification. "When the entire nation was sitting for Vinesh's final bout, hoping for her to win the gold medal, the whole country was stunned. Everyone feels the pain in their hearts, but Vinesh was, is, and will remain a champion for the entire nation."

She worked very hard to reach the final," he said. "While all the other players were practicing, she was sitting in a protest for justice, and then worked hard to reach here. In the eyes of the nation and the world, she is a true champion," the MP said. Hooda said yesterday, her weight was correct in all three bouts, so she should be considered for the silver medal in the final.

While Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said, "I salute the struggle she has fought", Congress MP Jothamani questioned the circumstances surrounding the disqualification. "It is heartbreaking to hear the news. Just for a 100-gram difference, something is not adding up. Someone who defeated her opponent thrice in a day, how can this happen," she questioned.

BJP MP Dinesh Sharma expressed unwavering support for Phogat and said, "It was very sorrowful." "She was a champion, is a champion, and will remain a champion for the people of India. It was unfortunate. There will be new efforts and new records will be made," he said.

**KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED**  
CIN : L65910PB1981PLC023058  
Regd. Office: Premises Oswal Woollen Mills Limited, G.T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003 PB, Ph.: +91-161-5066605, Email: kovalam@owmnahar.com

**INFORMATION REGARDING 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING COMPANY LIMITED TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VC)/ OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM).**

NOTICE is hereby given that the 42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of Kovalam Investment and Trading Company Limited (the Company) will be held on Wednesday, the 25th day of September, 2024 at 04.00 P.M. through Video Conferencing (VC)/ Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules issued thereunder read with General Circular numbers 14/2020, 17/2020, 20/2020, 02/2021, 19/2021, 21/2021 and 22/2022 dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020, January 13, 2021, December 08, 2021, December 14, 2021, May 05, 2022, December 28, 2022 and General Circular No. 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") and Circular numbers SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022, SEBI/HO/CFD/PD-2/P/2023/24 dated January 5, 2023 and SEBI/HO/CFD/PD-2/P/2023/27 dated October 7, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (hereinafter collectively referred to as "SEBI Circulars"), to transact the businesses, as set out in the Notice convening the 42nd AGM of the Company.

In compliance to the above circulars, the electronic copies of the Notice of the 42nd AGM and Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2023-2024 will be sent to all the Shareholders whose email IDs are registered with the Company/Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent or Depository Participant(s). The Notice of the 42nd AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2023-2024, will also be available on the website of the Company at [www.owmnahar.com](http://www.owmnahar.com) and website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com). Shareholders can attend and participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining the AGM are provided in the notice of AGM. Members attending the meeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

**Manner of voting at the AGM:**  
Shareholders will have an opportunity to cast their votes remotely or e-voting during the AGM on the business to be set forth in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system. The manner of voting remotely or e-voting during the AGM for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized form, physical form and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses shall be provided in the Notice convening the AGM.

**Manner of registering/updating email addresses:**  
• Shareholders holding shares in physical form and who have not registered/updated their email addresses with the Company are requested to register/update their email addresses by sending a duly signed request letter in Form ISR-1 along with supporting documents to Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent i.e. Alankit Assignments Limited at [ra@alankit.com](mailto:ra@alankit.com) or Alankit House, 4E/2, Jhandewalia Extension, New Delhi-110 055 by providing Folio No. and Name of the Shareholder and a self-attested copy of the PAN Card.  
• Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized form are requested to register/update their email addresses with the relevant Depository Participant(s).  
The above information is being issued for the benefit of all the Shareholders of Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars.

For Kovalam Investment and Trading Company Limited  
Sd/-  
(Jyoti Sud)  
Company Secretary

Date: August 07, 2024  
Place: Ludhiana

**STORES E-PROCUREMENT**

**Tender Notice No.: S/50/Sr.DMM/KIR/PUB/e-Tender/2024-25/01; Dated: 02-08-2024.** E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

**SN. 1; Tender No. KT245269;**  
**Closing/Opening Date: 23-08-2024**

**Brief Description & Qty: 3-Phase Asynchronous Motor (Resistance ring mechanically interlocked to end plate design rotor, scheme II), type 6FRA - 6068 for WAG-9 Loco without Active Speed Sensor. Spec: CLW Spec.no. 4TMS.096.081 Alt-3 or latest; Consignee:- SSE/D/MECH./Malda Town. NFR; Qty: 04 Nos.**

**NOTE:-** For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Divisional Material Manager, Katihar  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
"Serving Customers with a smile"

**यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India**

**SECTOR-7 BRANCH FARIDABAD**

**ANNEXURE -I**

**[Rule - 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)**

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, Sector 7 Faridabad Branch, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 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 04.06.2024 calling upon the borrower Shri Bikram Singh and Mrs Usha Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 278598.36 + interest (in words Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight Paise Thirty Six Plus Interest thereon) 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 and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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 06th day of August of the year 2024.

The borrower 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 Union Bank of India, Sector 7 Faridabad for an amount Rs. 278598.36 and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of Immovable Property**

All that part of the property at House No. MCF 38, Gali No. 02, Navlu Colony Ballabgarh, District Faridabad admeasuring 105 Sq Yards in the name of Biram Singh

Bound:  
On the North by House No MCF-37/ Master Kishore Lal and then taj Residency  
On the South by House No MCF-38/ Sh Mahavir Verma  
On the East by Rasta  
On the West by Another House (Plot No. 126, 127)

Date: 06.08.2024  
Place: Faridabad  
Sd/- Authorized Officer  
UNION BANK OF INDIA

**STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING OF NOMINATED IMPORTANT BRIDGES & TUNNELS AND PAINTING OF STEEL BRIDGES ON VARIOUS SECTION**

**Tender Notice No.: DCBL/07/2024/MLG. Date: 02-08-2024.** E-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No.: DCBL042024MLG; Name of Work : Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) of nominated important Bridges & Tunnels for damage and real-time assessment of structural condition by supplying, installation, operation and continuous data supply & monitoring via web based portal along with proper alert generation by using different modern structural health monitoring instruments along with maintenance of instruments (AMC) for 5 year time period for Rangija Division of N. F. Railway. Tender Value: ₹ 1,94,73,175.32/-; Bid Security: ₹ 2,47,400/-; Tender No.: DCBL052024MLG; Name of Work : Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) of nominated important Bridges & Tunnels for damage and real-time assessment of structural condition by supplying, installation, operation and continuous data supply & monitoring via web based portal along with proper alert generation by using different modern structural health monitoring instruments along with maintenance of instruments (AMC) for 5 year time period for Lumding Division of N.F. Railway. Tender Value: ₹ 2,00,39,575.32/-; Bid Security: ₹ 2,50,200/-; Tender No.: DCBL102024MLG; Name of Work : Painting of 56 nos. and floor painting of 10 nos. steel bridges on various sections having approximate surface area 83740 Sqm under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/Lumding. Tender Value: ₹ 90,94,780.60/-; Bid Security: ₹ 1,81,900/-; Tender No.: DCBL112024MLG; Name of Work : Painting of 33 nos. and floor painting of 18 nos. steel bridges on various sections having approximate surface area 138610 Sqm under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/Pandu. Tender Value: ₹ 1,50,32,779.90/-; Bid Security: ₹ 25,250,000/-; Tender No.: DCBL122024MLG; Name of Work : (A) Painting of 59 nos. steel bridge girders on the sections New Jalpaiguri-Kumedpur, Kumedpur-Malda Town, Ekakhi-Balurghat, Kathar- Tezranyanpur, Rangapani-Bagdogra-Bengdubi (BPMS), Katihar-Jogbari, Siliguri Jn.-Aluabari Road & Katihar-Kumedpur having approximate surface area 91817 SQM under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/New Jalpaiguri. (B) Lubrication of bearings of 36 Nos of different steel Bridge girders under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/Siliguri Jn. and 57 Nos of different steel Bridge girders under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/New Jalpaiguri. Tender Value: ₹ 1,64,20,405.73/-; Bid Security: ₹ 32,300/-; Tender No.: DCBL132024MLG; Name of Work : Painting of 72 nos. steel bridge girders on the sections New Jalpaiguri-New Alipurduar, Siliguri Jn.-Alipurduar Jn., New Cooch Behar-Golakganj Jn., New Mal Jn.-New Changanbandha-New Cooch Behar, Alipur Duar Jn.-New Cooch Behar-Bamanhat, New Jalpaiguri-Sukna & Raninagar Jalpaiguri Jn.-Haldirabi having approximate surface area 202997 SQM under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/Siliguri Jn. Tender Value: ₹ 2,68,59,202.95/-; Bid Security: ₹ 2,84,300/-; Tender No.: DCBL142024MLG; Name of Work : Painting of 104 nos. and floor painting of 22 nos. steel bridges on various sections having approximate surface area 138610 Sqm under the jurisdiction of SSE/BR/Pandu. Tender Value: ₹ 1,48,10,227.24/-; Bid Security: ₹ 2,24,100/-; The above tenders document can be received upto 27-08-2024 at 15:00 hours. Date & time of opening of tender at 15:05 hrs. on 27-08-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>**

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CIN:L65910PB1981PLC023058, Ph.: +91-161-5066605  
Website: [www.owmnahar.com](http://www.owmnahar.com), Email: [kovalam@owmnahar.com](mailto:kovalam@owmnahar.com)

**Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30/06/2024**  
(Rs in Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2024 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)	30.06.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Total Income from operations (net)	109.02	74.47	91.05	361.00
2	Net profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax)	106.63	72.99	88.05	349.33
3	Net profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax)	101.83	55.12	80.03	305.15
4	Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income/(Loss) (after tax))	1,231.32	-638.31	2,201.99	1,564.64
5	Equity equity share capital (Face value : Rs.10/- per share)	222.39	222.39	222.39	222.39
6	Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve as shown in the per audited balance sheet of previous year)				8,568.41
7	Earning per share (EPS) (Rs.) Basic and Diluted EPS	4.58	2.48	3.60	13.72

Note:  
1. The unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30 June, 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meeting held on 07 Aug 2024. The financial results have been subjected to Limited Review by Statutory Auditors of the Company.  
2. The above extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 filed with Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended). The full format of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30 June, 2024 are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and Company's website: <http://www.owmnahar.com>/[kovalaminvestor.com](http://kovalaminvestor.com)

For Kovalam Investment and Trading Co. Ltd.  
Sd/-  
Navdeep Sharma  
Non-Executive - Non Independent Director  
DIN: 00454285

Date: 07.08.2024  
Place: Ludhiana

**Indian Bank**  
Noida Sec-63 Branch  
H-1A/18, Sector-63, Noida Uttar Pradesh-201301  
Tel: 0120-2427115 | Email: [N615@indianbank.co.in](mailto:N615@indianbank.co.in)

**ANNEXURE- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]**  
**Sale notice for sale of immovable properties**

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the 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 properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Noida Sector 63 Branch (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis" on 11.09.2024 for recovery of Rs. 23,41,658.25/- (Rupees Twenty three lakhs Forty one thousand Six hundred fifty eight and twenty five paise only) as on 15.03.2024 due to the Indian Bank, Noida Sec-63 branch, Secured Creditor, from Mr. Rajesh (Borrower/Mortgagor) s/o Ranvir Singh.

The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed description of the Property: All the part and parcel of Residential property at Flat No-SF-1, HIG, 2nd Floor Front Side with roof rights at Plot No-A-46, Ganga Vihar, Village-Sadullabad, Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P., admeasuring Super Covered Area 92.90 Sq.MTS. Boundaries as per sale deed: North - Plot No A-45 South- Service Lane 10 feet wide road East- Service Lane 10 feet wide road West- 30 feet wide road

Encumbrances on Property: Not known to the Bank

Reserve Price: Rs. 35,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Only)

EMD Amount: Rs. 3,50,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs fifty thousand Only)

Bid incremental amount: Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only)

Date and time of e-auction: 11.09.2024 between 11.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M

Property ID No: IDIB64203965357378

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.ebrkraj.in>) for e-Auction will be provided by our e Auction service provider PSB alliance Pvt. Ltd., Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai - 400 037/Contact Person: 8291220220, email ID: [support.ebrkraj@psballiance.com](mailto:support.ebrkraj@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://www.ebrkraj.in>.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit the Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of Sale is available / published in the following websites/ webpage portals (1) [www.indianbank.in](http://www.indianbank.in) and (2) <https://www.ebrkraj.in>.

Date : 01.08.2024 | Place : Noida  
Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

# India recalls non essential staff from Dhaka Mission

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Non-essential staffers at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and their family members returned to India on Wednesday on a voluntary basis through commercial flights, official sources said.

However, all Indian diplomats at the mission are operating from the Bangladesh Capital, they said adding the Indian High Commission remains functional.

The non-essential staffers returned home as various parts of Bangladesh continued to report clashes. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post on Monday and landed at the Hindon air base near Delhi following unprecedented anti-Government protests.

It is learnt that non-essential staffers at other Indian missions in Bangladesh are also likely to return to India. In addition to the High Commission in Dhaka, India has Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet.

Sources said around 20-30 senior staff are left at the High Commission in Dhaka. Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament on Tuesday and appointed



Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus as the head of an interim Government.

The decision was made in a meeting President Shahabuddin had with Chiefs of the three services and a 13-member delegation of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement at Bangabhaban (Presidential palace), President's Press Secretary Md Joyal Abedin said late Tuesday night.

The other members of the interim Government will be finalised after consultations with various political parties, the President's press secretary said.

On Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said around 10,000 Indians were presently residing in Bangladesh and the Government was in "close and continuous" touch with the community through its diplomatic missions.

"The situation in Bangladesh is still evolving... We are in close and continuous touch with Indians in Bangladesh through our diplomatic community," Jaishankar said in Parliament. Addressing MPs in Parliament during an all-party meeting, Jaishankar said the situation in Bangladesh was not that alarming to require the evacuation of the 10,000 Indians in the violence-hit country.

Of particular concern for India has been the attack on houses and temples of the minorities in Bangladesh. With an interim Government still to be formed, widespread vandalism and looting of homes have been reported. The interim Government will be headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. The neighbouring country plunged into chaos after a controversial quota system for Government jobs saw massive street protests and violence, leaving over 400 dead and hundreds more injured.

# Appropriation Bill 2024 introduced in RS

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday introduced the Appropriation (No 2) Bill 2024 in the Rajya Sabha which authorises certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services in 2024-25. Sitharaman also introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024 in the Upper House. The Lok Sabha passed the two legislations last week.

Initiating the discussion on the bills, Digvijaya Singh (Congress) stated that the focus of the Government should be on reducing the disparity between rich and poor, tackling price rise and generating employment. Attacking the Government, he said for the last decade the Government has just worked for the benefit of big corporations.

He stated that household savings have come down in the country signalling that poverty is on the rise. He said while price increase is there, earnings remain at the same level as was the case 10 years ago. "The number of billionaires has risen the most during the Modi

Government. Poor have become poorer, the rich have become richer," Singh stated. He also advocated levying a 2 per cent wealth tax on the top 300 rich families in the country. Singh also asked the Finance Minister to make all cancer treatment drugs and machines involved in the treatment free from customs duty. He also sought doing away with the 18 per cent GST on health insurance.

Derek O'Brien (TMC) also asked the Finance Minister to roll back 18 per cent GST on health insurance and life insurance. "This was a we salute you. You are our hero Vinesh Phogat. Thank you for what you have done for India," the TMC leader Stated in the Upper House.

V Vijaysai Reddy (YSRCP) asked the Government to make pension tax free. He also pointed out that the interest on small saving schemes like PPF remain low thereby encouraging people to invest in risky stock markets. Bhubaneswar Kalita (BJP) cited various developmental works taken up by the union Government, especially in the North East region.





CPM ideologue raps State Govt for Wayanad coverup



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan-led CPM in Kerala suffered a major setback on Wednesday as a widely respected party ideologue came out in the open lambasting the State Government for covering up its failures and blaming the Centre for last Tuesday's landslides and floods in Wayanad district.

The landslide struck Wayanad. The way the Prime Minister and the Home Minister responded to the mishap shows the Centre cares and Modi deserves full credit for the kind of help being offered to the State," said Shaktidharan with a plea to the journalists and intellectuals in the State not to categorize him as a Sanghi (part of the RSS Parivar).

Kailashnathan takes oath as Puducherry LG

Former IAS officer K Kailashnathan was sworn in as Lt Governor of Puducherry at a ceremony in Raj Nivas here on Wednesday.

Administration Sharat Chauhan read out the warrant of appointment issued recently by President Droupadi Murmu. Kailashnathan is the 25th Lt Governor of the union territory.

Police officials, opposition leader in the Assembly R Siva (DMK), AIADMK Puducherry unit Secretary A Anbalagan, officials and representatives of various organisations were among those who greeted Kailashnathan after the swearing in ceremony.

SRF LIMITED. Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091. Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003. Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Folio No., Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant), Cert-No., Dist-No., Lost Shares. It lists three entries for shares held by SARA CHERIAN, SANJIV PASRICHA, and RAJNI MEHRA.

