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MONEY 10  
SENSEX JUMPS TO  
TWO-WEEK HIGH

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SMITH EYES IPL  
COMEBACK AFTER  
SHOW IN MLC  
12 SPORTS

## Whither Gender Justice? Asks a Nation in Rage



Doctors medical professionals and students stage a protest march demanding justice for a woman doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on Friday. Ranjan Dimri

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Nationwide outrage has erupted in support of the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered in a State-run hospital in Kolkata last week. On Friday, healthcare workers took out a massive protest march at India Gate and other parts of the city, seeking justice for the victim and demanding stricter laws for safety of health staff, including doctors, at workplace. The evening march towards India Gate brought back memories of the Nirbhaya case when hundreds of thousands of Delhiites had hit

### CBI cracks the whip in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major development, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College, Dr Sandip Ghosh, was on Friday detained by the Central Bureau of Investigation for questioning. He was picked up by the CBI while returning from the Calcutta High Court where

he had filed a petition seeking police protection on the plea that his life was under threat. Ghosh — currently in the eye of storm — has been identified by the agitating doctors of the RG Kar Medical College as the "fountainhead" of all evils that plague the once best medical college in eastern India. Continued on Page 2

the streets to seek harsh punishment for the perpetrators of the crime. However, the police stopped the protesting doctors from making their way to the India Gate from Safdarjung hospital. Anyhow some managed to arrive at the site carrying placards: "Mahila apna haq mangti, nahi kisi se bheek mangti" and "ek do teen char, band karo ye atyachar". Healthcare workers, including doctors, resident doctors and lab technicians, were present on India Gate as they marched on the Kartavya Path demanding justice for the victim. They termed the crime as "gut wrenching" and pressed for the Central Protection Act for health workers to be enforced. Meanwhile, the Indian Medical Association, the largest body of private medical practitioners across the country, has announced a 24-hour nationwide withdrawal of non-emergency services from 6 am on Saturday. "Out-patient departments (OPD) will not function and elective surgeries will not be conducted. The withdrawal is across all sectors wherever modern medicine doctors are providing services," the IMA said. Continued on Page 2

## Jammu and Kashmir Get final date for tryst with peace from EC

RAJESH KUMAR/MOHIT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

For the first time since the scrapping of Article 370 in 2019, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday announced Assembly elections to Jammu and Kashmir in three phases with the first phase to be held on September 18, second on September 25 and third phase on October 1. Results will be announced on October 4. This will be the shortest elections in at least the last two decades in the region. The phase of the J&K election is significant, given that over the last two decades, due to the region's security concerns, polls have consistently been held in at least four phases or more. J&K has been without an elected House for five years now. The last election was held in undivided J&K in 2014. This marks a big step forward in efforts to meet a Supreme Court order — that democracy return to Jammu and the Kashmir Valley by September 30. Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcomed the announcement of Assembly elections there and said the polls will further strengthen the roots of democracy and open the doors to a new period of development for the region. Shah also appealed to the people of J&K to actively



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with election commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu during a press conference to announce the schedule for "General Election to Legislative Assemblies 2024", in New Delhi, on Friday. PTI

participate in the elections and vote in large numbers to form a Government that will sustain peace and development, and ensure a brighter future for the youth. "I welcome the announcement of the Assembly elections in J&K made by the Election Commission of India today. In the last 10 years, the Modi Govt through a series of relentless initiatives, has created a new era of peace, development and strengthening democracy in J&K," he wrote on 'X'. Almost all the parties, including National Conference, Congress, BJP,

CPI(M) and DPAP, thanked the Election Commission and said the poll announcement maintained the supremacy of the Supreme Court which had set the September 30 deadline for the holding of the much awaited Assembly elections in J&K. There are 90 seats in the Assembly of J&K post delimitation, with 43 seats in the Jammu region and 47 in Kashmir. Of these, 74 are general seats, nine are Scheduled Caste candidates, and seven for Scheduled Tribes. Announcing the schedule for the J&K Assembly polls, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told a Press conference in New Delhi the three-phase

elections to the 90-member J&K Assembly will be held on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The announcement comes a week after CEC along with Election Commissioners, visited the Union Territory. Kumar said elections will be held in J&K after a long time. "The people want change... they want to script a new future," Kumar said, as he outlined the poll body's plans to hold a safe and successful election in J&K. "We recently visited J&K to take stock of election preparation. Great enthusiasm was seen... people want to participate in the process. People want elections as early as possible..." he said, recalling the "long queues" at polling booths in J&K and Ladakh during the Lok Sabha election. Asked about the decision to hold polls in just three phases, Kumar said the choice was deliberately made to keep the process short, considering the Commission's experience during the Lok Sabha polls, which were criticised for being inordinately long. "In true spirit of keeping that promise, we present the shorter election period in the best possible and conducive environment," he said. He added that the Commission will ensure due security for all candidates in J&K as requested by political parties. Continued on Page 2

## Haryana set to vote in a new Assembly on October 1, 2024



Representative Image

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Given barely two weeks to finalise their candidates, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday announced that the Haryana Assembly polls will be held in a single phase on October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 4. The 90-seat Haryana Assembly's term is ending on November 3. This will be the first time in nearly 20 years that the two States will go to polls separately. It was in 2004 when Assembly elections were held in Maharashtra alone. Haryana went to polls a few months later in 2005. But since 2009, both States have been going to polls together. In 2019, elections in both Haryana and Maharashtra were held on October 21. While announcing the poll schedule, Chief Election

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said Assembly elections in Maharashtra, which were held along with Haryana in 2019, will be announced later due to security requirements for Jammu and Kashmir. He said four elections are due this year and by early next year and since Jammu and Kashmir was not in the picture last time (2019-20) the Commission decided to group two Assembly elections together. "There was heavy rainfall in Maharashtra, BLOs (both level officers) have to complete their work. There are several festivals too that have to be factored in. "Ganesh Festival, Pitru Paksha, Navratri, Diwali, all that put together this is what we thought we could handle as two elections at a time," the

CEC said. In the past three cycles, the EC had announced Haryana and Maharashtra elections together. Maharashtra Assembly's term is expiring on November 26. Kumar also hinted that the Maharashtra elections could be held after Diwali. Moreover, since Maharashtra is a large State, the poll panel will have to deploy heavy security over there too for the Assembly elections. Since Haryana's Assembly term will wrap up earlier on November 3, it was easier for EC to club it with J&K. Elections are due in both Maharashtra and Jharkhand by the end of this year. The State polls will see the BJP, the ruling party, go up against a resurgent Congress after a neck-and-neck fight in the Lok Sabha elections two months ago. The Assembly election in Haryana is a litmus test for ruling BJP, which has been ruling the state since 2014. For the BJP, the ground reality this time is quite different from five years ago. Both the parties won five seats each in the Lok Sabha polls and back in 2019, the saffron party won 40 out of 90 Assembly seats in Haryana. Continued on Page 2

## Centre asks for accountability on medical fraternity attacks across the country



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In what is being seen as a damage control move amid nationwide protests by doctors following the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee medico at Kolkata's State-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, the Centre on Friday instructed the heads of Government hospitals across the country to file an institutional First Information Report (FIR) within six hours of any incidence of violence. The Union Health Ministry has been facing criticism for its failure to provide a safe environment for the medical fraternity despite several cases of violence against healthcare workers reported in the past within hospital premises. In fact, Friday's directive by the chief of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Dr Atul Goel, to file FIR within six hours of an incident follows a recent circular from the National Medical Commission (NMC), the country's apex medical education regulator, which similarly stated that in the event of any violence, there should be a prompt

investigation by the college management, FIRs should be lodged with the police, and an action-taken-report should be sent to the NMC within 24 hours. In the memorandum issued on Friday, the DGHS stated that "in the event of any violence against any healthcare worker while on duty, the head of that institution shall be responsible for filing an institutional FIR within a maximum of 6 hours of the incident." "Recently, it has been observed that violence against doctors and other healthcare staff in Government hospitals has become common. A number of health workers suffer physical violence while on duty. Many are threatened or subjected to verbal aggression. Most of this violence is perpetrated by either the patient or the patient's attendants," the memorandum added. This has been a long-standing demand of resident doctors, as FIRs are not filed in connection with many incidents despite existing mechanisms. The doctors have also been seeking enactment of a Central Protection Act to deter violence against medical personnel on duty. A draft prepared in 2019, following similar outrage over the assault on a doctor in Kolkata, proposed imprisonment for up to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh for violence against doctors on duty is still in a limbo. The DGHS advisory also stated that all Central Government hospitals should maintain a registry of such incidents and report them to the Health Ministry. Continued on Page 2