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform general public that Mr. Rinku Pandey and Mr. Tinku Pandey acquired the Property bearing No. 123, 124, Land area measuring 67 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 45/98, 15, 152 and 40/15, 152, situated at Saran, Tehsil & Dist. Faridabad, Haryana by way of Regd. Will dated 19.09.2011 and the same was Duly Registered with Sub-Registrar, Faridabad, as Doc. No. 127, Book No. 1, Vol No. 01, Pages 10/10-12, on 19.09.2011. Now, Mr. Rinku Pandey and Mr. Tinku Pandey are intending to sell above said property to Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh (Advocate), Law Source, Unit No. S-2-U, 2nd Floor, built on Plot No. 4 and 5, Ansal Utiy Commercial Center, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 or contact at +91 9660309909 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE. I, an Raj Singh son of Shri Gyarsi Ram resident of House No. 55-B, Sarangpur, New Delhi-110073. I hereby declare the following affidavit. That I evict my son Rakesh Kumar and his wife permanent residents of the above mentioned address, from my movable and immovable property and sever ties with them due to their ill-treatment. They will themselves be responsible for all their actions in future. I and my family will have no connection with them. Raj Singh, House No. 55-B, Sarangpur, New Delhi-110073

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that my client, Sh. Nareesh Pal Singh who is the owner of First Floor, Unit No. 02, L-Corner, Property No. F-138, admeasuring 95 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 477, Situated at F-Block, Jawahar Park, Devi Road, Khajurpur, New Delhi-110080 vide Requisitionment Deed dated 23.04.2024, registered as Doc. No. 2024/71/3871 in SR-South Hazrat Khaz and intend to get the financial assistance from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited. If any person(s)/Institution has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Khaitan & Khaitan, A-38 Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048 Ph. No: 011-49774545

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL Water Work Department. Municipal Corporation Rest House, Shyamli Hills, Bhopal. Office Telephone No. 0755-2701663, 2701669. NIT No. 37 W.W.D./2024. Bhopal, Dated 05.08.2024. NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER. Online Tender are invited on website http://mptenders.gov.in for the following works. Document can be purchased on website from 05.08.2024 and online submission till 06.09.2024.

Table for tender details with 7 columns: S. No., Tender No., Name of Work, Probable Amount of contract (in lakh), Earnest Money Deposit (in lakh), Cost of tender Document (in lakh), Completion Period (In Days). It lists two tenders for water tap connections and valve chamber ect under zone no 1 to 21 in Bhopal.

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that Shri Rajul S/o Late Sh. Gurdas, R/o: T-25/4 & 5, Near Gurdwara, Bajaj Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110080 who is the owner of Property bearing No. L/29/K-1, Entire Roof of the Second Floor, with Roof/Terrace rights upto Sky, out of Kharsa No. 14024 on pages 337 to 360 dated 27-07-2024, SRO-I Noida Gautambudh Nagar, U.P. And same to be finance & mortgage by SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.) To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC. We give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim (right/lien/interest/creating mortgage over the said property) may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Anil Sharma, Advocate, C/O. 570 Western Tia Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that Mrs. Lalita Devi W/o Mr. Sumit Kumar is Recoreded Owner of the Residential House, area measuring 58 sq. yds., i.e. 48-48/38 sq.mtr out of Kharsa No.152, situated at village Ilaabosh, Noida Pergana and Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautambudh Nagar, U.P., vide Regd. Gift Deed dated 27-07-2024 executed by Mr. Sumit Kumar S/o Mr. Sahab Lal in favour of Mrs. Lalita Devi W/o Mr. Sumit Kumar, duly registered as Document No.4326, in Addl. book No.1, Volume No.14024 on pages 337 to 360 dated 27-07-2024, SRO-I Noida Gautambudh Nagar, U.P. And same to be finance & mortgage by SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.) To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC. We give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim (right/lien/interest/creating mortgage over the said property) may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP, B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301 Contact No: 011-42691679

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that Shri Rajul S/o Late Sh. Gurdas, R/o: T-25/4 & 5, Near Gurdwara, Bajaj Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110080 who is the owner of Property bearing No. L/29/K-1, Entire Roof of the Second Floor, with Roof/Terrace rights upto Sky, out of Kharsa No. 14024 on pages 337 to 360 dated 27-07-2024, SRO-I Noida Gautambudh Nagar, U.P. And same to be finance & mortgage by SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.) To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC. We give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim (right/lien/interest/creating mortgage over the said property) may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Anil Sharma, Advocate, C/O. 570 Western Tia Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

SANEH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED. Regd. Office : Delton House, 4801, Bharat Ram Road, 24 Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002 (India). E-mail: sanehild@gmail.com; Website: https://saneh.in, Phone No. 91-11-23273907. NOTICE is hereby given that the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Members of M/s Saneh Industrial Investments Limited (CIN : L74899DL1990PLC060079) will be held on Friday, the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. at the registered office of the Company at Delton House, 4801, Bharat Ram Road, 24, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice dated August 01, 2024 which has already been sent on August 05, 2024 to all the shareholders individually through e-mail if his/her e-mail address is registered with the Company and through courier if his/her e-mail id is not registered. Notice is also hereby given pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 that the Register of Members and Share Transfer (both days inclusive), in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the Company has offered e-voting facility for transacting all the business items as mentioned in the Notice of 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting through the CDSL, to enable the members to cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting commences on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (10:00 A.M.) and ends on Thursday, August 29, 2024 (5:00 P.M.). No e-voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time. Mr. S. P. Ranjan, Proprietor of M/s SPR & Co. Company Secretaries has been appointed as Scrutinizer for e-voting process. The members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may also attend the meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. The members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to vote at the meeting through ballot paper. A person, whose name is recorded in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners on the cut-off date i.e. August 23, 2024 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting through ballot paper in the AGM. Any person who becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the notice of the meeting and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. August 23, 2024 may obtain the user ID and password by following the procedure given in the Notice of the meeting. Any queries/grievances relating to remote e-voting could be addressed to Ms. Kajal Gupta, Company Secretary at the registered office address of the Company; Email ID: sanehild@gmail.com; Phone: 011-23273907 or you could also refer the remote e-voting user manual for shareholders available in the help section of www.evotingindia.com. For Saneh Industrial Investments Limited, Sd/- Vivek Gupta, Director, DIN: 00035916, Date : August 07, 2024, Place : New Delhi

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that Mr. Westvihar Singh has acquired Residential Flat no 402, Second Floor, L.I.G area 550 sq. fts., built on Plot No. 865, at Shalimar Garden Extn., Sahibabad, Tehsil & Distt. Ghazabad, U.P. vide Sale Deed dt. 25.11.1995, executed by Mrs. J.P. Associates after that Mr. Westvihar Singh died intestate leaving behind Mrs. Krishna Devi, Mr. Surmesh Singh and Mrs. Sweta as his only legal heirs and Mrs. Krishna Devi, Mr. Surmesh Singh and Mrs. Sweta are the undisputed owner of the said property having been lost by my client Sh. Rajul and is not traceable. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing documents. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) #N. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

CHANGE OF NAME. I, Sagar Kaushal, S/o Sh. Arun Kumar R/o 3254, Sector-A, Pocket B and C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, I have changed my name from Sagar Arun Kumar Kaushal to Sagar Kaushal. Henceforth both name Sagar Arun Kumar Kaushal and Sagar Kaushal are same person. PD(661)C

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE. ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited. Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs), Name of Branch. 1. Shree Nikunj Fruit Agency/ Parveen Kumar/ Lal Mati/ Radhey Shyam/ Parveen Kumar S/o Shri Hukam Chand/ Smt. Lal Mati W/o Shri Radhe Shyam /042305002129, Address 1: Commercial Property/ Shop No. A-1037, Area Admeasuring 180 Sq. Feet. Situated in The Layout Plan of New Sabji Mandi at Azadpur, Delhi, Address 2: Commercial Property/ Shop No. A-1037, Area Admeasuring 16-72 Sq. Mtrs. Situated in The Layout Plan of New Sabji Mandi at Azadpur, Delhi/ August 06, 2024, February 17, 2024 Rs. 87,60,474.00/-

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the public at large that Mr. Westvihar Singh has acquired Residential Flat no 402, Second Floor, L.I.G area 550 sq. fts., built on Plot No. 865, at Shalimar Garden Extn., Sahibabad, Tehsil & Distt. Ghazabad, U.P. vide Sale Deed dt. 25.11.1995, executed by Mrs. J.P. Associates after that Mr. Westvihar Singh died intestate leaving behind Mrs. Krishna Devi, Mr. Surmesh Singh and Mrs. Sweta as his only legal heirs and Mrs. Krishna Devi, Mr. Surmesh Singh and Mrs. Sweta are the undisputed owner of the said property having been lost by my client Sh. Rajul and is not traceable. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing documents. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) #N. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority. Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.). Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE. E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc. (A) 1. 20/S.M.(Jal)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Two Year maintenance and Repairing of 50, 75 and 90 HP Submersible Motor, Starter and R/o Transformer in Network Sector-106 and 110 Sumpwell and SPS), Noida. Cost Rs. 41.29 Lacs. 2. 21/S.M.(Jal)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o Water Supply (Two year Maintenance and R/o V.T. Motor & Other allied Electrical work in Network Sector-119 and 120, 151 to 154), Noida. Cost Rs. 39.99 Lacs. 3. 22/S.M.(Jal)/IE.T/2024-25, Village Development (Commissioning & Functioning of Sewer Line at Village-Kondli, Gurja Derin, Panditoin ki Dairy and Kambakshpur), Noida. Cost Rs. 93.83 Lacs. 4. 23/S.M.(Jal)/IE.T/2024-25, Strengthening of W/s (Providing and laying Rising Main Line for OHT/UGR Sector- 35 from R.2.Well No. 3 Water Line Near City Center Underpass), Noida. Cost Rs. 71.61 Lacs. 5. 24/S.M.(Jal)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Searching, Raising, Cleaning of Sewer Manholes, P/F Manhole Cover Frames and P/L of Damaged Sewer Line in Sector - 86, 87, 88, 89, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 140A, 150 & 168), Noida. (For Two Years), Cost Rs. 70.07 Lacs. 6. 25/S.M.(Jal)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o W/s (Cleaning of CGR-31 & UGR -116), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 55.24 Lacs. 7. 01/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, M/o W/s (Cleaning of OHT & UGR/CGR & Re-Development of T.W. & S/L Pea Gravel in Network Sector - 83, Hosiery Complex & Village-Nagla Charandas, Illabans, Mangrouli (Chhaprouli) Noida. (AMC for Two Years) Cost Rs. 67.53 Lacs. 8. 02/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, M/o W/s Labour/ Operation (Operation of Pumping Plant, D.G. Set at WWC & Tube Wells for Network Sector - 142 & 143) Noida. Cost Rs. 65.43 Lacs. 9. 03/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, D/o Village (P/Laying Sewer/Water line in Village - Jhatta) Noida. Cost Rs. 64.32 Lacs. 10. 04/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, D/o Village (Commissioning of Sewer line & Cleaning, Raising of Old Sewer Manhole Cover Frame Due to C.C. Road in Village - Jhatta) Noida. Cost Rs. 33.81 Lacs. 11. 05/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, Strengthening of W/s (P/L DI Water line from Gangajal UGR Sector-137 to UGR Sector-142) Noida. Cost Rs. 32.67 Lacs. 12. 07/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, M/o W/o (Annual Repairing of PVC Water line in Sector-83, 84, 85 & Hosiery Complex) Noida. (AMC Two Year). Cost Rs. 69.72 Lacs. 13. 08/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, M/o W/o (Annual Repairing of PVC Water line in Sector-46, 47, 48) Noida. (AMC Two Year). Cost Rs. 54.15 Lacs. 14. 09/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, D/o Village (Annual raising, repairing & cleaning of Sewer Manholes in Village-Nagla Charandas, Kakrala, Bhuda, Sopera Basti, Illabans & Nayagaon) Noida. (AMC for Two Year) Cost Rs. 66.57 Lacs. 15. 10/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2024-25, M/o W/s (S/F of Line Shaft for UGR & TWs in Sector-83, 142-143, Hosiery Complex & Village-Illabans, Chhaprouli, Jhatta) Noida. (For Two Years) Cost Rs. 83.31 Lacs. Which can be uploaded by date: 20.08.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 21.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. (B) 1. 10/S.M.(JAL)/E.T/2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Two Year Maintenance and R/o 50, 75, and 90 HP Submersible Motor, Starter and R/o Transformer in Network Sector-8 to 12, 14 to 16, 14A to 16A and Sump-wells), Noida. Cost Rs. 88.30 Lacs. 2. 11/S.M.(JAL)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Year S/F of Line Shaft at UGRs and TWs in Network Sector-1 to 7), Noida. Cost Rs. 45.81 Lacs. 3. 01/S.M.(JAL)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Year R/o Bowl Assly, Tube Shaft and Column Pipe for UGR's and TW's in Network Sector-132, 135, 130, 162, and Village Gulayali, Mohiyapur, Yakootpur, Nagla Nagli, Nagli Sakhpur, Rohillapur), Noida. Cost Rs. 42.00 Lacs. 4. 03/S.M.(JAL)/IE.T/2024-25, M/o W/s (Rewinding of 40 HP V.T. Motor, 100 HP Booster, Transformer, TPMO, Fuse Set, Cable, Lighting and other allied work in Network Sector-75, 116, 117 & CGR-31), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 98.02 Lacs. 5. 29/S.M.(Jal)/III.E.T/2023-24, Strengthening of W/s (Repair & Finishing of OHT Sector-96, 43, 44(94), 45, 124 & 125, 126 & 127, Shahpur), Noida. Cost Rs. 87.58 Lacs. Which can be uploaded by date:- 13.08.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 14.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. Office: Sector-5, Noida General Manager (Jal) Noida CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

PUBLIC NOTICE. "Notice is hereby given by the undersigned for and on behalf of Gagan Khanna s/o Late Sh. Chand Kiran. I have to inform the General Public at large that I am the coowner of the property bearing No. F-27, Block-B, Tagore Garden, New Delhi admeasuring 209 sq. mts. The general public is hereby further informed that litigation pertaining to the title of the aforementioned property is pending before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and it is further informed that no third-party rights can be created on the said property in terms of the orders passed therein. Further, FIR bearing No. 503/2017 under Sections 420, 468, 471 IPC has been registered with Police Station Rajouri Garden by the Delhi Development Authority in respect of the said property. Any Agreement signed and executed related to the said property shall be illegal and will not be considered as valid and binding on us. Any person dealing with the Said Property in any manner shall be doing so at his own risk & cost". Gagan Khanna, Abhishek Singh S/o Late Sh. Chand Kiran, J-26, LGF, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014, Mobile : 9910291290

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED. Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P. CIN-L 17291UP1979PLC004804. PH: 8791001430, 9760091983. Email:info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com. Extract of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter Ended 30/06/2024 (Rs in lakhs). Table with 5 columns: Particulars, Quarter ending (30.06.2024), Preceding 3 months ended (31.03.2024), Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (30.06.2023), Previous year ended (31.03.2024). It lists financial details like Total income from operations, Net Profit, Total Comprehensive Income, etc.

MODI RUBBER LIMITED. CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392. Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.) Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: www.modirubberlimited.com Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398. NOTICE. Pursuant to regulation 29 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that a 306th Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday on 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024 at 03.30 PM at Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025 to inter-alia approve the following: (1) Un-Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for the period ended on June 30, 2024. (2) To fix the Date, Time and Venue for convening the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting. (3) To consider and approve Directors Report, Corporate Governance Report, Management Discussion Analysis Report and Secretarial Audit Report for the financial Year 2023-24. (4) Review of Financial Statements of WOS/JVC and Associates Companies for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. For Modi Rubber Limited Sd/- (S K Bajpai) Head - Legal & Co. Secretary Place : New Delhi Date : 02.08.2024





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Finance Minister yields

Facing a backlash over changes to the property transaction taxation, the FM has given some concessions to homeowners

**B**owing to the popular pressure and critiques from MPs within the NDA coalition, the Central Government has relented to grant some relief for property transactions. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the budget that the tax on long-term capital gains was reduced from 20% with indexation benefits to 12.5% but without indexation benefits. However, following significant opposition, an amendment is being made to The Finance Bill, 2024. For the transfer of a long-term capital asset such as land or a building acquired before July 23, 2024, the taxpayer can now choose to calculate their tax either at 12.5% without indexation under the new scheme or at 20% with indexation under the old scheme and pay whichever amount is lower. Indexation adjusts purchase price for inflation, reducing tax liability on gains from investments like debt funds. The government eliminated indexation benefits on long-term capital gains, increasing taxable gains. It prevents inflation from eroding returns on long-term investments.



This adjustment marks a significant reversal from the government's firm stance on the issue after the Budget.