## INDIA REACHES FOR THE SKIES



ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle-03 (SSLV-D3) carrying Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-08) leaves a trail of smoke after it lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on Friday. PTI

## PM Modi thanks world leaders for their support on India's I Day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday thanked several world leaders for their wishes on India's 78th Independence Day and told French President Emmanuel Macron that their interactions over the years have added great strength to the ties between two countries. He told Macron that they will keep working together to further global good. Modi lauded his UAE counterpart Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his personal commitment to strong ties between India and the UAE.

## How many mounds? ASI seems helpless

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the agricultural activities causing irreparable damage to excavation sites at Rakhigarhi and Rakhishahpur village in Hissar district, Haryana, the Centre has moved to include these sites under its protection. The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) last week issued a notification seeking to declare the two mounds, identified as Mound VI and Mound VII at the villages, known for their significant evidence related to the Indus Valley Civilization. Archaeologists regard Rakhigarhi as one of the largest Indus Valley sites, with valuable artifacts and historical evidence excavated since the ASI began its work in the region in 1963.

The need for Central protection measures gained urgency by recent damage to a skeleton by the farmers in the region. It was excavated by ASI excavation team led by its director Dr Sanjay K Manjul. The skeleton, believed to be over 4,000 years old was found in a cemetery at Mound VII. Currently, Mounds VI and VII are privately owned, necessitating Government acquisition of the land and compensation to the farmers. An ASI official stated that including the sites in the protection list would help preserve historical evidence and ensure that future generations appreciate this ancient civilisation. According to the information available, there are seven mounds at the Harappan site in



Rakhigarhi village. Mounds 1, 2, 3, and parts of 4 and 5 are already under ASI control, but Mounds 6 and 7 remain privately owned. Mound 6 covers 33 acre, while Mound 7 spans about six acre, both

currently owned by farmers are used for agriculture. The lack of preservation at these sites has already impacted the historical evidence. "The skull of the skeleton is badly damaged... The damage

might have been the result of the agricultural activities in the area," said Manjul, as per a media report. He also pointed out that sand mining by the farmers poses a serious threat to the site. He said while the rest of the skeleton is in good condition, the skull has sustained damage. "Agricultural activities by farmers over the years seem to have damaged part of the skull. This damage may make it challenging to extract a DNA sample for further analysis," he said. In addition to the skeleton, the excavation unearthed 21 earthen utensils found near the remains. "The skeleton appears to be that of a middle-aged man. Our previous excavations have revealed similar burial rituals involving utensils, suggesting continuity in these practices,

Manjul noted. The team also discovered a seal from Mound number 3. Rakhigarhi is recognised as one of the largest sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Current excavations underscore its significance as a major metropolis of ancient times, featuring a well-planned urban layout with distinct residential, industrial, and institutional areas, as well as a cemetery. Signed by Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director General of the ASI, the organisation on August 3, 2024 issued a draft notification seeking public objections and comments that aims to prevent encroachment and mitigate the impact of agricultural activities by declaring the sites of national importance. Continued on Page 2



# Will go with Congress, NCP's CM choice: Uddhav

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ahead of three of its constituents — Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharad Pawar) — arriving at the seat-sharing pact among them, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Friday launched a joint campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, even as Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray urged the allies against squabbling over seats or the chief minister's post. On a day when the Election Commission of India indicated that the October 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls might get delayed a bit, the MVA held a rally at the Shanmukhananda Hall in north-central where they vir-

tually kick-started their joint campaign for the Assembly polls. Speaking at the joint rally, former chief minister and Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray — who is expected to play a crucial role in the Opposition's campaign for the State Assembly — made a strong case for the MVA putting up a united face in the polls.

"Given that the seat-adjustments talks are currently on, let's settle the matters in a give-and-take manner... Even in the case of the chief ministerial candidate's choice, let's not make issues. Let the NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar announce their candidates, I will support their choice. But, let's not squabble over the sharing of seats," Uddhav said. "I don't think I am fighting



the polls for myself but I am for the rights of Maharashtra. My opinion is that the chief ministerial candidate must be decided first, rather than going by the logic that the chief minister will be the party which wins the most seats in the polls," the Sena (UBT) chief said. Uddhav's statement came in the midst of speculation that the State Congress has recommended to their party

high command that Uddhav be made the MVA's joint campaign. Meanwhile, there is unanimity among all the MVA partners that senior Congress leader and former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan be made the joint manifesto committee. On his part, Sharad Pawar — who is the chief architect of the MVA — has chosen to remain silent on the issue of the chief ministerial face. Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uddhav said: "These two senior BJP leaders look at Maharashtra as a cock that lays golden eggs. Mumbaikars will get to know how the BJP will treat them in the Assembly polls. In the Lok Sabha polls, Maharashtra has

given direction to the country. We should follow the same trend and tempo in the State Assembly polls". "Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena may have stolen the Shiv Sena's original symbol of bow and arrow, but we are not making an issue of that... We are going to polls with the new allotted symbol of 'Mashaal' (Flaming Torch). Even in the case of Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar has stolen the original 'Clock' symbol clock. However, the Congress continues to have the symbol of hand," the Sena (UBT) chief minister said. "As the MVA, we will go to the polls with the Congress' 'hand' symbol, NCP (SP)'s 'Man blowing Turah' and we as the Shiv Sena (UBT) with 'Mashaal'" Uddhav said.

## INBRIEF

### GNDU CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Amritsar:** Prof. Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University unfurled the National Flag at Guest House Lawns of the University at the eve of 78th Independence Day. Prof. K.S. Kahlon, Registrar, Prof. Preet Mohinder Singh Bedi, Security Students' Welfare and Amarbir Singh Chahal, Security Officer and officials were present on this occasion.



### TCS HIRED 65 GNDU STUDENTS

**Amritsar:** The Directorate of Placement & Career Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University organised Campus Drive by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company for B.Tech. and MCA students of GNDU — Batch 2024 under the able leadership of Vice Chancellor Dr. Jaspal Singh Sandhu. The company selected 65 students from these courses. These students have been offered a package in the range of Rs. 3.36 Lakhs to Rs. 9.00 Lakhs per annum. The students belong to Guru Nanak Dev University main campus, Regional Campuses of Jalandhar and Guraspur. These students will join their jobs after passing out their respective courses.

### NFR CELEBRATES 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Malgao:** The 78th Independence Day of the Nation was celebrated by the Northeast Frontier Railway with due pomp and grandeur throughout its jurisdiction. The main programme was held at the NFRSA complex in Malgao where Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N.F. Railway hoisted the National Flag in the presence of a large gathering, including members of the railway family. The ceremony featured an impressive Guard of Honour by RPF contingents, the Territorial Army, Civil Defence, Bharat Scouts & Guides, and school children. N.F. Railway Construction Organisation also celebrated the 78th Independence Day. Arun K Chaudhary, General Manager/N.F. Railway (Construction) hoisted the National Flag at the programme that was organised at the GM/NFR (Construction) office.