The ministry officials had argued that the new tax rate structure, with a lower tax rate minus the indexation benefits, would benefit people in almost all cases. However, the industry experts had different opinions. Industry bodies had sought to rethink the proposal, observing that the removal of indexation benefits amounted to a retrospective tax change for those who had bought properties earlier. They pointed out that this would particularly hurt those who

had invested in assets that had delivered lesser appreciation in value over the years. It was widely feared that the removal of indexation benefits on long-term capital gains would slow down property transactions in the Mumbai real estate market, and the real estate engine of the country and could have cascading effects throughout the country. Besides, several MPs also urged the Government to reconsider the proposal. During the debate on the Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha, TDP MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu echoed the concerns of other MPs, emphasising that this issue involves taxpayers' hard-earned money and impacts middle-class people the most. He noted that the middle class views real estate as a safe investment and and so should be protected. Indeed he had a point, as the middle-class is facing the pinch of price rise and rising unemployment. If their small investments and savings are wiped off they would have nothing to fall back upon. Providing taxpayers with the option to choose between the two tax regimes would address some of their concerns. Thankfully the finance minister yielded to allow for the second option. This would indeed give some relief to small and middle-class homeowners, providing a more balanced approach to long-term capital gains taxation in the real estate sector.

### PICTALK



Fishermen cast their nets in the Arabian sea, at the Kochi coast

# The evolution of Rahul Gandhi



KALYANI SHANKAR

It may be premature to assess Rahul Gandhi's effectiveness as the new Leader of the Opposition, but his initial performance is promising

**I**t might be too soon to judge how well Rahul Gandhi is doing as the new Leader of the Opposition. The current budget session ends in just a few days, so we'll need more time to understand his leadership fully. But he has begun well.

After winning in the Lok Sabha polls, Rahul has been confident and strong both inside and outside the house, which is appropriate for an opposition leader. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen recently discussed Rahul's evolution since their days at Cambridge University. Sen underlined that Rahul has significantly matured over the years and underscored that his true test lies in how he steers the Opposition in Parliament.

Rahul stepped into the shoes of the Leader of the Opposition, a quarter of a century after his political debut in 2004. The Lok Sabha had been without a Leader of the Opposition for a decade, as no opposition party had the requisite number of members to stake the claim in the last two Lok Sabhas. During the recent budget session, the first after Rahul became the LOP, he took a vital leadership role in his party and the Opposition. Since becoming the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi has taken on more responsibilities.

He now leads and represents the Opposition's viewpoint on various subjects. This is a new role for him. He organised protests, delivered powerful speeches against the Modi government, and worked closely with allies to coordinate their efforts on the floor. He also focused on critical issues for the people and made himself more accessible. In the recent budget session, Rahul Gandhi, as the Leader of the Opposition, took on an important leadership role within his party and the Opposition. He has organised protests, delivered powerful speeches against the Modi government, and worked closely with allies. Additionally, he has focused on critical issues for the people and made himself more accessible. Rahul Gandhi's backroom office has a



team of about twelve key members.

This team, led by General Secretary K.C. Venugopal and including Sam Pitroda, Sunil Kanugolu, K. Biju, B. Srivatsa, Manickam Tagore, Alankar Sawai, and Kaushal Vidyarthi, plays a vital role in managing Gandhi's political activities and election strategies, including logistics and social media. Rahul's growth and evolution in the political arena have transformed him into a more confident leader, marking a significant departure from his previous image as a reluctant politician.

This change has been compelling to witness in his political journey. Rahul finds it easier to take on a more assertive role now, with a substantial number of opposition members in the 18th Lok Sabha. Furthermore, the success of united allies in the 2024 polls has made them realise the power of unity.

When Rahul spoke as the Leader of the Opposition for the first time, he said, "While the government has political power, the Opposition also represents the voice of the Indian people. This time, the Opposition represents significantly more of the Indian people's voice than it



DESPITE BEING AN MP FOR THE PAST TWO DECADES, RAHUL WAS NOT CONSIDERED A GOOD PARLIAMENTARIAN. HE ASKED ONLY 99 QUESTIONS, PARTICIPATED IN 26 DEBATES, AND WASN'T ALWAYS PRESENT AT CRITICAL TIMES

did last time." Rahul Gandhi's criticisms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have caused strong reactions from the ruling party. During Rahul's maiden speech as LOP, PM Modi spoke up for the first time in 10 years.

Modi accused Rahul of saying that the entire Hindu society is 'violent'. The Prime Minister stated, "Democracy and the Constitution have taught me to take the Leader of the Opposition seriously." Modi's responses to Gandhi's criticisms show an acknowledgement of the changed situation and the resulting tension in the Parliament. Rahul Gandhi has been speaking out against the Modi government's decision to arrest AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and JMM chief Hemant Soren. He opposes the BJP's attempts to silence opposing viewpoints.

This has caused increased tensions in Parliament for the ruling party. During his Lok Sabha campaign, Rahul Gandhi strategically showed a small red pocket edition of the Constitution at public meetings. This move effectively highlighted what he called the perceived threat to the Constitution from the BJP.

His use of the Constitution helped him gain support from reservation beneficiaries.

Despite being an M.P. for the past two decades, Rahul was not considered a good Parliamentarian. He asked only 99 questions, participated in 26 debates, and wasn't always present at critical times. Since 2014, he has been noticeably absent during budget sessions, only appearing occasionally. He also frequently went abroad, leaving the party in a crisis. Rahul is doing well as the Leader of the Opposition (LOP).

His success will depend on his political planning. He missed some opportunities in the past, like becoming a minister in Manmohan Singh's cabinet or strengthening the party as the Congress President.

However, his current role shows his potential. He must use this opportunity to face future political challenges confidently. Rahul's belief in the power of the LOP to raise its voice in Parliament gives hope and optimism to the party.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT

Madam — President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a six-day state visit to three nations: Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste a couple of days ago. I wonder why the President has undertaken this visit? How will engaging with these nations benefit India? Fiji and Timor Leste are almost unheard of countries in India. What is the government's agenda really? As both Fiji and New Zealand are approximately 11,000 kms and Timor Leste is about 6,500 kms away, it goes without saying that a to and fro visit to these countries would cost our nation a humongous sum. Besides, the President who would be travelling by a state aeroplane (read, like a private airliner) would leave a heavy carbon footprint. Will a RTI query in respect of the purpose and cost of the tri-nation jaunt be answered, if at all?

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

### BLINDING HEADLIGHTS CAUSE ACCIDENTS

Madam — Blinding headlights are one of the important causes of road accidents in India. A driver can be blinded by the opposite vehicles as well as the rear ones. On an average, glaring headlights are direct or contributory causes of 75 percent of vehicular collisions in India. Of course high beam lights are useful in low visibility when there are little or no street lights. However, rules say high beams can be employed by the drivers only if there are no oncoming vehicles but not many drivers are sticklers for rules. Rear vehicles can distract the front drivers' vision by using bright lights within 60 metres.

It has become a fashion for several youngsters, especially in small towns and cities with none to keep a hawk's eye on them, to use ornamental illumination like flashy headlights. Flickers, Light emitting diodes (LED), and its variants, are freely used by irresponsible drivers. Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) has explicitly detailed the proper and improper use of headlights. Many drivers, especially the non-professional ones, are oblivious to the correct usage of headlights and

### Justice delayed is justice denied



This is with reference to your editorial "Justice Delayed". The Chief Justice of India's deep concern over the excessive delay in disposing of cases, as noted in the

editorial is a concern shared by all. The staggering fact that 44 million cases are pending and could take 300 years to resolve at the current pace should prompt the ruling government to seek a tangible solution. Currently, filing a case itself feels like a punishment for both parties involved. Even after winning a case, the appeals process undertaken by the losing party makes the entire affair extremely frustrating. There is a pressing need to increase the capacity of courts at all levels to handle and dispose of cases in a timely manner. However, it is unfortunate that even the existing courts are forced to operate with severe manpower shortages. Simply changing the Acts and their names is not the change people desire; what is urgently needed is systemic and infrastructural improvement.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

this can mainly be blamed on poor quality of driving schools and doling out licences without proper application of mind.

Ganpat Bhat | Akola

### TURMOIL IN BANGLADESH

Madam — Sheikh Hasina's resignation as Prime Minister of Bangladesh is a result of socio-political upheaval of her own making. Every nation is an enterprise owned and run by its people who elect a government to run it as also simultaneously place an Opposition as the auditor. So long as the auditor is facilitated by the government to put up dissenting notes and is willing to correction, the shareholders let the checks and balances play out. When the government fails to give credence to the opposition, a plethora of public fora and institutions come in to press an alternative narrative. Should the government resort to suppressing them too, the people step in as suo- moto auditor. The likes of social media then expound dissent and if this too goes unheeded, people act as regulators leveraging electoral

platforms to tone down aberrations in governance by impinging on electoral standing of the ruling dispensation. Should a government seek to neutralise the process of such franchise itself, as has been in many nations across the globe, people take to roads to convey the message. An extremely recalcitrant government could then compel people to set up tribunals and don the robes of judge and jury. Bangladesh has apparently slipped into this unhappy final phase. It's military may yet be sagacious enough to restore law and order and enable the nation to reclaim governance and eschew going the Myanmar way. There is a lesson for every progressive democratic nation. Stifling the elected opposition and relentless and heavy handed suppression of dissent perse in hubris of power, is bound to heavily set back economic progress while the socio political fabric stands frayed beyond repair.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Renewable energy: Paving the way for a sustainable future

By 2030, India plans to achieve 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil fuels, marking a significant shift towards sustainability and energy security



GAURAV PRABHURASHI

**I**ndia's growth story over the past two decades has been marked by vibrant economic progress, largely driven by service exports and rising domestic consumption. As of 2024, the economy appears robust, poised to replicate its service sector success by transforming into a global manufacturing hub to leverage its demographic dividend.

A robust manufacturing sector necessitates significant resources, with power being a crucial component. Despite this, India's per capita electricity consumption remains low compared to global averages. As the country embarks on its manufacturing-focused era, electricity demand is expected to rise significantly. To meet this demand while adhering to climate commitments, India plans to add new electricity generating capacity primarily from non-fossil fuel sources. The goal is to achieve 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

By May 31, 2024, India's non-fossil fuel-based power generation capacity stood at 201.7 GW, with renewable energy, including small hydro pro-



jects, contributing 146.6 GW. To meet growing demands, a significant increase in renewable energy capacity is anticipated, supported by the renewable energy procurement roadmap from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), which targets 50 GW of bids annually from FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.

Regulatory policies for the renewable energy sector are governed by both central and state governments, as electricity is part of the concurrent list. Key aspects of central government policy include promoting domestic manufacturing of solar modules and electrolyzers, safeguarding domestic manufacturing, and domestic content requirements, and implementing policies to encourage specific types of electricity genera-

tion like rooftop solar and offshore wind.

India's renewable energy policy framework adopts a holistic approach, addressing multiple factors. For example, the Ladakh region, with excellent irradiation levels, lacks sufficient infrastructure to integrate its power into the grid. To tackle this, the government announced the green energy corridor. Furthermore, the government identified states with offshore wind potential and introduced a viability gap funding scheme with an outlay of Rs 7,453 crores for installing 1 GW of offshore wind projects. Regulatory policies also aim to enhance self-sufficiency in the energy. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, with an outlay of Rs. 24,000 crores, targets achieving gigawatt-scale manufacturing capacity of high-efficiency solar PV modules. Additionally, the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) Program, with an outlay of Rs. 17,490 crores under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, supports domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and green hydro-

gen production. These investments are expected to generate numerous direct and indirect jobs while ensuring energy security.

The government has also introduced schemes to promote distributed solar generation at the household level in both rural and urban areas. The PM-KUSUM scheme aims to reduce the agricultural sector's reliance on diesel and boost farmers' incomes by providing central government subsidies of up to 50% for installing standalone solar pumps and solarizing existing grid-connected agricultural pumps. Farmers can also install grid-connected solar plants on barren land and sell electricity to local distribution companies (DISCOMs). In the interim budget for FY 2024-25, the government announced the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, which offers subsidies covering up to 40% of solar panel installation costs. This scheme aims to equip 10 million homes with solar panels, saving INR 75,000 crores in electricity costs.

(The writer is a manager-investments at AMPIN Energy Transition, views are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Praying, Chanting, meditation and other such practices can transform your life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We are forever doing material acts like eating, sleeping, 'vihar' (entertainment) and, yes, work. Some of us may be doing some spiritual practices as well. Why is there such a mismatch? Because most people do not realize how beneficial spiritual practices are for a human being. Read on and you will agree. I have chosen ten common spiritual practices for this article. They are simple to do and almost everyone can benefit by doing them. Beginning with praying, what is so difficult to do it? Someone is not well in a family, and a family member prays for his or her quick recovery. Even small children pray for their mother when she is unwell. What happens then? God hears them, as He has eyes and ears everywhere. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 13.13) What is God's response? He has to consider several factors like what does the person prayed for deserves, what effect it will have on other family members, who is praying, etc. There will be a response, which will be appropriate taking into consideration everything. Let us remember that God knows 'The Big Picture', which includes the past, present and future also. Whatever God may decide, the act of praying sincerely curbs ego, which helps one to become humble – a necessary quality to be able to deal properly with others. Praying is also a good start for taking shelter from God – the topmost spiritual activity. Chanting of God's names and mantras is quite common across all religions. Many studies have been done to see the effects of chanting on the brain. They have found that chanting stimulates positive changes in the brain. Mantras with the sound 'Ohm'



are especially useful. God's names bring similar benefits. When we take God's name, He must respond. Didn't Lord Krishna respond to calls of Draupadi – "Krishna, Krishna, Krishna"? How the Lord respond to us depends again upon what we deserve and what will be good for us. 'Darshan' – seeing God's 'murti' in Deity form or a photo of one of God's incarnations like Krishna, Rama, etc. is very useful. This is my favourite spiritual act. I have hung a large photo of Lord Krishna on the right side of my bed. All I do is to sit or lie comfortably and look at the Lord's attractive face. Lord Krishna has allowed gaining spiritual knowledge to be pleasing in doing. (9.2) What better company than of God there can be? My Lord has become my own. And He rewards me in many ways. 'Atmabala' (inner strength) flows into me. This strength – the mother of all strengths has made me stronger mentally. I am also able to tolerate the inevitable miseries of this world better. Meditation is getting quite popular worldwide.

People are beginning to see the enormous benefits of this spiritual practice. Lord Krishna has recommended it strongly. In verse # 6.35, the Lord says, "Mind can be brought under control by practice." In verse # 12.8, He tells us where our mind should be fixed, i.e. in Him only. (12.8) In verse #18.65, the Lord asks us to develop His consciousness. Then, what will happen? We will be in God, i.e. become part of Him. (9.29) Could anything be better than that? Hearing about God is another great activity. Lord Krishna goes to the extent of indicating that those devoted to hearing from others will also benefit greatly. (13.25) There are many, who are conversant with spiritual truths. Satsang is a meeting of persons, who are conversant with spiritual truths. "And preachers of supreme knowledge (spiritual benefits) amongst My devotees please Me the most." (18.69) This is the highest devotion towards God. Remembering God and thanking Him whenever some good happens to us are immensely beneficial; they make us deserving of more such rewards. Why don't we do such activities? Because we are almost entirely focused on material acts. We can all do spiritual acts – the givers of great benefits both spiritual and material.

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

Negligence and tragedy:  
The price of complacency

RAJDEEP PATHAK

The death of three IAS aspirant highlights severe systemic negligence by coaching center management, property owners, and municipal authorities



In reflecting on the powerful speech delivered by Mark Antony following the assassination of Julius Caesar, one cannot help but recall his stirring words: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." Antony's oration skillfully ignited the Roman populace, who were initially ambivalent towards Caesar's murder. Through his use of rhetorical questions and ironic praise for Brutus and the other conspirators, Antony incited the crowd to question the motives behind the assassination. < By revealing Caesar's will, which generously bequeathed wealth and public parks to the citizens, Antony further endeared Caesar to the people and painted the conspirators as traitors. The crowd, now convinced of Caesar's benevolence and the conspirators' treachery, erupted into chaos, leading to a violent riot. This turmoil precipitated a civil war, ultimately overthrowing the existing order and paving the way for the rise of the 'Second Triumvirate' (all sought revenge for the murder of Julius Caesar) and the end of the Roman Republic.

A tragic incident in the Capital City of India echoes this (Shakespearean) historical upheaval, where the death of three students (IAS aspirants) has incited public (students') outrage. On Saturday, July 27, 2024 evening, a supposed drainage burst led to flooding in the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar used as a library where approximately 35 students were present when rainwater began to inundate the basement, creating a panic-stricken atmosphere. Despite attempts to evacuate, three students were trapped and subsequently died.

This disaster has cut short the dreams of the parents of three students. Unlike Bholu Baba – who philosophically dramatized death as an inevitable part of life following the Hatras stampede tragedy – the negligence displayed by the coaching centre owners in this instance cannot be so easily dismissed. The failure to ensure proper evacuation facilities has underscored the mismanagement of the institution.

Although the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has stormed into action, they

cannot fully absolve themselves of responsibility. More than anything else, the basement, intended for parking and storage, was illegally repurposed as a library. As the news became the talk of the town, sentiments of anger and frustration poured amidst huge grief and loss. The incident in Old Rajinder Nagar underscores a pervasive pattern of systemic negligence among various stakeholders, including coaching centre management, property owners, and municipal authorities. The illegal conversion of the basement into a library, without proper safety measures reveals a severe disregard for student safety. Compounded by chronic infrastructure deficiencies such as inadequate drainage systems, this negligence is exacerbated by municipal authorities' failures.

Regulatory lapses, such as issuing No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) without thorough verification and compliance checks, further point towards significant enforcement shortcomings.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) delayed actions in sealing other illegally repurposed basements reflect a reactive rather than proactive enforcement strategy. Additionally, the coaching centre's lack of an effective emergency plan, including proper drills and protocols, significantly contributed to the chaos and heightened the tragedy, demonstrating a critical need for better emergency preparedness, stricter regulations and oversight to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Accounts from traumatized students reveal harrowing experiences. Whether it is Aishwarya Rai, a 30-year-old UPSC aspirant from Kanpur, Nakul Tiwari, or Shreya, the very fact that they have been rescued from the terrifying moment of being drowned to death will linger

in their psyche for years to come. The question arises: why does it take such disasters for the administration to take action?

The arrest, bulldozing of illegal constructions and other preventive and punitive measures often come only after tragedy strikes. Videos now emerging tell tales of utter mismanagement and illegal use of properties, breaking all norms. Why are the students only now flagging these issues? Another question is why their seniors, who have perhaps lived and studied in these conditions and are either IAS aspirants or have cleared their examinations, did not raise such issues of negligence in the past. Moreover, if a few of them have become Civil Servants from these coaching centres, why didn't they, over the years, bring this to the notice of the local administration? Another crucial issue is that the commercialization of education, driven by the high demand for competitive exam preparation, should not compromise safety standards, which in this case has resulted in unsafe and overcrowded conditions.

The commercialization of education, characterized by the increasing influence of profit-driven motives, brings both benefits and drawbacks to student welfare. On the positive side, it often leads to improved infrastructure, better resources, and innovative teaching methods that enhance the learning experience. Private institutions do attempt to provide advanced facilities and extracurricular activities, fostering a more dynamic and engaging educational environment. This recent incident must become an eye-opener. It critically highlights the need for enhanced regulatory oversight and stricter enforcement

of building codes and safety regulations, emphasizing regular inspections and audits to ensure compli-

ance. Investment in infrastructure, particularly drainage systems, is crucial to mitigate flooding risks, especially in flood-prone areas like Old Rajinder Nagar.

Additionally, educational institutions, particularly coaching centres, should be mandated to develop and regularly practice emergency evacuation plans, as safety drills can significantly improve preparedness and reduce panic during emergencies. Increased public awareness about safety regulations and accountability mechanisms is necessary, encouraging students and residents to report violations and demand action from authorities. Moreover, the process for obtaining necessary permits and NOCs should be transparent and stringent, with severe penalties for deviations from approved plans.

Public awareness and advocacy are crucial. Educating students and residents about safety standards and rights is another key factor. Further, creating platforms for community engagement and empowering residents with safety mechanisms is crucial.

More than anything else, authorities should respond promptly to such reports and take corrective action. While this is a sad moment for all of us to have lost young budding talents of our country in this manner, it is time we foster a culture of accountability, in our endeavour to safeguard the dreams and lives of countless students who come to Delhi in pursuit of their aspirations. The path forward requires a collective effort from authorities, institutions, and the public to prioritize human safety over commercial interests and ensure that such a tragedy never recurs.

(The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

## REGULATORY LAPSES, SUCH AS ISSUING NO-OBJECTION CERTIFICATES WITHOUT THOROUGH VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE CHECKS, FURTHER POINT TOWARDS SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT SHORTCOMINGS

## Indian cardiologist sparks global debate on mind-based medical protocols

In a groundbreaking challenge to conventional medical practices, Prof B M Hegde has called for a paradigm shift in the treatment of serious ailments

The world of medicine is all set to see an intense debate on the medical protocol to be employed in curing serious ailments thanks to an Indian doctor.

An internationally reputed cardiologist Prof B M Hegde who is based in Mangalore in Karnataka has challenged the existing diagnostic system in the field of physical ailments practiced across the world and has called for a shift to mind-based cure protocol.

Dr Hegde says that if one wants to live a life free of ailments like cancer and other serious medical issues, all one needs to do is to love all and hate none. "The more you hate people and abuse/criticize them, the



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

medical constitution in your body gets deteriorated," he told The Pioneer. "Although there has been a lot of thinking going on in medical circles about the role of the mind in psychological disorders, much needs to be done in the field of physical ailments.

Recent data on the important role played by the human mind in the causation of major physical ill-

nesses like heart attacks and cancer have rekindled our interest in the intricacies of the working of the human mind vis a vis the human body. In the 17th century itself, William Harvey had clearly indicated that in all bodily afflictions there is a mental basis.

As there is no big money involved in this kind of research unlike the gold rush in the field of epidemiology and interventions, the field did not until very recently attract good researchers," writes Prof Hegde, who is also the chief editor of the "Journal of Science of Healing Outcomes", a super peer-reviewed scientific publication. Interestingly, Prof Hegde, a former visiting

professor of cardiology at the University of London, always had strong reservations about the treatment protocol for cardio vascular diseases and cancer. In the editorial of the July 2024 issue of the JSHO, he quoted from the Journal of American Medical Association which has published a large study on the connection between life stresses and their role in the causation of coronary artery diseases.

He said the JAMA study focused on the immediate and long-term effects of various emotional stressors that are a part of life in the modern rat race of the monetary economy. Prof Hegde with more than five decades of medical research and prac-



tice to his credit has found that hostility, anger, frustration and bereavement come up on top among the negative emotions.

"Love, compassion, social support and job satisfaction have control over one's situation, negative emotions acutely raised the blood

pressure as also the heart rate and the breathing rate," said the octogenarian professor who has been honoured with Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the President of India for the scintillating works he has done over the decades. According to Prof Hegde's experience, chronic stress does take its toll leading to killer diseases. "Emotions play a major role in one getting afflicted with such ailments. Scientists, business barons, professionals and politicians should bear this in mind.

When the competition becomes too intense, chances of one losing control shoot up and there can be no coming back to normalcy," he said.

Dr Hegde pointed out the debates in Parliament and election campaigns to drive home the point that one should be elegant and cool-headed during the battle for power. "Even military officers behave in a disciplined manner while they are engaged in fighting the enemies.

This is what we should learn to stay cool and free of ailments," he said. For the uninitiated, Prof Hegde is the author of many books and has written the preface for medical books published by medical scientists. His seminal work "What Doctors Don't Get to Study in Medical School" is widely read in the world of medicine and many doctors rate it as the Holy Bible of

Modern Medicine. If we stay away from unhealthy competition for wealth and power, we can keep serious ailments like heart disease and cancer miles away from us.

The only losers would be pharma companies that charge a fortune for a course of medicine. The JSHO has the whose-who of the world of medicine and science working as its editorial staff and board. This includes Prof Joanna Floros, and Evan Pugh Professor of Paediatrics and Obstetrics, Penn State University Hershey, USA, who is the co-editor in chief.

(The writer is a special correspondent with the Pioneer; views expressed are personal)



# Professor's journey to becoming Bangladesh head

PTI ■ DHAKA

Life has come full circle for Nobel laureate Professor Mohammad Yunus, who faced persecution during Sheikh Hasina's regime for embezzlement, is now all set to head of the interim government in Bangladesh after she resigned and fled the country. President Mohammed Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament on Tuesday and appointed the 84-year-old economist as the head of an interim government. His decision was prompted by a demand by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement to make him the non-partisan head of the caretaker government. Yunus, globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance', is expected to return to Bangladesh from Paris on Thursday to take charge.

Yunus, who started as a Professor at national and international Universities, earned the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for women's empowerment through poverty alleviation, and received multiple national and international awards over the years. But back home, he faced harsh scrutiny by the Hasina government for more than a

decade due to obscure reasons while authorities initiated a series of investigations against him after she came to power in 2008. Bangladesh authorities launched a review of the statutory Grameen Bank's activities in 2011 and fired Yunus as its founding managing director on charges of violating the government retirement regulation. Many people believe Hasina became enraged when Yunus announced that he would form a political party in 2007 when the country was run by a military-backed government and Hasina was in prison. Yunus, however, did not follow through on the plan but at that time he criticised Bangladeshi politicians alleging they were only interested in money.

Meanwhile, over the years, he was charged under dozens of cases. In January, Yunus was sentenced to six months in jail by a court on charges of labour law violation. On June 10 this year, a Dhaka court prosecuted Yunus and 13 others - currently out on bail - for embezzling as it rejected a plea for the dismissal of charges by the accused. The prosecution accused Yunus and the others of embezzling Taka 250 million (about USD 2 million) from the workers

welfare fund of Grameen Telecom, which owns a 34.2 per cent stake in Bangladesh's largest mobile phone operator, Grameenphone, a subsidiary of Norway's telecom giant Telenor.

"She destroyed the legacy of her father Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh is liberated... We are a free country now," Yunus told an Indian portal from Paris after news broke out of Hasina fleeing the country amid civil unrest.

Yunus was in Paris for a minor medical procedure, as reported by local media, when the President agreed to make him the head of the interim government. Notwithstanding the Hasina government's stand, Yunus continued to receive international accolades as was evident by the speech by Susanna B Afan, president of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, on June 27 this year at Manila. In 1984, the then 44-year-old Yunus was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership for "his pioneering efforts in enabling rural men and women to become economically self-sufficient through sound group-managed credit."



Stating that the work by Yunus, globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance' has not just inspired similar projects in Philippines, Indonesia and Pakistan but their respective founders too received the Ramon Magsaysay Award. The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded for his work in poverty alleviation and the empowerment of poor women through Grameen Bank where Yunus has "successfully melded capitalism with social responsibility" through the microcredit institution. Born in pre-Independence India in 1940 in Chittagong, Yunus first studied at Dhaka University in Bangladesh, which was then East Pakistan; went as a Fulbright

scholar to study economics at Vanderbilt University in the US and obtained PhD in economics in 1969. The very next year, he became an assistant professor of economics at Middle Tennessee State University in the US but returned to Bangladesh to head the economics department at Chittagong University. The bio published at the time when Yunus was awarded the Nobel lists his international achievements inking from 1993 to 1995 as a member of the International Advisory Group for the Fourth World Conference on Women, a post to which he was appointed by the UN secretary general. He has also served on the Global Commission of Women's Health, the Advisory Council for Sustainable Economic Development and the UN Expert Group on Women and Finance, it adds. Apart from multiple national awards, Professor Yunus is the recipient of numerous international awards for his ideas and endeavours from countries including Sri Lanka, USA, Jordan, Sweden, Japan, The Netherlands, and South Korea. Published on January 1, 1991, his auto-

biography, 'Banker to the Poor: Microlending and the Battle Against World Poverty', has been translated into at least a dozen languages including French, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Gujarati, Chinese and Arabic. His sphere of influence was evident when in January, more than 241 global leaders, including over 125 Nobel Laureates and former US President Barack Obama, had expressed their concerns via an open letter to Hasina over Yunus' "continuous judicial harassment and potential jailing." With the regime change, it remains to be seen what will be the fate of over 150 other cases, including the major corruption charges that Yunus faces. Earlier, those could have seen him jailed for years if found guilty while the economist has denied all the wrongdoing. When one clicks on Yunus' own website, the very first quote of the Nobel laureate that greets you is, "If you imagine, Some day it will happen. If you don't imagine, It will never happen." For a person who had dreamed of a poverty-free Bangladesh, Yunus perhaps never had imagined that one day he would be heading his country.

## Turkey to join genocide case against Israel in UN court

AP ■ ANKARA

Turkey on Wednesday filed a request with a UN court to join South Africa's genocide lawsuit against Israel, the foreign minister said. Turkey's ambassador to the Netherlands, accompanied by a group of Turkish legislators, submitted a declaration of intervention to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Turkey, one of the fiercest critics of Israel's actions in Gaza, becomes the latest nation to seek to participate in the case. "No country in the world is above international law," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Onuc Keci said in a post on X. "The case at the International Court of Justice is extremely important in terms of ensuring that the crimes committed by Israel do not go unpunished." Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan has accused Israel of genocide, called for it to be punished in international courts and criticized Western nations for backing Israel. In May, Turkey suspended trade with Israel, citing its assault on Gaza. In contrast to Western nations that have designated Hamas as a terrorist organisation, Erdogan has commended the group, calling it a liberation movement. South Africa brought a case to the International Court of Justice late last year, accusing Israel of violating the genocide convention through its military operations in Gaza. Israel has strongly rejected accusations of genocide and has argued that the war in Gaza is a legitimate defensive action against Hamas militants for their Oct 7 attack in southern Israel that killed around 1,200 people and in which 250 hostages were taken. Nicaragua, Colombia, Libya,

Mexico, Spain and Palestinian officials have sought to join the case. The court's decision on their requests is still pending. If admitted to the case, the countries would be able to make written submissions and speak at public hearings. Preliminary hearings have already been held in the genocide case against Israel, but the court is expected to take years to reach a final decision. Keci, meanwhile, called for the immediate implementations of precautionary measures ordered by the court, including a halt to military offensive and an increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza. Former allies Turkey and Israel have experienced a volatile relationship since Erdogan took power in 2003, marked by periods of severe friction and reconciliation. The war in Gaza disrupted the most recent attempts at normalising ties.

## Tropical Storm Debby swirls over Atlantic, still dumping rain on Carolinas before moving north

AP ■ CHARLESTON (US)

Tropical Storm Debby was swirling over coastal Georgia and Carolinas on Wednesday, its wide bands of rain swelling inland waterways before it slowly marches north. Debby was expected to strengthen a little and turn north toward the South Carolina coastline before its centre makes a second landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday, weather officials said. The meandering storm -- moving forward at just 4 mph (6 kph) Wednesday morning -- has already drenched coastal cities in Georgia and South Carolina with more than a foot (30 centimetres) of rain in places, stirring up tornadoes and submerging streets with waist-high floodwaters. But its core was surrounded by drier air and the worst rainfall was falling hundreds of miles to the north, into eastern North Carolina before spreading into southeast Virginia. Both declared a state of emergency. Forecasters warned 5 inches (13 centimetres) of rain could fall from South Carolina to Vermont through this weekend. The area of most concern Wednesday was in southeastern North Carolina, where Hurricane Matthew caused a historic billion-dollar flood in 2016. Two years later, many of



those records were broken during Hurricane Florence. Both storms killed dozens. The National Weather Service warned up to 9 inches (23 centimetres) of rain could fall west of Wilmington, North Carolina, in areas that already saw heavy rains overnight. Charleston and Savannah, Georgia, were deluged Monday and Tuesday, and Charleston imposed a curfew in its downtown peninsula that lasted 32 hours before it was lifted Wednesday. Dozens of roads were closed because of flooding similar to what the city sees several times a year now because of rising sea levels. Charleston Mayor Williams Cogswell said the closures avoided the need for water rescues and kept 'yahoos' from damag-

ing properties by driving through flooded streets and pushing water over sandbags. In one Savannah neighbourhood, firefighters used boats to evacuate some residents and waded through floodwaters to deliver bottled water and other supplies to those who refused to leave. Michael Jones said water gushed into his home Monday evening, overturning the refrigerator and causing furniture to float. Outside, the water seemed to be everywhere and was too deep to flee safely. So Jones spent a sleepless night on his kitchen table before firefighters going door to door showed up in a boat Tuesday morning. "It was hell all night," Jones said. Debby's centre was about 90 miles (145 kilometres) east of

Savannah on Wednesday morning, according to a bulletin from the National Hurricane Center. It had maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (73 kph). "Tropical cyclones always produce heavy rain, but normally as they're moving, you know, it doesn't accumulate that much in one place," said Richard Pasch, of the hurricane centre. "But when they move very slowly, that's the worst situation." Green Pond in rural Colleton County, South Carolina, reported the most rain so far, just over 14 inches (36 centimetres). A nearby dam had water run over its top but did not crumble, while trees and washouts blocked a number of roads, county Fire-Rescue Assistant Chief David Greene said. Floodwaters remained in Colleton County Wednesday morning where police officers kept watch on barricades blocking roads where stately trees were reflected in the standing water. Tornadoes knocked down trees and damaged a few homes on Kiawah Island and Edisto Island. Crooked Hammock Brewery in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, closed early on Tuesday. "Flash flooding is super unpredictable, and we'd rather our staff and guests be home and safe," marketing coordinator

Georgena Dimitriadis said. Far to the north in New York City, heavy storms that meteorologists said were being enhanced by Debby flooded some streets and expressways, stranding motorists. The weather service issued a flood watch until noon Wednesday for the entire city. Emergency officials warned of potential flash flooding, flying drones with loudspeakers in some New York City neighbourhoods to tell people in basement apartments to be ready to flee at a moment's notice. Debby made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane early Monday along the Gulf Coast of Florida. At least six people have died due to the storm, five of them in traffic accidents or from fallen trees. The sixth death involved a 48-year-old man in Gulfport, Florida, whose body was recovered after his anchored sailboat partially sank, WTSP-TV reported. President Joe Biden approved emergency declarations making federal disaster assistance available to Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. Debby is finally forecast to pick up speed Thursday before weakening inland as the weather moves north over North Carolina and Virginia into the Washington area by Saturday.