### CANARA BANK ORGANISES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

**New Delhi:** Canara Bank Regional Office West Delhi Vikasapuri has organized Canara Bank Dr. Ambedkar Vidya Jyoti scholarship scheme on 14.08.2024. The programme was organised under the chairmanship of Ravi Kumar, Assistant General Manager Regional Office West Delhi and chief guests Rajveer Singh (DDE West Delhi-B), Neera (DDE West Delhi), and Mahesh Chandra (DDO West Delhi). Bank has distributed Rs 216000/- as scholarship to 54 girl students of SC/ST community under West Delhi RO jurisdiction.



# Aavani Ponpulari could see rise of new 'sun' in DMK politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The month of Aavani (Tamil equivalent of Bhadra) which commences on Saturday could usher in major changes in the hierarchy of DMK politics, according to sources close to party leadership. "Chances of Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of chief minister and DMK supremo M K Stalin getting elevated as deputy chief minister have brightened," said the State's seasoned political commentator Gauthaman Ramakrishnan, the chief editor of Sri TV. It was Gauthaman who had told The Pioneer before the Lok Sabha poll that the BJP and the AIADMK would not win even a single seat from the State. Stalin is leaving for a long tour to US ostensibly to attract entrepreneurs to invest in Tamil Nadu. "But the chief minister's top priority is to undergo medical treatment for a long suffering ailment. He wants Udhayanidhi to be the stand-in for him during the period he is away from the country," said Gauthaman. Sources close to Stalin and the DMK leadership (read the Stalin clan) concurred with what Gauthaman told this newspaper. "Thalapathy (Tamil term for commander) wants to groom Udhayanidhi to take



over the chief minister's chair when the time is ripe. The second rung leaders have understood their position in the party and are only worried about their accessibility to Stalin's son, daughter, son-in-law and of course Durga, the chief minister's spouse," said a party leader. As part of his mission to make Udhayanidhi's elevation a smooth affair, Stalin has eased out other senior leaders from positions of prominence they enjoyed in the party during the tenure of late M Karunanidhi, his father. Kanimozhi, Stalin's step sister has been made the face of DMK in New Delhi while Dayanidhi Maran, the chief minister's nephew has ended up as a cheerleader for Kanimozhi," said a seasoned political commentator who is well aware of what is happening in the DMK. T R Balu, a

one time powerhouse in the DMK finds himself sidelined and this could be understood from his body language in parliament and outside. Durai Murugan, the PWD minister has also become a pale shadow of what he was during Karunanidhi days. Durga Stalin, who visits all temples in south India to pray for her husband's longevity is now consulting all leading astrologers to find out the auspicious occasion for the chief minister to promote Udhayanidhi as the second in command of the Government. The grapevine is that Stalin is likely to announce the promotion of Udhayanidhi on August 19 as it is the most auspicious day before the former planes for the US. The day is observed as Aavani Avittam and an auspicious day to venture out for new missions.

# Shah, Modi treat Maha as personal ATM: Cong's Patole

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah Maharashtra as their personal "ATM", Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said here on Friday that the two senior BJP were desperately trying to render the state "bankrupt". Speaking at the joint rally of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), Patole said: "The ruling BJP has earned money through corruption. Two leaders sitting in Delhi are looting Maharashtra by treating it as their personal ATM. Now, they are trying to bankrupt Maharashtra. We will defeat the BJP alliance in the Assembly polls and shut down Modi and Shah's ATM permanently, and use the state's money for its people". Patole further said that in a democracy, the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) held an important position. "The ruling party and the opposition are the two wheels of democracy, but during the Independence Day program, LOP Rahul Gandhi was not given due respect. This amounts to the murder of democracy.

# 'Give back City of Joy, take back City of Bhoy'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

No more a City of Joy... but a City of Bhoy (fear)." That is how the medical doctors of Bengal portrayed the present scenario in the State's healthcare system even as the doctors' cease work against the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee colleague entered seventh day on Friday throwing the entire medical service out of gear. This, even as the students of St Xavier's and Presidency University joined the stir demanding "Justice" for the departed victim and "Azadi" for women at work place. "Till how long shall we the women be treated like utility commodities... and how long the powers that be shall play the hush-up game... is the woman an outlet for rancor," cried Dr Pardeep of RG Kar Medical College Hospital the epicenter of the present movement where a postgraduate trainee was raped and murdered in the wee hours of Saturday triggering country-wide protests. "We are calling our brave friend 'Abhaya'... do you know what she wrote in the final entry of her personal diary probably a night or two before her brutal rape and murder... she wrote 'I want to win a Gold Medal... that is my dream'... look how her dream and that of uncle and aunty lie strewn and shattered

in the seminar hall of our Medical College," a classmate of the departed soul said quoting the victim's parents. She "definitely fell victim to the dirty affairs... the dirty rackets that are going inside the hospital... we all are terrorised" a nurse said wondering "if a doctor is not safe what value a nurse has." "Though an estimated five lakh people or even more might have been sent back in the entire state without treatment hardly a single voice has been raised... as the patient families too are with us... they too realise the urgency of the situation... they too understand that the camel's back has been broken... this far no further... we want justice and will settle for not an inch less," Priankar a pass-out of SSKM Postgraduate Medical College and hospital who had come to express solidarity with his RG Kar juniors. His views are reinforced by the scene destruction at the RG Kar Medical College which was raided and ransacked by thousands of people in the midnight of August 14 apparently and allegedly to destroy evidence. "But fortunately they could not reach the third floor and returned from the second floor," said Dr Debabrata an Assistant Professor adding "this shows the empathy of the powers that be for the movement and the sympathy they have for the family of the victim."

# Jeevan Jyoti Hospital celebrates Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava



PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Jeevan Jyoti Hospital celebrated the 78th Independence Day with patriotic fervour on Thursday. On the occasion Jeevan Jyoti Hospital Director and eminent IVF expert Dr Vandana Bansal, Advanced laparoscopy and cancer surgeon Dr Arpit Bansal and Pooja Gopalani Bansal, Interventional Radiologist Dr Harshit Bansal, senior consultants Dr Alok Khare, Dr RK Sharma, Dr Mool Narayan Verma, Dr Vishal Srivastava, Dr Mohammed Akhtar Ansari hoisted the National Flag on the hospital's premises. The flag hoisting ceremony was followed by singing of National Anthem. The doctors and staff also paid rich floral tributes to Dr AK Bansal, founder of Jeevan Jyoti Hospital on the occasion. Addressing the gathering Dr Vandana Bansal reiterated her commitments towards the country by providing the best of medical care to patients with a smile on face. Patriotism is not only love, loyalty and dedication towards one's own country, it's also about good moral values. The feeling of patriotism should be rooted in good moral values and commitment towards the family and the

society. We need to re-establish these values, for an ideal society. Because, an ideal society will become the basis of a developed nation. We also have to remain dedicated towards our workplace, as it's also a unit of the country. We have to remain disciplined towards our goals and life. Besides, imbibing good value system in children so that they become a good citizen is also patriotism, she added. Dr Alok Khare said on this day let's take a pledge that we will energetically work for the progress of the country. We need to remain dedicated towards our work. We should have a feeling of solidarity towards each other. It's also a responsibility to serve every patient coming to the hospital with a smile and utmost dedication and care. Dr Vishal Srivastava said it's a matter of great pride that we are celebrating Independence Day with so much of joy and patriotic fervor. It's also the day to remember and pay due respect to all those freedom fighters and brave Army personnel who made this day possible. India is a country of diversity. Still, we are standing together to celebrate the Independence Day. This is the beauty of Indian culture." Sweets and snacks were distributed to all the people on the occasion.