## UK police prepares for more clashes

PTI ■ LONDON

Thousands of police personnel, including those with specialist training, are geared up for the so-called 'standing army' of defence against an expected surge of far-right anti-immigration protests on Wednesday, this time targeted at immigration lawyers and their offices. After a week of violent clashes on the streets of different cities across the UK, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer chaired his second emergency COBRA meeting on Tuesday evening with ministers, police chiefs and security experts to draft a detailed strategy to counter any further riots. A list of solicitors' firms and immigration advice agencies has been circulating online, inviting protesters to "mask up" and turn out - described by the government as "unacceptable". "We're doing everything we can to ensure that where a police response is needed, it's in place, where support is needed for particular places, that is in place," Starmer told reporters after the Cabinet Office Briefing Room A (COBRA) meeting. "Obviously it's a difficult situation with disorder going on in a number of different places at the same time, but that is precisely why I held my second COBRA meeting to coor-

minate the response and to get the assurance that I want and need that we do have adequate police in place, that we are able to cope with this disorder," he said. Around 400 arrests have been made, with around 100 charged and appearing before the courts for a sped up "substantive sentencing" process. "That should send a very powerful message to anybody involved, either directly or online, that you are likely to be dealt with within a week. Nobody, but nobody, should be involved themselves in this disorder," added Starmer, who pledged that all communities "will be safe". Stephen Parkinson, England's director of public prosecutions, has warned rioters that they could face terrorism charges. "We are willing to look at terrorism offences. I'm aware of at least one instance where that is happening," he told the BBC. In addition to more riot police being on standby, forces are also stepping up neighbourhood policing patrols, teams of detectives are drawing on CCTV, officers' body-worn footage and making use of retrospective facial recognition to identify perpetrators of violence, and intelligence teams are monitoring known influencers and organisers for activity.

## Act responsibly, UK gov't tells Elon Musk

AP ■ LONDON

The British government has called on Elon Musk to act responsibly after the tech billionaire used his social media platform X to unleash a barrage of posts that officials say risk inflaming the violent unrest gripping the country. Justice Minister Heidi Alexander made the comments Tuesday morning after Musk posted a comment saying that "Civil war is inevitable" in the UK Musk later doubled down, highlighting complaints that the British criminal justice system treats Muslims more leniently than far-right activists and comparing Britain's crack-down on social media users to the Soviet Union. "Use of language such as a civil war" is in no way acceptable, Alexander told Times Radio. "We are seeing police officers being seriously injured, buildings set alight, and so I really do think that everyone who has a platform should be exercising their power responsibly." Britain has been shaken by violence for more than a week, as police clashed with crowds spouting anti-immigrant and Islamophobic slogans in cities and towns from Northern Ireland to the south coast of England.

## Khaleda Zia gets renewed passport

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's former prime minister Khaleda Zia, who was released from jail after the ouster of her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina, has received a renewed passport, her party said on Wednesday. Zia, 79, was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft in 2018 under the rule of Hasina, 76, who resigned as prime minister on Monday and fled to India in the face of massive protests against her government. She has received a renewed passport, BNP media cell member Shairul Kabir Khan was quoted as saying by Dhaka Tribune newspaper. The renewal process for her passport was completed on Tuesday. Subsequently, Zia's personal secretary ABM Abdus Sattar received her renewed

machine-readable passport on her behalf later that night, it said. The Bangladesh National Party (BNP) chairperson, currently undergoing treatment for various ailments, was released on executive order from President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Tuesday following the collapse of the Hasina-led Awami League government. Zia had been imprisoned for more than two years. On March 25, 2020, the Hasina government suspended her sentence and granted her conditional release through an executive order. Subsequently, the government extended her sentence suspension and release period every six months, upon application. The rivalry between the two begums - Hasina and Zia - has defined politics in Bangladesh for decades.

## Deeply concerned about B'desh violence: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has expressed deep concerns about the continued violence in Bangladesh including attacks on members of religious or political groups, and said it will be vital for the new government to credibly investigate all such instances and provide justice to victims. "We are deeply concerned about continued reports of violence in Bangladesh - including violence directed at members of religious or political groups. We are equally concerned about reports of violence against police and law enforcement," a State Department spokesperson told PTI on Tuesday. "We repeat our call for de-escalation on all sides and a return to calm. This is not a time for

retribution or revenge," the spokesperson said in response to a question. "As a friend and partner to the Bangladeshi people, the United States will continue to support Bangladesh's democratic aspirations and promote respect for human rights for all," said the spokesperson. Bangladesh is going through an unprecedented crisis with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was in power for 15 years, resigning and fleeing the country after a protest against a jobs quota scheme snowballed into a massive agitation against her and her government. More than 300 people have died during the past few tumultuous weeks. "We are monitoring the situation in Bangladesh very closely. We have long called for respect of democratic rights in

Bangladesh, and we urge that the interim government formation be democratic and inclusive," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference. "We commend the army for the restraint they have shown. We encourage all parties to refrain from further violence and restore peace as quickly as possible," she said. "We express our deep concern and sadness about the reports of casualties and injuries over the weekend and past weeks. We share our deepest condolences with those who lost loved ones and those who are suffering," said the press secretary. "It will be vital for the new government to carefully and credibly investigate all attacks and provide accountability and justice for victims," she said.

## China, Saudi, UAE agree to roll over cash-strapped Pak's USD 12 bn debt for one year

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have agreed to roll over cash-strapped Pakistan's USD 12 billion debt for one year, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to approve its USD 7 billion bailout package later this month. After a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance on Tuesday, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb told reporters that there was no delay in the IMF Executive Board meeting, which is going to take place by the end of this month to approve the USD 7 billion Extended Fund Facility, the

Express Tribune reported on Wednesday. The Executive Board is scheduled to meet on August 28 to approve the USD 7 billion package, the report said, quoting government officials. The development marks an end to the uncertainty over the timing of the Executive Board meeting, which was contingent upon the rollover of debts by Pakistan's three traditional creditors, it said. Aurangzeb said the USD 12 billion cash deposits by China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would be rolled over for one year, like last time. Earlier, he had said that the IMF had asked for the rollover for three to five years

before the Executive Board meeting. However, he clarified that the requirement was to secure the rollover for one year but the government was trying to have these rollovers for three to five years. He added that the three bilateral creditors had agreed to roll the loans over on the existing terms and conditions. The IMF announced a staff-level agreement for USD 7 billion last month subject to the approval of the Executive Board and securing financing commitments from the bilateral and multilateral creditors. The finance minister said there was no point in asking for an increase in the interest rates on these loans when the country's

foreign exchange reserves had strengthened compared to a year ago. The IMF, he added, had identified only a USD 3-5 billion financing gap over the three-year programme period, which was quite manageable. "Pakistan has also received an offer from a foreign commercial bank but we are waiting for the IMF Board approval to ask the lender to cut the offered interest rates," said Aurangzeb. The offer had come from a non-Gulf and non-Chinese commercial bank, he added, without disclosing the name.



A finance ministry official said that Standard Chartered Bank had offered a less than USD 400 million loan but it was asking for a double-digit interest rate that the government could not afford to pay. Aurangzeb said the government would wait for the IMF Board approval to get the commercial bank to cut its offered interest rates. The finance minister said two important developments had taken place in the last few days which showed that Pakistan was well on its way to achieving macroeconomic stability. He described the Fitch

rating agency's decision to improve Pakistan's credit rating by one notch and the central bank's decision to cut the interest rates by 1% as "very critical elements for achieving macro-economic stability". When asked as to why Standard and Poor's had not improved Pakistan's CCC+ rating, the minister stated that raising a CCC+ rating to a B negative one would have been a big jump. He hoped that the three rating agencies would improve Pakistan's standing to B negative by the end of this year, a grade where it can venture into the international capital markets to float sovereign bonds at relatively lower rates

than offered at the current CCC+ ratings. The three international credit rating agencies have given below investment grade to Pakistani bonds due to their weak economic position and huge external financing requirements. However, Fitch last week improved the rating by one notch - from CCC to CCC+ - which was still below the investment grade. The finance minister said the government was trying to issue the Panda bond in the Chinese markets and had engaged a Chinese financial adviser firm to complete the transaction either by the end of this calendar year or in early 2025. Aurangzeb said the govern-

ment was also contemplating hiring another Chinese financial adviser to secure the energy debt rollover. He said that Pakistan had requested up to a five-year extension in the energy debt but it would take time before any agreement was reached. He said that even the conversion of the Chinese power plants from imported to local coal would take at least two to three years. The finance minister also said that to cut expenditures, the government had undertaken the privatisation programme and an exercise was ongoing to close ministries or merge them. "It is about time to right-size the federal government," Aurangzeb said.



# US to skip A-bomb memorial service in Nagasaki as Israel not invited

**AP ■ TOKYO**  
US Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel will skip this year's atomic bombing memorial service in Nagasaki because Israel was not invited, the embassy said Wednesday. Emanuel will not attend the event on Friday because it was "politicized" by Nagasaki's decision not to invite Israel, the embassy said. He will instead honor the victims of the Nagasaki atomic bombing at a ceremony at a Buddhist temple in Tokyo, it said. An atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroyed the city, killing 140,000 people. A second bomb dropped three days later on Nagasaki killed 70,000 more. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, ending World War II and the country's nearly half-century of aggression in Asia. Nagasaki Mayor Shiro Suzuki had indicated his reluctance in June to invite Israel, noting the

escalating conflict in the Middle East. He announced last week that Israel was not invited because of concern over "possible unforeseen situations" such as protests, sabotage or attacks on attendants. Nagasaki hoped to honor the atomic bomb victims "in a peaceful and solemn atmosphere," he said. Suzuki said he made the decision based on "various developments in the international community in response to the ongoing situation in the Middle East" that suggested a possible risk that the ceremony would be disturbed. In contrast, Hiroshima invited the Israeli ambassador to Japan to its memorial ceremony on Tuesday among 50,000 attendees who included Emanuel and other envoys, though Palestinian representatives were not invited. Nagasaki officials said they were told that an official of the US Consulate in Fukuoka will represent the United States at Friday's ceremony. Five other

Group of Seven nations — Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the UK — and the European Union are also expected to send lower-ranking envoys to Nagasaki. Envoys from those nations signed a joint letter expressing their shared concern about Israel's exclusion, saying treating the country on the same level as Russia and Belarus — the only other countries not invited — would be misleading. The envoys urged Nagasaki to reverse the decision and invite Israel to preserve the universal message of the city's ceremony. The exclusion of Israel would make their "high-level participation" difficult, they said. British Ambassador to Japan Julia Longbottom, who attended the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Tuesday, told Japanese media that she planned to skip the Nagasaki ceremony because the city's decision to exclude Israel could send a wrong message.

# Helicopter with 5 people on board crashes in Nepal

**PTI ■ KATHMANDU**  
Four Chinese tourists were among five people killed in Nepal on Wednesday when a helicopter crashed in the mountains northwest region of Kathmandu. Police have recovered five dead bodies from the crash site in Ward No 7 of Shivapuri Rural Municipality, Nuwakot, Myrepublica newspaper reported. Nepal-based Air Dynasty helicopter, 9N-AJD, was en route to Rasuwa from Kathmandu when it crashed. The helicopter departed from Kathmandu at 1:54 PM and was en route to Syaprubensi when it crashed. According to the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), a Prabhru helicopter (9N-ANL) was dispatched to the crash site immediately after the incident. There were five individuals on board, including four Chinese tourists, the paper said. The helicopter lost contact with the tower just three minutes after takeoff from Tribhuvan International Airport, according to the CAAN. Citing a police official, the paper said that the bodies of two men, one woman and the pilot, identified as Arun Malla, were recovered from the crash site. One body has not been identified yet as it is charred beyond recognition, Myrepublica reported. Superintendent of Police (SP) Shantiraj Koirala, at the District Police Office, Nuwakot, who reached the crash site, confirmed that five bodies had been recovered. This crash comes just weeks after the Saurya Airlines plane crash at the Tribhuvan International Airport on July 24.

# Putin accuses Ukraine of 'large-scale provocation'

**AP ■ KYIV**  
Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday described a Ukrainian incursion into the country's southwestern Kursk region as a "large-scale provocation" as his officials asserted that they were fighting off cross-border raids for a second day. Ukrainian official remained quiet about the scope of the operation. Putin told Cabinet officials he would meet with top defense and security officials to discuss what he called the "indiscriminate shelling of civilian buildings, residential houses, ambulances with different types of weapons." He instructed the Cabinet to coordinate assistance to the Kursk region. The head of the region urged residents to donate blood due to the intense fighting. "In the last 24 hours, our region has been heroically resisting attacks" by Ukrainian fighters, acting Gov. Alexei Smirnov said on Telegram, adding that all emergency services were on high alert. Smirnov also said authorities had evacuated more than 200 people from areas under shelling, while several thousand others left in their own vehicles. If confirmed, the cross-border foray would be among Ukraine's largest since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, and unprecedented for its deployment of Ukrainian military units. Kyiv's aim could be to draw Russian reserves to the area, potentially weakening Moscow's offensive operations in several parts of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region where Russian forces have increased attacks and are advancing gradually toward operationally significant gains. But it could risk stretching out-manned Ukrainian troops further along the front line, which is more than 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) long. Even if Russia were to commit reserves to stabilize the new front, given its vast manpower and the relatively small number of Ukrainian forces engaged in the operation, it would likely have little long-term impact. However, the operation could boost Ukrainian morale at a time when Kyiv's forces are facing relentless Russian attacks and are expected to face more in coming weeks. Several Ukrainian brigades stationed along the border region said they could not comment. Ukraine's Defense Ministry and General Staff said they would not comment. The Russian forces have swiftly repelled previous cross-border incursions, but not before

they caused damage and embarrassed authorities. The Russian Defense Ministry said Tuesday that up to 300 Ukrainian troops, supported by 11 tanks and more than 20 armoured combat vehicles, had crossed into Russia and suffered heavy losses. It said Wednesday that military and border guard troops "continued to destroy Ukrainian military units in the areas alongside the border in the Kursk region." The ministry said Russian forces backed by artillery and warplanes "didn't allow the enemy to advance deeper into the territory of the Russian Federation." It wasn't possible to verify the Russian claims. Open-source monitors have also not been able to verify the claims. The US-based Institute for the Study of War could not verify whether damaged and abandoned armoured vehicles shown in geolocated video 7 kilometres (4 miles) north of the border west of Lyubimovka in the Kursk region were Ukrainian. The think tank also cast doubt on video shared by Russian military bloggers claiming to show the aftermath of the Ukrainian raids. Most of the damage shown "appears to be the result of routine Ukrainian shelling and does not indicate that there was ground activity in the area," it said in its daily report. Responsibility for previous incursions into Russia's Belgorod and Bryansk regions has been claimed by two murky groups: the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom of Russia Legion, which are made up of Russian citizens and have fought alongside Ukrainian forces. Disinformation and propaganda have played a central role in the war, now in its third year. Some Russian war bloggers who have proved knowledgeable about the war said that Ukrainian soldiers were in Kursk. Rybar, a Telegram channel run by Mikhail Zvinchuk, a retired Russian Defense Ministry press officer, said Ukrainian troops had seized three settlements in the region and continued to fight their way deeper into it. Another pro-Kremlin military blog, Two Majors, claimed that Ukrainian troops had advanced up to 15 kilometres (9 miles) into the region. Neither claim could be independently verified. The Kursk region's border with Ukraine is 245 kilometres (150 miles) long, making it possible for saboteur groups to launch swift incursions and capture some ground before Russia deploys reinforcements.

# Namal Rajapaksa announced as candidate for Lanka presidency

**PTI ■ COLOMBO**  
Namal Rajapaksa, the 38-year-old heir to the Rajapaksa dynasty, was on Wednesday named as the SLP candidate for the presidential election, thus officially ending Rajapaksa family's backing to the incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe. Sagara Kariyawasam, the general secretary of the Sri Lanka People's Front (SLFP, also known locally by its popular Sinhalese name, Sri Lanka

Podujana Peramuna), announced the younger Rajapaksa's candidacy early on Wednesday morning at a ceremony at the party headquarters. Namal's entry has made the election a four-cornered contest. Besides, President Wickremesinghe, the main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and the Marxist JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake are already in the fray. The Rajapaksas — Mahinda, Basil and Gotabaya — were

instrumental in Wickremesinghe winning the parliamentary vote in July 2022 to take over Gotabaya's remaining term. It was soon after the unprecedented development of mid-April 2022 when the island nation declared its first-ever sovereign default since gaining independence from Britain in 1948 and almost civil war-like conditions followed as unrest spread amid locals over inflation and other economic stress that had led to Gotabaya's ouster.

# NASA delays next crew launch to buy more time for Boeing's troubled capsule

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
NASA is delaying its next astronaut launch to buy more time at the International Space Station for Boeing's troubled new crew capsule. The space agency said Tuesday it's bumping SpaceX's four-person flight from this month to next. It's now targeted for Sept. 24 at the earliest. Officials said that will give them more time to analyze thruster and leak problems that hit Boeing's Starliner capsule after its June liftoff, its first with a crew on board. Tuesday marked the two-month point at the space station for Starliner's test pilots, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who should have

been back by mid-June. NASA is weighing all its options for returning the two veteran astronauts, including a ride home in a SpaceX capsule. "NASA and Boeing continue to evaluate the spacecraft's readiness, and no decisions have been made regarding Starliner's return," NASA said in a statement. Further details were expected at a news conference set for Wednesday. Only two docking ports at the space station can accommodate U.S. astronaut capsules and, right now, both are occupied. So one will need to be vacated before the next SpaceX crew can arrive. Russia has its own parking places for its Soyuz capsules. The latest setback means the four astronauts who flew up with SpaceX in March now also face a longer mission than planned. Over the past several weeks, Boeing has conducted thruster test firings on the ground as well as in space to better understand why five thrusters failed ahead of Starliner's June 6 arrival at the space station. All but one came back online. Helium leaks in the capsule's propulsion system also cropped up. Citing the testing, the company late last week said: "Boeing remains confident in the Starliner spacecraft and its ability to return safely with crew." Boeing and SpaceX topped NASA's list for astronaut taxi



A group of Mexican faithful wearing traditional costumes meet with Pope Francis attends the weekly general audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Wednesday. AP/PTI

# Tunisian Oppn figure Moussi sentenced to prison

**AP ■ TUNIS**  
A potential presidential candidate in Tunisia has been sentenced to two years in prison, marking another setback to the country's fledgling opposition challenging President Kais Saied as he seeks a new term. Abir Moussi, a 49-year-old lawyer and the head of the right-wing Free Destourian Party, was arrested in October after criticizing the electoral process and presidential decrees guiding it, alleging a lack of transparency. Following a complaint by the North African nation's election authority, she was found guilty of violating a controversial anti-fake news decree outlawing spreading information that slanders or harms others. The law has been widely used to prosecute those who criticize authorities. Moussi's lawyer Nafaa Laribi told The Associated Press on Tuesday that she still intends to run in the Oct. 6 presidential election, and that, unlike other candidates, nothing in Monday's sentence prevents her from running.

Laribi said Moussi's morale remained high, and he planned to appeal. The sentence is the latest in a growing crackdown that observers have said is politically motivated against Saied's critics, regardless of political affiliation. With Moussi and other leading opposition figures in prison, Saied is expected to face little election competition in what was once the Middle East and North Africa's most progressive democracy. Moussi appeals to parts of the population nostalgic for Tunisia's pre-revolutionary era. A strong critic of Islamists such as imprisoned Ennahda leader Rached Ghannouchi, Moussi was an official in longtime President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's ruling party. Over the years, she became one of the country's most popular and contentious political figures.

# Thai court dissolves progressive Move Forward Party, which won election but failed to take power

**AP ■ BANGKOK**  
A court in Thailand on Wednesday ordered the dissolution of the progressive Move Forward Party, which finished first in last year's general election, saying it violated the constitution by proposing an amendment of a law against defaming the country's royal family. The Constitutional Court said it voted unanimously to dissolve the party because its campaign to amend the law was considered an attempt to overthrow the nation's constitutional monarchy. The Move Forward Party was unable to form a government after topping the polls because members of the Senate, at that time a conservative military-appointed body, declined to endorse its candidate for prime minister. The Election Commission had filed a petition against the Move Forward Party after the Constitutional Court ruled in January that it must stop advocating changes to the law, known as Article 112, which protects the monarchy from criticism with penalties of up to 15 years in jail per offense. The ruling also imposed a 10-year ban on political activity on those who held the party's executive positions while it

campaigning for the proposed amendment. Among them are its charismatic former leader, Pita Limjaroenrat, and current chief Chaithawat Tulathon. It remained unclear what will happen to the rest of its non-executive lawmakers, although Pita said in an interview with The Associated Press that the party will ensure they have a smooth transition into a new house, or a new party. Lawmakers of a dissolved political party can keep their seats in Parliament if they move to a new party within 60 days. Move Forward and its reform agenda shook up Thai politics by winning the most seats in the 2023 elections even though afterward it was blocked from taking power. The latest legal action is one of many that have drawn widespread criticism and are seen as part of a years-long attack on the country's progressive movement by conservative forces trying to keep their grip on power. The party was denied power after the Senate refused to accept its then-leader Pita's nomination as prime minister. Senators, who were given power to veto prime ministerial candidates by the constitution adopted in 2017 under a military government, said they opposed Pita because of his intention to reform the royal

defamation law. Move Forward was later removed from a coalition formed with the now-governing Pheu Thai party and became head of the opposition. In its arguments submitted to the court, Move Forward said the Constitutional Court does not have jurisdiction to rule on the case and the petition filed by the Election Commission did not follow due process because Move Forward was not given an opportunity to defend itself before it was submitted to the court. The court said in its ruling that it has the authority to rule on the case, and that its previous ruling in January was enough of an evidence for the Election Commission to file the case without having to hear more evidence from the party. Human rights organisations have expressed concern about the case. Amy Smith, executive director of the human rights group Fortify Rights, ahead of the ruling called the attempt to disband Move Forward "a direct attack on democratic principles" that "severely undermines Thailand's commitment to human rights". The chairperson of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Ben Cardin, sent a letter to Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa to express his concern. He said

that dissolving a party that "secured a significant victory" in the 2023 elections would "disenfranchise millions of voters who called for progressive change and democratic reform". Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has maintained that the Thai justice system is fair and impartial, and that the government cannot interfere with the judicial process. Move Forward's predecessor, the Future Forward party, was dissolved by the Constitutional Court in 2020 on charges of violating election laws on donations to political parties. Thailand's courts, especially the Constitutional Court, are considered a bulwark of the country's royalist establishment, which has used them and nominally independent state agencies such as the Election Commission to issue rulings to cripple or sink political opponents. The dissolution of Future Forward, whose promises of reforms were particularly attractive for younger people disillusioned after years of military rule, further highlighted the struggle between the progressive movement and conservative forces in Thailand. It was one of the triggers for youth-led pro-democracy protests that sprang up across the country in 2020.

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Bank intends to engage two Resource Persons on contract basis @ consolidated remuneration of Rs. 75,000/- per month per resource person plus incentive as applicable for a specific period of the project ie. 3 years with a performance review on yearly basis, for establishment of Business Diversification and Product Innovation Cell (BDPIC) in The Haryana State Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd, Chandigarh. The detailed terms and conditions, eligibility criteria experience, age, etc, can be accessed from the bank website www.harcoabank.org.in  
The interested candidates may apply and submit their applications either personally or by post on the prescribed Proforma duly filled, in the office of The Haryana State Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd., Sector-17B, Bank Square, Chandigarh by 21.08.2024 till 4.00 P.M. The envelope should be super scribed with "Application for the Post of Resource Person". The applications if received after the due date will not be entertained. The Managing Director reserves the right to cancel appointment process without assigning any reason.  
-sd-  
Managing Director  
The Haryana State Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd., Chandigarh

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

**Short Term E-Tender Enq. No. 7586/P-1/EMP-12751 dated 05.08.24**  
Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_124984\_1 for Procurement of Special purpose Welding Electrodes for the year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06.08.24/ 02.00 PM onwards.  
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
RTP-80/24  
76155/12/3240/2023/36455 Dated CHD :- 8/7/2024

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

**E-Tender Enq. No. 7591/P-3/EMP-12761 dated 06.08.24**  
Dy.Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_125048\_1 for Procurement of MSRL tank for Storage of HCL acid in DM Plant Stage-II at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 07.08.2024/ 01.00 PM onwards.  
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
RTP-81/24  
76155/12/3254/2023/36472 Dated CHD :- 8/7/2024

**Baba Farid University of Health Sciences**  
Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203  
Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

**ADMISSION NOTICE-CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA COURSES, SESSION 2024**  
Online applications are invited w.e.f 08.08.2024 to 25.08.2024 through University website alongwith requisite fee from eligible candidates for admission to various CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA Courses, i.e. six month/one year Certificate courses and two/three year Diploma courses, session 2024. The Last date for submission of Online Fee through payment gateway is 27.08.2024. Note: For Schedule/Eligibility detail/ Fee/ Prospectus visit University website i.e. [www.bfuhs.ac.in](http://www.bfuhs.ac.in). The detail of courses is mentioned in Prospectus.  
sd/-  
REGISTRAR  
NIL/12/207/2023/36429 Dated CHD :- 8/7/2024



# Stock markets snap 3-day slump

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices SENSEX and Nifty bounced back sharply on Wednesday after three straight days of slump following a rally in global peers and value-buying in metal, IT and oil shares at lower levels.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 874.94 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 79,468.01 with 25 of its constituents ending with gains and five with losses. During the day, it jumped 1,046.13 points or 1.33 per cent to 79,639.20.

The NSE Nifty jumped 304.95 points or 1.27 per cent to 24,297.50. Intra-day, it surged 345.15 points or 1.43 per cent to 24,337.70.

Among Sensex firms, Adani Ports & SEZ rose the most by 3.42 per cent. Power Grid climbed 3.39 per cent, Tata Steel by 2.4 per cent and JSW Steel by 2.61 per cent. Infosys, HDFC Bank, ITC, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, and Larsen & Toubro also advanced.

IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, Tech Mahindra and Titan were the laggards. Most sectors contributed to the upward movement, with



metals, energy, and pharma being the top performers. "Global markets experienced a notable rebound after the BoJ's Deputy Governor reassured that the central bank would not raise interest rates during a period of financial instability. The Indian market also witnessed broad-based buying across sectors, with the realty sector seeing a relief rally due to the reinstatement of indexation benefits," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 2.63 per cent and smallcap index climbed 2.39 per cent. All indices ended in the positive territory. Oil & Gas jumped 3.75 per cent, metal

surged 3.44 per cent, energy (3.32 per cent), capital goods (2.89 per cent), telecommunication (2.80 per cent), services (2.53 per cent), commodities (2.49 per cent), healthcare (2.03 per cent). Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said that markets experienced a breather after the recent decline, gaining over a percent, driven by strong global cues. As many as 2,985 stocks advanced while 948 declined and 98 remained unchanged. Asian markets settled in the positive territory, where Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended significantly higher. European markets also rallied.

# Sebi issues ₹25 cr notice to Karvy Stock Broking, Parthasarathy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday sent a notice to Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL) and its CMD C Parthasarathy asking them to pay around Rs 25 crore within 15 days in a case pertaining to misappropriation of clients' funds by misusing the Power of Attorney.

The notice came after they failed to pay the fine imposed on them by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Sebi in April 2023 barred KSBL and Parthasarathy from the securities market for seven years and also imposed a penalty of Rs 21 crore on them for misappropriating clients' funds by misusing the Power of Attorney given to the broking firm.

Individually, the regulator had levied a fine of Rs 13 crore on KSBL and Rs 8 crore on Parthasarathy, promoter-cum-managing director.

In its fresh notice, the regulator has directed KSBL and Parthasarathy to pay Rs 15.21 crore and Rs 9.36 crore, respectively, which includes interest and recovery cost,

within 15 days. In the event of non-payment of dues, the markets regulator will recover the amount by attaching bank accounts, attaching as well as selling the entities' moveable and immovable property. Besides, Parthasarathy may face "arrest and detention in prison".

The case relates to KSBL's massive asset mobilisation drive followed by raising of huge funds from financial institutions by using the securities mobilised from the clients with a promise to pay them interest. These funds were misappropriated and diverted to KSBL's connected entities, thereby defaulting in its obligations to settle the securities and funds with the clients as per regulatory instructions.

In its order passed in April last year, the regulator found that KSBL was raising funds by pledging clients' securities and by misusing the Power of Attorney (PoA) granted to it by its clients. Further, the funds by KSBL were being diverted to its group entities thereby violating various provisions of law.

# Rupee settles 4 paise lower at 83.96 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 4 paise at 83.96 (provisional) against US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by a recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Forex traders said the Indian rupee depreciated on Wednesday on a strong US dollar and positive crude oil prices. However, strength in the domestic markets cushioned the downside.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.86 and touched an intraday low of 83.97 against the dollar during the session. It finally settled at 83.96 (provisional) against the American currency, down 4 paise from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled for the day 17 paise higher at 83.92 against the US dollar.

The local unit had slumped 37 paise to settle at an all-time low of 84.09 against the US dollar on Monday.



"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on a recovery in the US dollar and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. However, positive global equities may support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Any further intervention by the Reserve Bank may also support the rupee. Investors may watch out for RBI's monetary policy decision. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.20, Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, gained 0.31 per cent to

103.28 points. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.22 per cent higher at USD 77.41 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 874.94 points, or 1.11 per cent, to close at 79,468.01 points, while the Nifty advanced 304.95 points, or 1.27 per cent, to 24,297.50 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,531.24 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel started its three-day deliberations for the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy on Tuesday amid expectations of no change in benchmark interest rate in view of concerns on inflation and economic growth remaining steady.

The decision of the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be announced on Thursday.

# Goyal urges BIMSTEC group to relook at progress of FTA talks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday suggested the seven member countries of the BIMSTEC bloc to relook at the progress of Free Trade Agreement talks which are moving at a very slow pace. He said that the members can think of negotiating a preferential trade agreement instead of a full-fledged free trade pact.

BIMSTEC stands for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. Its seven members are five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka) and two Southeast Asian countries (Myanmar and Thailand).

The bloc has been negotiating a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) since 2004. So far over 20 rounds of talks have been held. The last one was held in 2018.

"I would like to raise a few fundamental issues about where we stand and what are the possibilities of making this FTA a reality," Goyal said here at CII's BIMSTEC Business Summit 2024.



He said that so far 22 rounds of talks have been held for the agreement and this itself raises a question on whether "we need to pause and have a relook at the track where we are going".

The last round of negotiations took place some six years ago, which means something is holding back this FTA.

The reasons for slow progress can be the non-trade barriers or trade barriers coming in the way of normal trade, he said adding the possible impact of other regional FTAs on the BIMSTEC region could be the cause of the delay. "It could be the trade

practices or current trade relationships that could be a reason for this FTA not taking place," the minister said. He also asked the business leaders of the seven countries to think whether they need this agreement.

The minister further suggested the member nations to consider trade in local currencies to balance out trade imbalances.

"I would urge business leaders also to give honest feedback of what you feel about the potential BIMSTEC FTA. Do you see merit in it, Do you see value in it," he said. Feedback from the business community would help the

political leaders to take a decision on this. He asked the CII to take the lead and discuss about the proposed pact and come out with their recommendations by next year's Summit.

"Maybe, we can begin with a PTA (preferential trade agreement) if not a full blown FTA...But let's examine the realistic possibility and move forward on a fast track basis," he said.

Representatives from the member countries including Sri Lanka, Myanmar and, Thailand talked about the early conclusion of FTA negotiations as it would help boost trade and investments in the region.

Overall, India's total trade with BIMSTEC countries amounted to USD 44.32 billion in 2023-24.

On Bangladesh, Goyal said, "We are all deeply concerned about the evolving situation in Bangladesh and we wish the people of Bangladesh well and we will convey our best wishes for a smooth transition and bright future for the people of Bangladesh".

# Pan masala makers to pay ₹1 lakh penalty from Oct 1 for failure to register machines with taxmen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has notified October 1 as the date for implementation of the penalty provision for manufacturers of pan masala and similar tobacco products, if they fail to register their packing machinery with GST authorities.

The GST Network had earlier in May and June notified two forms GST SRM-I and II for registering machines used by such manufacturers and to report inputs procured and corresponding outputs with tax authorities.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on August 6 notified October 1, 2024, as the date for levy of up to Rs 1 lakh penalty for failure to register their packing machines with GST authorities.

In January, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had announced the introduction of a new registration and monthly return filing procedure to improve GST compliance for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products effective April 1.

The date was later extended till May 15.



The move to overhaul the registration, record-keeping, and monthly filing of such businesses was aimed at improving Goods and Service Tax (GST) compliance for manufacturers of pan masala and tobacco products.

Via the Finance Bill 2024 in February, the GST law was amended to say that manufacturers of pan masala, gutka and similar tobacco products will have to pay a penalty of up to Rs 1 lakh, if they fail to register their packing machinery with GST authorities with effect from April 1.

The procedure was to be applicable for manufacturers of pan-masala, unmanufactured tobacco

(without lime tube) with or without brand name, 'Hookah' or 'gudaku' tobacco, smoking mixtures for pipes and cigarettes, chewing tobacco (without lime tube), filter khaini, jarda scented tobacco, snuff and branded or unbranded 'Gutkha', etc. The manufacturers of such tobacco products are required to furnish the details of packing machines being used for filling and packing of packages in Form GST SRM-I, electronically within 30 days of the notification coming into effect i.e., April 1, 2024.

The input and output statement GST SRM-II needs to be filed by the 10th of the succeeding month.

Amazon partners with 45 Govt emporiums, NGOs, trade bodies to empower local artisans

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Amazon India on Wednesday said that it has partnered with over 45 government emporiums, NGOs, and trade bodies in India to bridge the gap between artisans and customers, providing economic opportunities for marginalized weaving communities.

"Customers can shop for over 1.5 lakh products featured from 25 states depicting regional various crafts of India.

"Amazon will also launch a showcase of selection from over 35 State emporiums including Biswa Bangla, Panthoibi, Garvi Gurjari, House of Himalayas and more," said a company statement.

More than 2,500 master weavers, co-operatives, artisans and government organisations under various ministries like Textiles, Cottage Industries, and Tribal Welfare, among others have been onboarded on Amazon.In to sell online, according to the statement.