# Centre asks for accountability...

**From Page 1** Filing an institutional FIR is necessary to ensure that investigations and cases may continue even if the original complainant — often resident doctors — has moved to other hospitals after completing their education or tenure. Dr Siddharth Tara of the Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum said, "Indian health care system rests on the shoulders of women-right from ASHA workers to female nurses and doctors. It's about their right to earn a living with dignity and safety at their workplaces. "A central law that protects health care workers from violence can no longer be denied to us. Major hospitals should be considered as critical industrial sites like airports and oil refineries, and CISF personnel should be deployed to control entry and exit points. In view of the administrative complicity in RG Kar Medical College, all medical courses in colleges which fail to provide a safe workplace to their trainee doctors should be derecognised by NMC. No new batches of students should be admitted there. "Various surveys have shown that doctors are not feeling safe within their working zones. A survey by the Indian Medical Association has revealed that 82.7 per cent of doctors feel stressed out in their profession, 62.8 per cent fear violence, and 46.3 per cent cite violence as a major cause of their stress. In a similar survey released by a National Medical Commission (NMC) task force, says that nearly 28 per cent of undergraduate and 15.3 per cent of post-graduate medical students have been diagnosed with mental health conditions.

# Jammu and Kashmir...

**From Page 1** In 2002, polls were conducted over four phases in September and October. In 2008, elections were held in seven phases in November and December; and in 2014, they were conducted in five phases. Notably, all three election cycles were for the state before bifurcation. In August 2019, the Union government carved out the Union Territory of Ladakh from Jammu & Kashmir. The erstwhile state had 111 seats — 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu, and four in Ladakh. Jammu and Kashmir has 87.09 lakh eligible electorates with an equal percentage of males and females, said the CEC, adding that the total number of polling stations will be over 11,800. Among the total voters, 44.46 lakh are male, 42.62 are female and 3.71 lakh are first time voters. Average voters per polling station is 735, showed the EC

data. The final electoral roll will be published on August 20. According to the timeline shared by the poll body, a gazette notification will be issued on September 9. The last date for making nominations for Phase I is August 27, while the last date for withdrawing candidatures is August 30. Polling for Phase I will be held on September 18. In December last year, the Supreme Court directed the central government to conclude the election process in the Union territory by September 30, 2024. With the announcement of the poll schedule, the focus has now immediately shifted towards making elaborate security arrangements in the region, especially in the backdrop of a surge in incidents of terrorist violence across the Jammu region and parts of Kashmir valley.

# Whither Gender Justice...

**From Page 1** It said doctors, especially women, are vulnerable to violence because of the nature of the profession. "It is for authorities to provide for the safety of doctors inside hospitals and campuses. Both physical assaults and crimes are a result of indifference and insensitivity of the authorities concerned to the needs of doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers." A 50 year old Dr Nimrita travelled all the way from Faridabad and said, "We really need a overhaul to bring in security and safety measures for women in healthcare services. I have two children and now I am really questioning if I should ask them to not choose this field as their career." Other 28 year old resident doctor from Maulana Azad Medical College elaborated how they do not feel safe in the rooms assigned to them for resting during their night shifts. "We feel unsafe all the time. The rooms given to us for resting during our night shifts are far from secure. There are few guards who are unavailable to reach even if we call," she said. A lab technician Ajeet who is from Kolkata and works in Delhi said that his head hangs in shame when he listens to such brutal attacks on women by men. "We demand justice for her and every women that goes through such heinous crime. We also want that government brings Central Protection Act," he said. Doctors and medical students of the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) also demanded for the act to be put in place. Meanwhile, the Nirman Bhawan, located near Parliament in Lutyens' Delhi, houses the Ministry of Health besides other departments also were witness to the protests that started in noon. The Maulana Azad Road was blocked as a large number of doctors protested there, with some wearing black bands on their sleeves. Hundreds were seen holding posters and Mansi, a female doctor from Lady Hardinge Medical College, held one that read, "Where can we go just to be safe?" Later, six members of the doctors' delegation went inside the Nirman Bhawan to meet government officials. The decision to hold the protest was made on the eve of Independence Day following a joint meeting of the representatives from multiple resident doctors' associations (RDAs), including those from AIIMS, SIH, MAMC, RML, LHMC, UCMS and DDU. The associations collectively agreed to implement a common unified action plan aimed at pushing for a central protection Act, which they believe is crucial for safeguarding the interests and lives of healthcare workers across the nation.

# CBI cracks Haryana... the whip in...

**From Page 1** Ghosh has been asked under whose instructions the hospital authorities contacted the parents of the victim lady doctor — who was found raped and murdered early on Saturday morning — and told them that their daughter was seriously ill and then that she had committed suicide. The officials have also asked him as to why no police complaint was lodged by the authorities for more than two hours of the body being discovered and why it was left on the police to come and find out things for them," sources said adding the doctor was also asked to explain his conduct by making the parents of the victim to wait for three hours before allowing them to see their daughter's body. Other doctors including departmental heads of the RH Kar Hospital were being questioned by the CBI officials, sources said. According to sources Ghosh "has not been arrested as yet... he has just been taken at the CGO complex for questioning because he had ignored an earlier summons of appearance sent to him by the CBI."

**From Page 1** The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) secured 10 seats and formed an alliance by joining hands with the BJP. Manohar Lal Khattar, who was chosen as the chief minister in 2014, had got a second term in office five years ago. On March 12 this year, Khattar stepped down as chief minister and Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the CM. Khattar's resignation marked the end of BJP's alliance with JJP. The Congress in 2019 missed out on an opportunity to form the government in Haryana five years ago despite winning 31 seats after JJP decided to share power with the BJP. The grand old party would be hoping to come back to power in the state it ruled from 2004 to 2014 under now leader of opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The parliamentary polls, meanwhile, breathed a new lease of life into the Congress that is now confident about its chances of ending BJP rule. For the party, containing its infighting and keeping the different factions in line will be a key challenge if it has to return to power. The Congress has been attacking the BJP as part of its 'Haryana Maange Hisab' campaign, after its launch on July 15, targeting the ruling party over several issues concerning farmers as well as unemployment, law and order and others.

# How many mounds? ASI...

**From Page 1** Signed by Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director General of the ASI, the organisation on August 3, 2024 issued a draft notification seeking public objections and comments that aims to prevent encroachment and mitigate the impact of agricultural activities by declaring the sites of national importance. It states: "Whereas the Central Government is of the opinion that the archaeological site and remains as specified in the site plan and schedule annexed hereto are of national importance; Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (24 of 1958)... "The Central Government hereby gives notice of its intention to declare the said archaeological site (mound VI and mound VII) and remains to be of national importance." The recognition of Rakhigarhi as one of Asia's most endangered heritage sites by the Global Heritage Fund underscores the urgency of safeguarding this historical treasure.