# TRAI to review, tighten regulations to curb spam calls: Lahoti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator will review and strengthen regulations to curb pesky, spam calls, TRAI Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti said on Wednesday.

The crackdown on pesky calls has figured high on the agenda of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, and the regulator has been hardening its stance on the issue, amid rising consumer complaints around unsolicited communications from unauthorised telemarketers.

"We had an interaction with service providers on spam calls and that is the next thing on our table. We will work seriously...We will plug any loopholes that people are finding on existing regulations to tighten (the checks on) spam call issue," Lahoti said on the sidelines of India SatCom 2024 organised by Broadband India Forum (BIF).

TRAI on Tuesday held a meeting and conveyed a strong message to service providers and their telemarketers to take effective measures to curb bulk communications using voice calls.

As part of the crackdown, the regulator has sought proactive action from all the stakeholders specially access



service providers (telcos) and their delivery telemarketers. The immediate action sought includes implementing technical solutions for traceability and preventing bulk calling by enterprise customers using 10-digit numbers.

Asked about the rising instances of fraud and scams over calls, and actions that are being proposed, Lahoti said that a joint committee of regulators is working collectively to address the issue. "The role of TRAI comes in controlling spam calls. Where it is fraudster or scammer...It also becomes an issue of law enforcement where Ministry of Home Affairs... And financial sector regulator also plays a role," he said.

Asked if raising the criminal liability could serve as an effective deterrent, he said, "We will review regulations to make it strong and very strict as far as control of spam is concerned...As far as the scam is concerned that falls in the domain of law".

# Jio's share of data traffic in India rises to 60 per cent in FY24: RIL annual report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Jio's share in the overall data traffic in India increased to about 60 per cent in 2023-24, according to the annual report of parent firm Reliance Industries Limited.

Jio's ahead-of-the-curve investments in next-generation network and digital technologies would sustain a competitive edge and market share gains, it said and added this will ensure strong and consistent shareholder return over the coming years.

In the annual report, Reliance Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani said Jio turned a "Data Dark India" into a "Data Rich" nation with affordable, high-speed 4G data, and followed it up with a 5G network rollout across India in world-record time.

According to the annual report, the rollout of the next-generation fixed wireless networks would catalyse demand for high-speed fixed broadband. Rural areas are expected to see a higher uptake of these services due to limited last-mile infrastructure currently. The report further said Jio's indigenously developed technologies are being deployed at scale in India and will subsequently be taken to the rest of the world.



With highest average per capita data usage at 28.7 GB per month in the March 2024 quarter, the company has recorded a 31 per cent year-over-year increase in overall data traffic to about 149 exabytes during FY 2023-24 with increase in 5G user base as well as its fixed broadband connections.

An extraordinarily large unit of digital data, one exabyte is equal to one billion gigabytes. "Jio has built enough data capacity to serve over a billion Indians for their digital needs at homes, offices, and on-the-go. Jio's share of data traffic in India has increased to about 60 per cent, making it the most preferred broadband network," the RIL annual report said.

The company leads the Indian telecom market both in mobile and fixed line segment with a total subscriber base of 48.18 crore comprising 10.8 crore 5G

users and 1.2 crore fixed broadband users.

"The Jio True5G network now carries almost 30 per cent of Jio's mobility data traffic, and the entire 5G data is now carried on Jio's own 5G+4G combo core. Jio is the only operator in India rolling out 5G on Standalone architecture," the report said.

Highlighting the opportunities, it said Jio's all-India True5G network is "strongly positioned" to lead the progress towards 5G in India. Jio's deep fiber presence and rollout of fixed wireless access services are primed to connect 100 million premises with digital solutions, it said emphasising that Jio's connectivity and compute infrastructure would drive market share gains.

On the threats landscape, the annual report said that disruptive technological changes could make current

technologies obsolete and that entry of a new disruptive player or price competition could impact long-term returns.

"Jio's ahead-of-the-curve investments in next-generation network and digital technologies would sustain a competitive edge and market share gains. This will ensure strong and consistent shareholder return over the coming years," the report said. The company is also making concerted efforts in building capabilities in evolving technologies such as AI/ML (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning), AR/VR (Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality), robotics, natural language recognition and processing.

Ambani said the world is increasingly recognising India as an innovation hub, and asserted that Jio will continue to play a stellar role in building the nation's digital infrastructure and capabilities. "With the launch of Jio 4G in 2016, we set out on a journey to make digital inclusion in India a reality. Jio turned a Data Dark India into a Data Rich nation, supplying every Indian home with affordable, high-speed 4G data, and this year, Jio has further enhanced the country's digital infrastructure by rolling out its True5G network across India in world-record time," he said.

# Bangladesh unrest: Buyers hesitant to place orders in India unless Govt tweaks policies, says AEPC

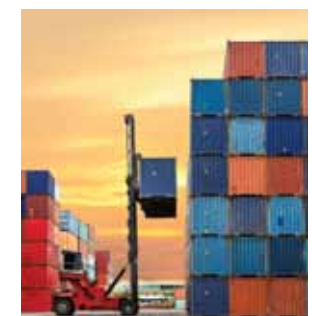
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the civil unrest in Bangladesh, buyers will remain hesitant to place their orders in India unless the Modi government tweaks its import policies to allow greater and easier access to imported man-made fabrics, trims and accessories, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) said on Wednesday.

AEPC also stated that buyers are "very concerned" with the escalation of the civil unrest in Bangladesh and have no option but to pull out their orders from the nation and place them elsewhere at least in the short term.

According to AEPC Chairman Sudhir Sekhri, most of these orders are in man-made fabrics, purchased from buyer nominated sources in China, Korea and even Europe. "Shifting these short-delivery orders using special imported fabrics to India is not viable, given India's current import policies. Only orders in fabrics of Indian origin are expected to be shifted to Indian factories," he added.

The AEPC Chairman observed that buyers will continue to be hesitant to place their orders in India unless Government of India tweaks its import policies to allow greater and easier access to imported man-made fabrics, trims and accessories.



"In the long term, buyers will remain skeptical of being overly dependent on Bangladesh. Even before the current turmoil in Bangladesh, buyers were already looking for capacities elsewhere, due to capacity saturation in Bangladesh. The recent turmoil will expedite their plans. Indian factories will get a piece of the cake only if they ramp up capacities," Sekhri stated. Bangladesh is facing its worst political crisis since Independence in 1971. The neighbouring country has plunged into uncertainty after street protests over job quota forced Sheikh Hasina to quit as prime minister and flee.

"Buyers are very concerned with the escalation of the civil unrest in Bangladesh. In the short term, fast fashion buyers have no option but to pull out their orders from Bangladesh and place them elsewhere," the AEPC Chairman said.



# I THINK IT MIGHT BE SABOTAGE: BOXING ICON VIJENDER ON VINESH'S DISQUALIFICATION

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxing stalwart Vijender Singh has alleged that wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics final might be a case of sabotage as elite athletes like her are well-versed with the techniques of cutting weight before major competitions.

Vijender, who is India's first and only male boxer to have won an Olympic medal, knows a thing or two about maintaining weight before major bouts and he said it is shocking that Vinesh was 100gm over in the weigh-in before an Olympic final.

"I think it might be sabotage. 100gm, you have got to be kidding me. We athletes can shed 5 to 6kg overnight. It is difficult no doubt but we know how to control our hunger, thirst, and exert to the extreme," the middle-weight (75kg) boxer told PTI.

"And when I say sabotage I mean people who are not happy to see India rise as a sporting nation. This girl has been through so much, your heart breaks for her. What more could she have done? Which other test?" he wondered.

Vinesh was the face of a lengthy protest against former Wrestling Federation of India head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment and intimidation by women wrestlers. She had endured police detention, nights on the streets and a tumultuous qualification process before



making it here. The highlight of her remarkable performance at the Olympics was the opening win over defending champion Yui Susaki of Japan who came into the competition undefeated in her international career. "I can't believe that Vinesh would make a mistake like this. She has been an elite athlete for so long that she knows, there has to be something more to it. I am worried for her, I hope she is fine. What has happened is not good at all," said Vijender, a trailblazer in Indian boxing. Athletes who compete in contact sports, where fights

are held as per weight categories, have to go through the painful process of staying within their divisions. It involves going hungry for hours, avoiding even liquids and in some desperate situations, stay huddled inside layers of blankets to sweat out the extra weight. "There have been times when I have spat out saliva continuously so that nothing goes inside, you know. One can't imagine this extreme exercise. There are special Sauna suits that we wear, they feel like a furnace and there are times we run wearing them to shed weight," he explained.



It's an extraordinary exercise that takes a physical and mental toll on athletes and in 2018, six-time world champion woman boxer M C Mary Kom, in an interview to PTI, had revealed how she lost 2kg in a matter of four hours. Mary Kom had landed in Poland for a tournament, where she eventually picked up her third gold of that year. But hours before she was to take the ring, she had gone through the strenuous process of shedding weight just to be eligible to fight. "We landed in Poland at round 3-3:30 in the morning and the general weigh-in was at

around 7:30am. I was a couple of kilograms above 48kg, the category I compete in, at that point," she had said. "So, I had roughly four hours to shed that or I would have been disqualified for being over-weight at the time of general weigh-in. But I did skipping for an hour at a stretch and just like that, I was ready. "Thankfully, the flight we travelled in was nearly empty so I could sleep with my legs outstretched, ensuring that I was not stiff on landing there. Otherwise, I don't know how I would have been able to compete," she had revealed.



## Tough challenge awaits Chopra in bid for another piece of history

PTI ■ PARIS

His stunning monster throw of 89.34m in the qualification round made quite a statement but a tough challenge awaits defending champion Neeraj Chopra as he seeks another piece of history in the Paris Olympics men's javelin throw final round here on Thursday.

Just like he did at the same stage in the Tokyo Olympics three years back, Chopra needed just a few seconds to top the qualification round with his opening throw but the similarity ends there.

This time, the quality of the field is better than Tokyo with nine throwers crossing the automatic final round qualification mark of 84m in Paris as against six in Tokyo. Out of the nine, five made it to the final round with their first throws and thus will have a lot in their tanks for the medal round.

The 26-year-old Chopra knows it too well, having been in the global circuit for more than eight years.

"In the final, everyone has a different mindset and different situation. It will be a good competition. Whoever qualifies automatically is the best in preparation," Neeraj told journalists after his 'lightening' appearance on the field.

He was in a hurry to go back to the Games Village and take rest to prepare for his best for the final round, as a lot is at stake on Thursday.

Chopra will have a chance to become only the fifth man in Olympic javelin throw history to defend the title.

Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni Myyrä

(Finland; 1920 and 1924), Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to have defended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics.

If he wins gold, and for that matter a medal, he will become the most decorated Indian in Olympics in individual sport. Shuttler PV Sindhu (one silver, one bronze), wrestler Sushil Kumar (one silver, one bronze) and shooter Manu Bhaker (two bronze) have won two Olympic medals each post Independence.

The tremendous effort, which was the second best of his career, also set aside concerns surrounding Chopra's fitness after he revealed that he had been battling an adductor niggle in the build-up to the Games. His personal best continues to be 89.94m achieved back in 2022.

His 89.34m throw may also raise hopes of millions of Indian fans to see Chopra cross the elusive 90m mark on Thursday. His effort was also the second-best qualifying throw at an Olympics after the 89.39m registered by the legendary Jan Zelezny at 2000 Sydney Games.

But there were some ominous signs coming out from the qualification round which Chopra will have to be wary of. The peaking of two-time world champion Anderson Peters (personal best 93.07m) of Grenada as well as immediate hitting of form by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem may indicate that the final round at Stade de France could be a classic contest.

Peters, of the same age as Chopra, was beaten up and

thrown off a party boat in his native country just a few days after winning a silver medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. A month before that incident, he had won the World Championships gold in Eugene, USA, after beating Chopra with a monster throw of 90.54m.

The Grenadian, who interestingly finished third when Chopra won gold in 2016 World Junior Championships in Poland, has gone past 90m four times in his career and he is one of the few who have beaten the Indian superstar. His season's best of 88.63m in the qualification round could be a precursor to something bigger. Nadeem, who beat Peters to win the 2022 Commonwealth Games gold with 90.18m, is unpredictable and he has pulled off big throws earlier also. After coming back from an elbow surgery, he claimed silver behind Chopra in the 2023 Budapest World Championships with a throw of 87.82m.

Nadeem has not beaten Chopra in 10 meetings since 2016 but he can spring a surprise.

Czech Republic's experienced thrower Jakub Vadlejch could also be looking to make the records with Chopra as he had ended up with a silver in Tokyo Olympics. He had beaten Chopra for the gold in Doha Diamond League in May.

Conditions on Thursday may also be different from the qualification round. The final is expected to be cooler as it's happening in the evening as against daytime during the qualification round.

## Kellie of Ireland wins second boxing gold and retires

AP ■ PARIS

Kellie Harrington is an unusual boxing champion. She is passionate only about the amateur version of her pro-dominated sport, and she has long claimed to have no ambitions of being paid to fight.

Minutes after she stepped onto the podium at Court Philippe Chatrier to have her second gold medal hung around her neck Tuesday night, Harrington announced her retirement from boxing. The money to be made from being a two-time Olympic gold medalist in a passionate fight nation like Ireland still isn't enough for Harrington to change her plans after her magical run at the Paris Games.

"I'm done and dusted," Harrington said.



"I'm going to go out a champion. That's the way I want to go out. I don't want to go out and lose a fight and then retire. I'll retire happy."

Harrington is the first Irish woman to win gold medals at two Olympics, and she is just one of four Irish athletes to retain an Olympic title. After winning

three years ago in Tokyo, she clinched her second gold with a remarkable charge through the Paris field, capped by her 4-1 victory over China's Yang Wenlu at Roland Garros.

Harrington pressured Yang more than enough to get the victory despite losing the third round. The champion's most impressive win in Paris likely was in the semifinals, when she spectacularly outboxed Brazilian IBF lightweight champion Beatriz Ferreira, whose physicality and aggression had made her look like a gold-medal favorite.

Harrington isn't the fastest or the most powerful woman in the lightweight division, but she might be the best ever to fight at the weight in the four Olympics with women's boxing.

"It has been four fights with absolutely

fantastic opponents," Harrington said. "Everyone who is here is the best of the best. Everyone deserves respect."

Harrington's final drew thousands of Irish fans to the famed tennis arena where she clinched her gold. They waved flags, chanted her name and generally put on a party while their improbable boxing hero got her final job done.

"To have the support of the nation. It is just amazing," Harrington said. "The people here today lifted me. They made me feel like I wasn't tired and I was exhausted."

Harrington danced in the ring after her victory, clearly thrilled to be fighting in front of her frenzied fans instead of in the mostly empty Ryogoku Kokugikan in Tokyo three years ago.

## Demoralised India need to regroup quickly to win in bronze medal play-off

PTI ■ PARIS

A heart-wrenching defeat in the semifinals, notwithstanding, a demoralised Indian men's hockey team will have to regroup quickly and aim for a second consecutive podium finish at the Olympics when it takes on Spain in the bronze medal play-off here on Thursday.

The Indians played bravely against Germany, putting their defence under pressure from the start and in the process took the lead in the seventh minute through a penalty corner conversion by skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

But the Germans came back strongly in the second quarter and fourth quarters to secure the close win, courtesy some silly defensive lapses from the Indians, especially Jarmanpreet Singh.

The Indians too were guilty of wasting too many scoring chances, including as many as 10 penalty corners, while converting two, one directly and another through variation. The opposition teams seemed to have found out a way to deny one of the world's best drag-flicker Harmanpreet as he managed to be on target just once on Tuesday.

The over-reliance on Harmanpreet and lack of innovative penalty corner variations seemed to be hurting India badly here as they don't have much options in their hands.

But the return of Amit Rohidas, who missed Tuesday's match after being shown the red card against Great Britain in the quarterfinal, should bolster the Indian defence and also give more chances from



penalty corners as he is second best option from set pieces after Harmanpreet. The Indians were looking to break a 44-year-old jinx to reach an Olympic final but it eluded them narrowly.

The last time India made the Olympic hockey final was way back in 1980 Moscow Games, which, in fact, was their last of the eight gold medals at the quadrennial event.

A place in final would have at least assured India a silver medal after 1960 Olympics but that also slipped out of hands. But all is not lost for the Indians as they still have a chance to claim a podium finish if they beat Spain on Thursday in the bronze medal match.

For that, the Indians will have to leave the baggage of the semifinal loss behind and come out with a fresh mind to get the better of Spain. Veteran India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who is playing his last international tournament, reminded his teammates that all is not lost.

"It's a heartbreaking loss for us (against Germany). We had the chance to win gold, but now, we have to forget this semifinal

and focus on the bronze medal match," he had said.

"It's a medal match and it's about the country. It's about those 19 players here, all the staff. And I think we all get a last opportunity to play, to get a medal for our country rather than worrying about what happened today (Tuesday). "These 19 players should play like this is our last opportunity as a player to get a medal for our country."

Going by form and world ranking, the Indians are clear favourites to win the tie against Spain but in the end it will all boil down to the mental aspect of the side.