# City Government deliberately sitting on 11 CAG reports: LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday said the AAP government is sitting on 11 CAG Reports and deliberately avoiding putting them in the Assembly. Taking note of this, he has written to Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, urging him to ensure that these reports are tabled in the Assembly at the earliest. According to officials, The CAG on July 18 informed the LG Secretariat that 11 of its reports were pending with the Delhi finance minister. Raj Niwas officials said Saxena has been constantly flagging the inordinate delay by AAP Government in laying these reports in Delhi Assembly. Eleven CAG

Reports pertaining to State Finances, Pollution Mitigation, Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi, Appropriation Accounts, regarding PSUs and social and general sectors and Performance Audit Report on Children in Need of Care and Protection are pending with Finance Minister Atishi Marlena. Some of these CAG Reports are pending since 2022, they added. The CAG Report on "Performance Audit on Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi" for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22, was sent to Delhi Government on 04.03.2024, and it is pending with Atishi Marlena since 11.04.2024. The CAG Report on "Performance Audit on Regulation and Supply of



Liquor in Delhi" is critical in wake of the AAP Government's controversial and failed Excise Policy, which was later scrapped by Kejriwal Government following charges of rampant corruption. On 18.07.2024, the Controller of Accounts, GNCTD, informed the LG Secretariat that all the above CAG Audit Reports are pending with the Finance Minister, Atishi Marlena. On 22.02.2024, Saxena had also written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal regarding pendency of these CAG Report and requested him to "advise the Finance Minister, Delhi, to expeditiously lay them before the Assembly." It is constitutional mandate to lay the CAG Reports on the State Finances and per-

formance of various sectors related to governance in Delhi, as per Article 151 of the Constitution read with Section 48 of the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 and Regulation 210 of the Regulations on Audit and Accounts, 2007. "By not laying the CAG Reports in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, the Delhi Government is avoiding the scrutiny by the Legislative Assembly and the public at large, undermining the very basis of democratic accountability," Saxena said. "Such a lapse by the Government of Delhi in the matter of laying pending CAG Reports before the Delhi Legislative Assembly amounts to gross dereliction of their constitutional obligations," he said. Earlier also, a number of

CAG reports including those on the performance of Delhi Jal Board and the private power discoms in Delhi were deliberately kept pending by the AAP Government for several years, prompting the LG to flag the delays. "I would urge you to exercise your power and authority upon the Delhi government to ensure that necessary steps are taken under law for laying all pending CAG reports before the Delhi Assembly in the ensuing session without further delay," the LG said. Depriving the assembly from exercising its legislative control over the executive and avoiding the examination and scrutiny by the Committee on Public Accounts is a "clear violation" of the constitutional and legal provisions, he added.

## Kejriwal waging toughest fight against dictatorship: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia extended birthday wishes to the jailed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and said the party supremo has been fighting the "toughest battle against the dictatorship going on in the country". The Aam Aadmi Party will hold a series of events to celebrate Kejriwal's birthday, who turned 56 on Friday. AAP workers gathered outside Tihar and cut a cake to mark his birthday. Pradeep Lohan, an AAP leader who had organised the celebration, said, "We wanted to meet him but were not allowed. We cut a cake to commemorate his birthday. Our message to him is, 'You will soon be with us.'"



Kejriwal. Thank you very much to everyone. Amid this political conspiracy, I have full faith that the Constitution of the country is still intact and the Supreme Court will protect democracy and deliver justice soon," she said in a post on X in Hindi. Sisodia, who was granted bail in the excise policy case last week by the Supreme Court,

called Kejriwal his "political guru". "Happy birthday to the chief minister of Delhi, my dear friend and political guru Arvind Kejriwal ji, who fought the toughest battle against the dictatorship going on in the country". "We are proud to be soldiers of a patriotic and revolutionary leader who chose to go to

jail rather than kneel before a dictator. Today the country's democracy is imprisoned in the form of Arvind Kejriwal," Sisodia said in a post in Hindi on X. The former deputy chief minister will also commence his foot march in the evening. In a post on X, AAP said, "Arvind Kejriwal is an idea that gets stronger the more it is suppressed." Delhi minister Atishi described Kejriwal as a "revolutionary of modern India" and exuded confidence that he would soon come out of jail. "Today is the birthday of Arvind Kejriwal, the revolutionary of modern India, who changed the condition of Delhi with his governance model. "Give new hope to the people of Delhi with his honest politics. Arvind Ji, who shaped the future of millions of people while fighting dictatorship, is today in jail in a false case. But truth will prevail, and the favourite chief minister of Delhiites will come out," she said on X. Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. The Supreme Court has granted him interim bail, but he is still in jail as the CBI had arrested him in a related matter.

## Bansuri, JNU VC join march against atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Amid reports of atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh, New Delhi BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj and Jawaharlal Nehru University Vice Chancellor Santishree D Pandit were part of a march held in the national Capital on Friday to protest alleged atrocities. Hundreds of women took part in the march organised by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-linked Nari Shakti Forum, which began from Mandi House and will end at Jantar Mantar. Suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma was also part of the march. Protesters, carrying religious flags and placards, demanded that violence against minorities in Bangladesh be stopped. Most protesters tied black bands on their arms while some covered their mouths with black bands. Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of

Hindu community following the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina, who resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. JNU VC Santishree D Pandit, during the march, said, "One reason for coming here is the fight for human rights. Human rights cannot be only for selective groups. Human rights are for everybody. Not just Hindus, but Buddhists, Christians, Dalits are being attacked in Bangladesh. Nobody is there to get up to speak for them." Pandit said she came to the event to extend her support to a march started by women. Nari Shakti Forum member Shreyosi Sinha Basu said Hindus and Buddhists are being targeted in Bangladesh.

## DU releases first allocation list for UG admissions 2024-25

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University has released the first allocation list for the undergraduate admissions 2024-25, with 97,387 candidates offered programmes and college combinations in the 'round one' of Common Seat Allotment System (CSAS). For admissions to 71,600 sanctioned seats, the university considered 5,68,20,017 unique cutoffs and ranks for the allocations in this round, according to an official statement. The Delhi University received 1,72,18,187 number of preferences/choices submitted by the students seeking admissions to various UG programmes in different colleges. In the first round, the number of girls who have been allotted a seat for admission in DU is 52,838 while 44,549 boys have been given seats in the admission process. Of these, 243 orphan students have been given seats in the first list of CSAS allocation. Meanwhile, the number of single girl child who have got an allocation stand at 1,339. The programme in which the highest allocations have been done is B.Com (Hons) at 10,096 candidates. The classes for the first year UG students will commence from August 29. Candidates who have been shortlisted in round one will get time to accept the allocation till 4.59 pm on August 18, Sunday. They are required to submit the fees by 4.59 pm, August 21, Wednesday. Only the candidates who will make the payment will be able to opt for an "upgrade" for subsequent rounds. The Delhi University had earlier said it will accept 50 per cent more applications this year to avoid vacant seats. Furthermore, this year the Delhi University has revised its tie-breaker rules for generating ranks based on which admissions are given. According to the rules, in a situation where two or more candidates have the same CUET(UG)-2024 merit score



for a programme plus college combination, first the candidate with a higher percentage of aggregate marks in the best three subjects of Class XII will be given preference. After this, the candidate with a higher percentage of aggregate marks in the best four subjects of Class XII will be given preference and then the candidates with a higher percentage of aggregate marks in the best five subjects of Class XII will be given preference. Following this, preference will be given to the candidate having an earlier date of birth (as mentioned in the Class X certificate) and, lastly, the alphabetical ordering of the names of the candidate will be considered to give admission. This year, since the National Testing Agency (NTA) had released raw scores instead of normalised scores, the university applied the above stated tie-breaking rules, to give admission in case of two students with same scores. In the first allocation round, the university has decided to do extra allocations to fill the seats optimally so that the academic session may begin from August 29. Overall, 97,387 allocations have been made in the first round which excludes allocation to performance-based programmes and supernumerary quotas like-Children/Widows of Personnel of the Armed Forces (CW), Extra Curricular Activities (ECA), Sports and Ward, and Christian Candidates. This year, the university will be admitting candidates to 69 colleges, departments, centres on an approximately 71,600 seats (excluding supernumerary). There are 1559 programme and college combinations on which the admissions will be done.

## NCRTC inviting bids for co-branding rights for five RRTS stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is inviting bids for exclusive semi-naming and co-branding rights for five strategically located stations on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor. A statement by the corporation stated, "This initiative aims to enhance passenger experience and convenience while generating Non-Fare Box Revenue to support the

operational costs of the RRTS Corridor. By participating, brands can significantly increase their visibility by associating their names with RRTS stations, enabling impactful advertising campaigns that reach a broad audience." It added that the brands awarded these rights will have the opportunity to prefix or suffix their names to station names, incorporate their brand colors on station walls, hoardings, and entry/exit points, and utilize both bare and built-up retail spaces.

## City faces power outages due to Chinese manjha tripping power lines

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the celebrations on the 78th Independence Day on Thursday, thousands of people across the national Capital faced outages due to over 50 incidents of tripping of power transmission lines due to the use of banned Chinese 'manjha' in celebratory kite flying on the occasion. According to the discom officials on Friday, the maximum number of tripping incidents due to Chinese 'manjha' (metal coated kite string) took place in the north Delhi areas. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) supplying electricity to the north Delhi areas reported no kite-flying induced tripping incidents at

the sub transmission level, said a spokesperson of the discom. "However, 49 interruptions were reported at the 11kv level, affecting around 25,000 customers," she said. "The discom has been actively urging people to enjoy kite flying responsibly. A special safety advisory video was shared by the discom advising citizens not to fly kites near electrical installations and avoiding use of "metallic Manjha" for it, she added. "The other discoms BRPL and BYPL reported six such trippings," a spokesperson of the BSES said. "To raise awareness about the dangers of flying kites near electrical installations, BSES had launched a comprehensive

campaign. This includes social media posts, interactions with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and newsletters aimed at sensitizing consumers about the risks associated with metal-coated manjha," he said. The Chinese 'manjha' is popular name of the metal coated kite string that came from China. Although its use is

banned because of incidents related to neck injuries faced by commuters specially two wheeler riders as well as the birds, after getting entangled in the loose 'manjha' of detached kites, metal coated 'manjha' is easily available in the market despite action by the police and other authorities.

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1	2	3
<p><b>DDA Sasta Ghar Housing Scheme 2024</b></p> <p><b>First Come First Serve Basis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordable housing for low-income group</li> <li>LIG and EWS flats in Ramgarh Colony, Siraspur, Rohini, Loknayakpura and Narela</li> </ul> <p>Starting price <b>₹ 11.5 lakh</b></p>	<p><b>DDA Madhyam Vargiy Housing Scheme 2024</b></p> <p><b>First Come First Serve Basis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HIG, MIG, LIG and EWS Flats in Jasola, Loknayakpura &amp; Narela</li> <li>Price offered is same as in the last year's scheme</li> </ul> <p>Starting price <b>₹ 29 lakh</b></p>	<p><b>DDA Dwarka Housing Scheme 2024</b></p> <p><b>e-Auction Basis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MIG, HIG &amp; higher category flats in Sector 14, 16B and 19B of Dwarka</li> </ul> <p>Starting price <b>₹ 128 lakh</b></p>

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# Hindenburg allegations: Dhankhar takes jibe at Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI



In an apparent attack on Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday expressed concern that a person holding a constitutional position is asking the Supreme Court to take suo-moto cognisance to give wings to a "narrative aimed at destroying our economy". Dhankhar's remarks came after the Congress on Sunday slammed the Modi Government over the Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch, with Rahul saying the integrity of the market regulator has been "gravely compromised" and demanded a JPC probe

into the matter. Addressing the first batch of Joint Masters/LLM degree in IP Law and Management at National Law University, Delhi, the Vice President without naming anyone said, "Last week, I got extremely worried when a person holding a constitutional position beseeched the Supreme Court to suo-moto invoke jurisdiction to give wings to a narrative aimed at destroying our economy". Addressing the students, Dhankhar said, "Our youth must equally rebuff and

neutralise forces that keep partisan or self-interest above that of our nation. We cannot allow it. If it happens, it is at the cost of our rise. You are law students. I will leave two thoughts with you. One, scratch your brains and find out. Jurisdiction of institution is defined by the Indian Constitution, be it legislature, be it executive, be it judiciary. Jurisdiction of courts is decided." "Look around the globe, look at the Supreme Court in the US, the highest court in the UK, or other formats. Has

there been suo-moto cognisance even once? Has a remedy been created beyond what is provided in the Constitution? The Constitution provides original jurisdiction, appellate jurisdiction. It provides review also. But we have curative! If you do not focus on these nuances, I wonder who shall do it. Think about it," he said. Rahul Gandhi had also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue, saying it is now abundantly clear why he is so afraid of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe. The Congress had said the Supreme Court should take suo moto cognisance of the "entire scam" and investigate it under its aegis because here the investigating agency SEBI itself is accused of being involved in it.

# ISRO's successful launch of SSLV lauded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s successful launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and described it as a matter of immense joy. "A remarkable milestone! Congratulations to our scientists and industry for this feat. It is a matter of immense joy that India now has a new launch vehicle. The cost-effective SSLV will play an important role in space missions and will also encourage private industry. My best wishes to @isro, @INSPACINDIA, @NSIL\_India and the entire space industry," Modi said in a social media post. The ISRO successfully launched its third and final developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle here on Friday whose payloads can be used in applications like

satellite-based surveillance, disaster and environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity among others. The flight-LV-D3 would also pave the way for the industry to collaborate with ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd for taking up launches using the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle. Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the ISRO saying this will enhance the sustainability of the earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. "Congratulations to @isro on the launch of SSLV-D3. This will enhance the sustainability of the Earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management."



# Tech, social media bad for kids' arts, crafts good for mental health: Research

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

If excessive time spent on technology and social media can hinder children from forming meaningful connections, engaging in arts and crafts may be crucial in combating mental health problems affecting millions globally. These findings, from two recent studies, underscore the importance of protecting tender minds from the negative health impacts of technology while highlighting the benefits of creative activities for mental well-being. Dr Helen Keyes of Anglia Ruskin University in the UK, the lead author of the study highlighted that crafting's positive effects on well-being were more significant than those of employment. The study delved into the meaningful impact of crafting, noting that its positive effects on well-being were more significant than those of employment. The research found that participation in creative activities significantly enhances life satisfaction, happiness, and the belief that life is worthwhile, suggesting that arts and crafts could play a key role in promoting public

mental health. "Crafting provides a sense of achievement and a meaningful route to self-expression, which is not always the case with employment," she explained. The study evaluated public engagement with various cultural, digital, and sporting activities, controlling for variables such as gender, age, health, employment status, and deprivation levels to assess the general impact of creative arts on well-being. Participants reported higher levels of happiness and life satisfaction, as well as a stronger sense that life is worthwhile, comparable to the benefits of being employed. However, the study did not find a link between crafting and reduced loneliness, potentially due to the solitary nature of some crafts. Dr Keyes emphasised the potential for governments and health services to fund and promote crafting as part of a broader approach to enhancing public well-being. Another study based on a survey of 1,146 parents, revealed concerns over children's technology use, with 50 per cent worried about excessive screen time, 30 per cent about bullying, and 22 per cent about the social impact of the pandemic.

## STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/15/2024-25, Dtd: 12-08-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

**SI.No.:1; Tender No. : 30/24/1092/OT/114/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 03-09-2024.**  
Brief Description: Secondary Vertical Damper for LHB AC Coaches having FIAT Bogie to RDSO Drg. No. RDSO/CG/DRG/21046 Alt-2 Mat. Spec. - RDSO/CG-18005 Rev-01 [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 60 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), ii) Qty- 50 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), iii) Qty- 265 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), iv) Qty- 620 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), v) Qty- 1000 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 33590886.