While India lost a close semifinal, Spain were thrashed 0-4 by Netherlands. In world ranking too, Spain are placed eighth while India are currently at the fifth spot. But it would be easier said than done for the Indians as Spain, while not matching India's Olympic achievements, has made significant strides in recent decades.

The Spanish team has secured two European Championship titles and has consistently participated in World Cups since 1971.

AP ■ PARIS

All the favored teams in the first three men's basketball quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics had problems. Canada lost to France, Serbia erased a 24-point deficit to beat Australia. Germany had to shake off a double-digit deficit before beating Greece.

So, going into the fourth and final game of the night, the U.S. Knew what it had to do. "We wanted to come out and make sure we were the aggressor," U.S. Coach Steve Kerr.

They made it look easy, too. Devin Booker led a balanced front with 18 points and the Americans had little trouble with Brazil in the quarterfinals of the Paris Olympics, winning 122-87 on Tuesday.

The U.S. (4-0) moves on to face Serbia (3-1) in Thursday's semifinals, while Germany (4-0) takes on France (3-1) in the other semifinal. Winners of those games will play Saturday

## US rolls into semifinals of basketball tournament, eases past Brazil 122-87

night for the gold medal; Thursday's losers will play Saturday morning for the bronze medal.

"Everybody expects us to win," U.S. Forward Jayson Tatum said. "But you don't take things for granted, right? Canada lost earlier. It's a different game. It's not like playoffs, where it's a series. We've got one game and a lot of (stuff) can happen in one game, especially over here."

If there was one issue, it was this: LeBron James left in the third quarter after catching an elbow around his left eye, struck by Brazil's Georjinho de Paula while going for a rebound. James went down, eventually pressed a towel over the eye and left for the locker room area later in the



third. Kerr said James needed four stitches.

"I'm all right," James said. "Got hit with an inadvertent elbow around the eye." Anthony Edwards scored 17 points, while Joel Embiid, booed again in France, of

course - had 14 points and seven rebounds in 12 first-half minutes for the Americans. Anthony Davis finished with 13 points and eight rebounds for the U.S. James had 12 points and nine assists. Kevin Durant scored 11 points

and passed Lisa Leslie as the U.S. Olympic career scoring leader, men's or women's. Leslie had 488 points in her four Olympic appearances, all of which ended with gold medals. Durant is trying to go 4 for 4 on the gold front as well; he's two wins away from getting that done. "He's incredible. He was born to play ball and he's simply incredible," James said. "I'm happy for him. Congratulations to him. I'm super proud of him. And he's got more to go."

There was a moment where Brazil might have thought it had a chance. It trailed the U.S. By only eight midway through the second quarter. A big deficit had turned into something rather manageable.

## Echikunwoke changes countries and wins a hammer silver for US

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS

This time at the Olympics, hammer thrower Annette Nneka Echikunwoke got to compete. Not only compete, but win a medal - for the United States.

Three years ago, Echikunwoke arrived at the Tokyo Games ready to represent Nigeria, but she wound up needing to leave before even getting to take a throw. Nigeria was among a handful of countries deemed "high risk" by track's anti-doping regulators in the lead-up to those Olympics - forcing its athletes to be subjected to more drug testing.

Echikunwoke was among those from Nigeria who did not meet the requirement and so was not allowed to participate. The 28-year-old was born in

Ohio and originally decided to represent Nigeria because that's where her parents are from. But after the issues in 2021, she switched her Olympic country to the U.S., and on Tuesday night became the first American woman to earn Summer Games medal in the hammer, getting a silver.

Echikunwoke was in the early lead before Canada's Camryn Rogers won the gold on her second-to-last throw. "I think (this medal) could have happened three years ago, but I'm happy it's happening now," Echikunwoke said. "I feel like everything happens for a reason, even if it's bad or good or ugly or whatever the case may be. This is beautiful." She remembers that time in Tokyo so vividly, such as not being able to walk in

the opening ceremony. "Not the best feeling, as you could imagine," said Echikunwoke, who went to the University of Cincinnati. Echikunwoke's application to change what country she would compete for finally came through at the last minute before the U.S. Nationals in 2022, and she earned a spot for the world championships that year.

Now, she's an Olympic medalist for the red-white-and-blue. "It doesn't feel right now," she said. "I can't really put it into words." Echikunwoke led after the third round Tuesday with a throw of 75.48 meters (247 feet, 7 inches). Rogers, though, threw the hammer 76.97 (252-6) on her second-to-last attempt to overtake her. Bronze went to Zhao Jie of China.



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## Top surfers converge in Kovalam for final National Surfing Championship

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Covelong Classic, the final National Surfing Championship of the year, is set to kick off at Kovalam near here on Thursday, with over 75 surfers from across the country competing for top honours.

The event will happen across four categories — Men's Open, Women's Open, Junior Boys & U-16, and Junior Girls & U-16. The 2024 season started with the International Surfing Festival Kerala Varkala, followed by the Indian Open of Surfing in Mangalore, and the third stop — Mahabs Point Break Challenge — happening earlier this month in Mahabalipuram. Covelong Classic will be a three-day surfing carnival organised by the Tamil Nadu Surfing Association under the aegis of the Surfing Federation of India, to be hosted by Surf Turf.

The competition has also received significant support from the Tamil Nadu Government and the Ministry of Youth Welfare and Sports Development.

Among the top surfers to participate will be Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, Harish M and

Ramesh Budihal in the Men's Open categories. Recently, Ajeesh, Harish and Srikanth were named in the Indian squad for the Asian Surfing Championship happening next week in Maldives. Additionally, Srikanth D will be looking to defend his title.

In the Women's Open category, Kamali P (ranked first) has already secured the overall championship title, making her performance at the Covelong Classic irrelevant. However, she is anticipated to face stern competition from fellow surfers Sandhya Arun (ranked second), Shrishti Selvam (ranked third), and Sugar Shanti Banarse (ranked fourth).

Kamali and Sugar have also been selected for the Indian squad competing in the Asian Surfing Championship, representing the Women's Open and Junior U-18 categories, respectively. Local surfers Tayin Arun and Kishore Kumar will grab eyeballs, thanks to their recent performances and national rankings in the Junior Boys & U-16 category.

Additionally, fellow local surfer Harish P, having gained

recognition for his impressive surfing skills, will aim to defend his Covelong Classic championship title with determination.

In the Junior Girls & U-16 category, defending champion Kamali P will look to secure a double victory, as she is a strong contender for both the Women's Open and Junior Girls & U-16 titles at the Covelong Classic. Meanwhile, Dhamayanthi Sriram (ranked second) and Saanvi Hegde (ranked third) will be putting forth their best efforts to claim the title.

Surfing Federation of India's president, Arun Vasu said, "As the surfing calendar culminates with the year's final national championship, the Covelong Classic, the best surfers are set to compete in the Asian Surfing Championship. I would like to extend my best wishes to all the surfers participating in this prestigious national championship."

Apart from the medals and trophies, victors in each category will receive cash rewards, with the overall competition champion being awarded a Jawa Yezdi motorbike.

# HISTORY-MAKING BHAKER ARRIVES HOME TO ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star pistol shooter Manu Bhaker landed back in the country on Wednesday after her historic feat of winning two medals in a single edition of the Olympic Games and was welcomed by hundreds of supporters and her family, who braved a steady drizzle to give her a memorable reception here. The Air India flight (AI 142), which brought Bhaker from Paris to Delhi, landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport at around 9:20am, delayed by one hour.

Hundreds of people, who waited at the airport long before her arrival despite the morning drizzle in the city, accorded her — and her coach Jaspal Rana — an enthusiastic reception. The 22-year-old Bhaker won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event — where she had paired with Sarabjot Singh — to script Olympic history for the country.

Before her, only British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had achieved the rare landmark for the country with his two silver

medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but this happened in the pre-Independence era. Before leaving for India, Bhaker had stated that she was looking forward to a grand welcome and she was not disappointed on Wednesday.

The youngster was greeted with bouquets, garlands, and celebratory dhol after emerging from the airport exit. Flower petals were showered on her and Rana as soon as they came out amid significant police presence to manage the crowd. Among those present were

Bhaker's parents — Ram Kishan and Sumedha — and sports enthusiasts and officials from her home state Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, the state to which Rana belongs. Rana's father was also there at the airport.

"It is a matter of pride for us that a daughter of India is coming back after creating history by winning two medals in an Olympics. It has never happened before. She is only 22 years old," said former Uttarakhand Sports Minister and Rana's father, Narayan Singh Rana. "She is coming along with her

coach Jaspal Rana. He is my son. He brought glory playing for India in shooting. Jaspal Rana and Abhinav Bindra started it all," he added.

People gathered at the airport long before her arrival and they celebrated her feat with song and dance, holding banners with photos of Bhaker and Rana.

Bhaker will be meeting sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya in the afternoon. She will head back to Paris on Saturday to participate in the closing ceremony on Sunday where she will be one of India's flag-bearers.

## Refugee athlete's dream of taekwondo medal cut short

AP ■ PARIS

Having overcome so many hurdles, the disappointment was immense for refugee athlete Hadi Tiranvalipour as his dream of winning an Olympic medal was cut short when he lost in a taekwondo qualification bout on Wednesday at the Paris Games.

Tiranvalipour was up against Omar Ismail of Palestine in the men's under 58 kilograms competition and was handed a 2-0 loss in a lopsided match at the lavish Grand Palais venue on the first day of taekwondo events.

"I'm not satisfied with my performance. I don't have an answer for this. I wanted a good result, it's not happening," he said. Before making the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, Tiranvalipour fought for eight years as a member of the



Iranian national team, winning the gold medal at the 2015 Asian Junior championship back in 2015. But Tiranvalipour, who also worked as a TV presenter and studied sports science, was forced to leave his country after speaking out in favour of women's rights, losing his job. In October 2022, he travelled to Turkey, then to Italy where he lived in a forest for 10 days and then slept three months

on a sofa in a shared accommodation that Iranian students had helped him find. "Our journey is too difficult," he said after his loss to Ismail. "Not for me, for all the refugee athletes. It's too difficult for each of us to be here." Athletes from the refugee team compete under the same flag and come from different parts of the world. The team was created for the Rio Olympics in 2016 as a symbol of hope

and to call attention to the plight of refugees worldwide. After training alone in a park, Tiranvalipour finally approached the Italian federation, which helped him apply for asylum and settle for good in the country.

In the build-up to the Games, he trained at the Olympic Sports Center in Roma with the likes of Vito Dellaquila, the defending Olympic champion.

After missing out on Olympic qualification during the European qualifiers in March, he was selected by the refugee Olympic team and had high expectations in Paris.

"I'm not satisfied because I had to much sacrifices about my losing weight process, my training. I'm really sad," he said.

"We passed so many difficult journeys. If you have a target, you have to keep going. Life is like this.

## US women's volleyball team advances to semifinal with straight-set win against Poland

AP ■ PARIS

The reigning Olympic champion U.S. Women's volleyball team posted a straight-set victory against Poland on Tuesday night at the Paris Olympics. The Americans led throughout while taking the first two sets, 25-22 and 25-14. They fell behind 5-0 and 7-1 in the third set before rallying to close it out, 25-20.

Next up is a semifinal date on Thursday with powerhouse Brazil, which swept the Dominican Republic earlier in the day. It's a rematch of the Tokyo Games final.

Turkey eliminated China with a 3-2 victory and was waiting on the result of Tuesday's late match between Italy and Serbia to learn its next opponent. US coach Karch Kiraly said he was thrilled to get his players off their feet sooner - and not have to play any extra sets, especially for setter Jordyn Poulter as she continues to regain her form in match play after coming back from a devastating left knee injury in December 2022 that required surgery. "To be able to chip away and get back and tie it up at 13-all and get out with 3-0 instead



of 17-15 in the fifth, which happens so often, that's really big, especially for somebody like Jordyn Poulter who's on a really good recovery," Kiraly said.

"But to have less lead here and more recovery before we play a really big Brazil team was big."

Kiraly made a lineup change after the team's five-set defeat to China on July 29 to open group stage play, moving veterans Jordan

Larson and Kelsey Robinson Cook to reserve roles and bringing in Avery Skinner and Kathryn Plummer. The Americans bounced back to beat Serbia two days later. The new starting six are beginning to click.

"The first time we ever played with this starting lineup was against Serbia, so now we've got three matches," Kiraly said.

"Most other teams have been playing for years with the same lineup. We now have three matches, so things are coming together." Andrea Drews had 13 points, while Plummer and Skinner contributed 12 apiece. Plummer credited the Americans for improving their service pressure and four-time Olympian Larson's boost off the bench to get them back in it.

"We started out the third set very slow, we tend to do that even when we have a 2-0 lead in the match," she said.

"We got out of that first rotation and then I think we just got strings of points together, had a couple of big momentum swings with some big blocks, some big serves... The third set was a testament to what happens when we stay together and connected.

## Sprint powerhouse Jamaica has had more injuries than medals and celebrations

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS

The midpoint of the Olympic track meet used to be time for Jamaican sprint stars - Usain Bolt, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and all the rest - to catch their breath, recover from their victory parties, then start gearing up for more.

This year in Paris, there hasn't been much to celebrate, and there's a sense that it could be years, not days, until the good times start rolling again for the Caribbean nation known for sun, sand and sprints. After Tuesday, which marked the halfway point of the action at the Stade de France, Kishane Thompson's silver in the 100 meters was the only medal the Jamaican team had won on the track.

And in a twist hardly anyone on the island could have ever imagined, Jamaica actually had more medals from field events

(three) than from sprinting. "I know the world is used to Jamaica winning, and Jamaica always celebrating," said Asafa Powell, the Jamaican legend who held or shared the 100-meter world record for nearly three years before Bolt broke it when he surged onto the scene in 2008. "But believe me, it's going to happen again."

THE JAMAICAN SPRINTING WOMEN HAVE DEALT WITH INJURIES: For the women's program, the problem has simply been getting a contender to the starting line.

Elaine Thompson-Herah, Shericka Jackson and Fraser-Pryce, all in their 30s, all pulled out of their Olympic sprints with injuries. They made up

the entire 100-meter podium in Tokyo in 2021.

The team that won 15 of the 24 Olympic medals in the women's 100 and 200 between 2008 and 2021 will go home with none this year. It will mark the first time since 1976 the country hasn't won a women's medal in either of those events.

"I think people appreciate us more when they see a down period like this," said Powell, who is in town hanging at the PUMA house, which used to be party central for Jamaica at the Olympics.

The pieces started crumbling on June 9, when Thompson-Herah, the two-time defending champion at 100 and 200 meters, hurt her Achilles at a meet in New York. Exactly a month later, Jackson, the second-fastest woman of all time at 200 meters, pulled up lame in a race in Hungary.



She arrived in Paris, only to pull out of the 100 first, then the 200. Even had she raced, there were questions as to what kind of impact she would have had in the 200 given her pedestrian 22.29-second run at Olympic trials. It left 37-year-old Fraser-Pryce

as the only healthy member left from the group. But that ended Saturday when, shortly before the 100 semifinals, she pulled out with an undisclosed injury, saying on social media it was "difficult for me to describe the depth of my disappointment."

WHO ARE THE NEXT

STARS FOR JAMAICAN TRACK?: Now, track fans await the lineup for Thursday's 4x100 relays.

Have the old guard healed enough to compete? Or will the world see the likes of Tia Clayton, 19, who finished seventh in the 100 final; Shashalee Forbes, 28, who finished sixth in the 100 semifinal; and Niesha Burgher, 21, who came in fifth in the 200-meter semifinal?

"It's a very young team," said Lanae Tava-Thomas, another relay candidate, who is 23 and finished fifth in the 200-meter semifinal. "We definitely have time to develop. It's going to be a very strong team when we get actually fully developed."

JAMAICA HAS A HISTORY OF FINDING NEW SPRINTERS: History shows there is hope for Jamaica. There was a time when Merlene Ottey (three silver, six

bronze medals over six Olympics with Jamaica) seemed irreplaceable. Then along came Veronica Campbell-Brown, who won eight Olympic medals, including three golds, over a stretch that covered 2004-16.

In the weeks before the 2008 Beijing Games, vitriol flew at the then-21-year-old newcomer, who then went by Shelly-Ann Fraser, from those who believed the spot she captured in the 100 was depriving Jamaica and "VCB" a sure medal. Fraser won gold that year and again in 2012. She won eight medals and became one of Jamaica's all-time greats over the span of four Olympics before this year.

If the next Fraser is out there, she hasn't arrived yet, though Thompson's relatively quick emergence on the men's side - he was a virtual unknown

outside the island before June - shows how fast things can change.

EVEN USAIN BOLT STARTED SLOWLY AT HIS FIRST OLYMPICS:

Remember this: Four years before he became an international celebrity, Bolt made his Olympic debut in the 200 meters in Athens. He went out quietly in the first round. Four years later, though, the 6-foot-5 force of nature turned the Olympic track into his own personal stage - 9-point-something seconds of running followed by a reggae-filled, dance-fest and capped off by his iconic bow-and-arrow victory pose.

At times during this Olympic track meet, it has felt like more than eight years have passed since Bolt reigned supreme. But Powell remains hopeful. "We will see Jamaica celebrating again," he said.