**SI.No.:2; Tender No. : 61/24/5204/OT/115/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 05-09-2024.**  
Brief Description: MINIPROF BT Rail Profile Gauge Cum Recorder- similar to Model PIE-ME-RPCS Advanced version along with crossing measurement attachment & ruggedized android tablet including AMC for 3 years conforming to RDSO specification No. TM/SM-323 (Rev-1 of 2018) Make-PIE/Greenwood Engineering MP-262/GRAW XY Rail Head Profile Gauge Poland Warranty: 01 year from the date of supply against any manufacturing defects or use of substandard material. Technical Specifications of Rail Profile Gauge Cum Recorder: 1. Resolution: 5 micro Meter, 2. Accuracy in Lab (Polished Rail w/o rust & dust) +/-0.01 mm, 3. Accuracy in field: +/- 15 micro meter, 4. Accuracy (Point): +/- 20 micro meter, 5. Repeatability: +/- 10 micro meter, 6. Time demand of one measurement: cc. 4 seconds, 7. Time demand of one measurement (Point): cc. 8 seconds, 8. Measuring Range X: 320 mm, 9. Measuring Range Y: 60 mm, 10. Operating temperature: -20deg C-+55deg C, 11. Supply: 1X Li-ion rechargeable battery (18650 type), 12. Operating Time: Min. 8 hours/1000 measurements, 13. Insulation resistance: 2 Mohm/500 V (DC), 14. Dust and water Resistance: IP54, 15. Communication way: Bluetooth, 16. Dimensions: 125X150X150 mm, 17. Overall system weight: <8 Kgs. [Warranty Period: 12 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. Qty- 12 Nos for SSE/P-WAY/Barsoi Jn., NFR (Bihar). P.L.No-729078472153.

**SI.No.:3; Tender No. : 30/24/1089/OT/116/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 26-08-2024.**  
Brief Description: Yaw Damper for all type of LHB Coaches fitted with FIAT Bogie to RDSO drg. No. RDSO/CG/DRG/21048 Alt-2 Mat. Spec. -RDSO/CG-18005 Rev-01. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 900 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 55 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), iii) Qty- 199 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), iv) Qty- 1560 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), v) Qty- 48 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 33502420.

**SI.No.:4; Tender No. : 30/24/1154/OT/117/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 05-09-2024.**  
Brief Description: Secondary Lateral Damper for All Coil FIAT Bogie to RDSO Drg. No. RDSO/CG/DRG/21045, Alt-2 Mat. Spec. - RDSO/CG-18005 Rev-0. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 169 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 1522 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 49 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No-33681028.

**SI.No.:5; Tender No. : 61/24/5200/OT/118/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 16-09-2024.**  
Brief Description: Manufacture and Supply of Thick Web Switch Expansion Joint(TWSEJ) as per RDSO's Drg. No. T-8822 (Alt-2) [All conditions applicable as per RDSO's letter No. CT/JW/3. dt. 04/07/2023]. List of fittings as per RDSO's Drg. No. T-8822 (Alt-2) excluding ERC MK V, GFN Liner and PSC Sleeper. The Alt in Drawings and Specifications issued by RDSO upto one month prior to tender closing date shall be applicable in this tender. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages:1]. Qty- 135 Set for SSE/P.WAY/TD/ Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-602591350171.

**SI.No.:6; Tender No. : 61/24/5256/OT/119/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 16-09-2024.**  
Brief Description: 6400 mm curved switches with Zu-1-60/60E1A1 thick web 880 grade tongue rails with elastic fasteners & spring operated setting device (RSCD/2616). Complete with all fittings for 1 in 8.5 BG 60 kg turnout for fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers in accordance with RDSO's standard drawing No. T-6280 with latest alterations, excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E. R. Clips, insulating liner and check rails. Specification: IRS-T-62, IRS-T-10 Corrigendum 1 with latest alterations. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages: 1]. Qty- 145 Set for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-60060761.

**SI.No.:7; Tender No. : 61/24/5260/OT/120/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 17-09-2024.**  
Brief Description: Manufacturing & supply of High Viscous Nylon-66 Insulating Liner (HVN Liner) to RDSO Drg. No. T-3702, with ALT-8 (or latest alterations, if any) for the use with ERC MK-III on 52 kg Concrete Sleepers with 52 kg rails, As per Specification IRS-T-44-2020. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. Qty- 173855 Nos for SSE/P.WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-60110569.

**SI.No.:8; Tender No. : 30/24/1640/OT/121/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 26-08-2024.**  
Brief Description: HOSE CONNECTION 500MM LONG FOR LHB TO RDSO DRG No. CG-19037 alt N:1. Mat Spec: As per drg. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages:0]. i) Qty- 2521 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 300 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 9216 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), iv) Qty- 45 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 33537938.

**SI.No.:9; Tender No. : 30/24/1188A/OT/122/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-08-2024.**  
Brief Description: GANGWAY BRIDGE MOUNTING to Drawing No. 1 10113.0.24.120.001 ALT B Mat. Spec. :- As per Drawing [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 278 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty- 65 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 413 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), iv) Qty- 10 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), v) Qty- 18 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 33612717.

**SI.No.:10; Tender No. : 30/24/5032B/OT/123/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 29-08-2024.**  
Brief Description: Supply and Retro-Fitting of Revised Wiring for WSP System as per RDSO Drg. No. CG-18246 ALT-0 with Modified IP67 Grade Junction Boxes and connectors as per RDSO Drg. No.: CG-19005, Alt-1. Material to be supplied as per Annexure-A1 for Type of coaches Fitted with Faiveley Type Brake System. [Warranty Period: Within 36 months from the date of delivery or 14 months from the date of placing in service whichever is later] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No. Stages: 0]. Qty- 205 Set for SSE/ABS/Dubia, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 331611110017.

**SI.No.:11; Tender No. : 61/24/5271/OT/124/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 30-08-2024.**  
Brief Description: BG PSC/T/O SLEEPER 1 IN 8.5 Drg No (T-4865). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 32 Set for SSE/P-WAY/Barsoi Jn., NFR (Bihar). P.L.No- 600400041127.

**SI.No.:12; Tender No. : 40/24/0543B/OT/125/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 27-08-2024.**  
Brief Description: 500 Amm, 750 V, Inter Vehicular (IV) Coupler unit for EOG type AC Coaches/Power car conforming to RDSO's Specn. No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0177 (Rev.1)-2013. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No. Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 120 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty-120Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 2 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), iv) Qty- 2 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), v) Qty- 40 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 45218948.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (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.

PCMM, Maligaon  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
Serving Customers With A Smile

## SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 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(1)(2) 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 symbolic 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 Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Aman Kumar/ Nisha Kumari/ Bhawani Shanker Sharma/ LBROH0003450409	House No. 219 A/22 in Plot No. 39 Min, New No. 05 Min and 06 Min In Killa No. 272/11/5, 20/2 Mouja Bohar in Dev Colony Rohtak Haryana- 1240011 August 13, 2024	March 19, 2024 Rs. 18,74,488/-	Rohtak/ New Delhi

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount. The mortgage properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
Date: August 17, 2024  
Place: Delhi

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

**Emaar India Limited**  
CIN-U45201DL2005PLC133161  
Registered Office:- 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017  
Email ID - bharat.garg@emaar.ae Website - www.in.emaar.com

## STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 (Rs. in million)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			
		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		30-Jun-24	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-24
		Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2,941.72	2,463.40	10,272.67	27,565.67
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary Items)	(1,113.43)	(3,680.02)	685.00	(2,385.20)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period Before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	(1,113.43)	(3,680.02)	685.00	(2,385.20)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)	(1,113.43)	(3,680.02)	685.00	(2,385.20)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	(1,120.40)	(3,686.68)	692.80	(2,382.86)
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of Rs. 10 each)	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87	1,693.87
7	Other equity (Reserves excluding revaluation reserves)	-	-	-	(39,257.33)
8	Net worth	-	-	-	(36,257.33)
9	Paid up debt capital / Outstanding debt	80,531.93	78,726.31	78,485.34	78,726.31
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-
11	Debt / Equity Ratio	(2.08)	(2.10)	(2.10)	(2.10)
12	Earnings/Loss Per Share (in Rupees) (Basic & Diluted)	(6.57)	(21.73)	4.04	(14.08)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14	Debiture redemption reserve	738.13	738.13	738.13	738.13
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.04	(0.38)	0.28	0.21
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.37	(1.11)	1.43	0.65

**Notes:**  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with stock exchange under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full formats of financial results are available on the website of the stock exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.in.emaar.com.  
2. For the other line items referred in regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulation, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and can be accessed on the website of stock exchange www.bseindia.com.  
3. The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on August 14, 2024.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of Emaar India Limited  
Sd/-  
Jamal Majed Khalifa Bin Tenihayj  
Director  
DIN - 07534810

Date : August 14, 2024  
Place : Gurugram

## RLF LIMITED

Reg. Office:14 KMS, Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurgaon Haryana-122001  
Corporate Office: D-41, South Extension-II, New Delhi-110049. CIN No. L74999HR1979PL032747,  
Phone: 011-26258237, Email: limitedrf@gmail.com  
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 30 JUNE, 2024

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30/06/2024 (3 Months ended) (30.06-2024)	Preceding 3 Months ended (31Mar2024)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (30 Jun2023)	Current Year ended 31 Mar 2024
1	Total Income from Operations	24.77	5.41	-	186.36
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.02	(15.32)	(5.37)	6.47
3	Net Profit before tax for the period (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.02	(17.33)	-	4.46
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.02	(17.33)	-	4.46
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)	-	-	-	-
6	Equity Shares Capital (Face value Rs. 10/- Per equity share)	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08
7	Reserve (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited balance sheet of previous accounting year	-	-	-	-
8	Earnings Per Share of Rs. 10/- each (for continuing and discontinued Operations) Basic and diluted	0.04	(0.18)	(0.05)	0.051

**Notes:**  
1. The above Financial Results were reviewed by the Members of Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective Meeting held on 14th August, 2024. The Statutory Auditors of the company have carried out a Limited Review of the Financial Results for these financials.  
2. The Company has adopted Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified by Ministry of Corporate Affairs from 1st April 2017, with a transition date 1st April 2016 and accordingly these financial Result have been prepared in accordance with the companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015 prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.  
3. Figures for the prior period have been regrouped and / or rearranged wherever considered necessary as per the revised format prescribed by SEBI under SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 and amended as per the Schedule III of the Companies Act, 2013.

For RLF LIMITED  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 14-08-2024  
ADITYA KHANNA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, DIN: 1860038

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is informed that Mr. Gulshan Jain S/o Dhanraj Jain is the owner of Plot No.-137 Sec.-92 Noida G.B. Nagar-201301 has lost the Original Allotment Letter Dated-20-11-2000 and Possession Letter Dated-16/06/2004. If anyone found these Original Documents and have any objection regarding these documents of the property. Inform me on my given Mob. No.-991100412 within 7 days.  
Yogesh Kumar (Advocate)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed by Punjab National Bank, having its Branch at Sector 34, Noida that the bank intends to create equitable mortgage in respect of property i.e. Flat No. 127-B, First Floor Block -D1, area 54.87 Sq. Mtrs. Situated at sector -52, Noida distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P.) belonging to Mr. Jainendra Kumar Singh S/o Mr. Kaushal Kumar Rai. The present owner Shri Jainendra Kumar Singh lost last page of his previous chain of original property papers favoring Mr. Pradeep Kumar So Mr. Niranjan Prasad. The details of title deeds are as follows -Book no 01 Volume no 735 pages no 63 to 102 document no 5722 dated 12.09.2006. If any person claiming any interest or title in the property or otherwise having any objection can make representation to bank within 7 days of this Notice. Address: Greyell tower PNB Sector 34 Noida Address Greyell tower Village morna sector 35 Noida

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Ajay Tavar is the owner of Land area measuring 282.6 Sq. Yds. sa 134/2 Block no. 2, measuring 302 sq. Yds. measuring 160 sq. Yds. (first part) and (1) Mrs. Krishna Majumdar (2) Mrs. Ajita Majumdar (3) Mrs. Roma K. Kumar (through her attorney of her brother Mr. Tapan Bhownik) and (4) Mrs. Sumita Bhownik Slevin (through her attorney her Sister Mrs. Krishna Majumdar), (owners of Entire Ground Floor/ Terrace floor over and above Property bearing No. CG-1290, area measuring 160 sq. Yds.) (first part) and (1) Mrs. Krishna Majumdar (2) Mrs. Ajita Majumdar (3) Mrs. Roma K. Kumar (through SPA Mr. Tapan Bhownik) and Mrs. Sumita Bhownik Slevin (through SPA Mr. Tapan Bhownik) in respect of Entire Property, FIR No. 2033495/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 16.08.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, Ghazabad.  
Mr. Tapan Bhownik is in the process of mortgaging the said Bajaj Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting the Legal Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-4/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s) : +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@vnrth.in

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Indar Kumar Nagpal S/O Sh. Ranjeet Dass Nagpal & Smt. Vani Nagpal W/o Sh. Indar Kumar Nagpal is the owner of third floor of residential Flat No. 63 to 134/2 Block no. 2, measuring 302 sq. Yds. measuring 160 sq. Yds. (first part) and (1) Mrs. Krishna Majumdar (2) Mrs. Ajita Majumdar (3) Mrs. Roma K. Kumar (through SPA Mr. Tapan Bhownik) and Mrs. Sumita Bhownik Slevin (through SPA Mr. Tapan Bhownik) in respect of Entire Property, FIR No. 2033495/2024, also registered at P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi on dated 16.08.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, Ghazabad.  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT my client M/s. Endless Services Private Limited, having its registered office at office no. 605-606, Sixth floor, Sector Plaza building, Laxmi Nagar District Centre, Vikas Marg, New Delhi-110052, is having a valid and legally enforce mortgage over entire plot of land owned by M/s KDP Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. ad measuring 2000.72 square meters situated at the directors of M/s KDP Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. as maybe warranted under the law.

My client has already filed and application under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 before the Hon'ble national Company Law Tribunal, Vikas Marg, New Delhi-110052, is having a valid and legally enforce mortgage over entire plot of land owned by M/s KDP Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. ad measuring 2000.72 square meters situated at the directors of M/s KDP Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. as maybe warranted under the law. Any transaction for creation of any third party right by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, inheritance, possession, lease, hypothecation, transfer of the plot or any other interest in the plot, trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any deed, etc) over the said plot shall be null and void ab initio, and any other party entering into any transaction shall be liable to null and void actions including civil and criminal complaints at its own cost and risk.  
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 17.08.2024  
Sd/-  
Pankaj Agarwal  
Advocate  
G-12, Ansal Vikasdeep Building Laxmi Nagar District Centre New Delhi-110092  
Enrolment No. D/1451/2014



# 'Arbitrary and suspicious': BJP MP on K'taka Govt's decision to snap dealings with SBI, PNB

PTI ■ BENGALURU

BJP Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya on Friday said the Karnataka government's decision to close its accounts with the State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank looked "arbitrary and suspicious" in view of a Rs 187 crore scam in a state-owned corporation through the Union Bank of India.

He sought to know why the two nationalised banks were targeted when all the banks are governed by the Reserved Bank of India guidelines. Quoting media reports, Siroya said all the departments have been directed to close accounts and withdraw deposits from these two banks.

The reports also said no further deposits or investments will be allowed in these banks. The decision had apparently been taken over misappropriation of funds, he said.

Karnataka government ordered all its departments, boards, corporations, public



sector units and universities to withdraw all their deposits and investments in the State Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank and stop any business with these institutions on August 12. The order was reported on August 14.

"This move by the Karnataka government looks arbitrary and suspicious to me, especially after the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (KMVSTDC) scam came out, in which around Rs 187 crore was illegally transferred through a nationalised bank," he said.

Siroya wondered whether a state government could take such a unilateral decision against two nationalised banks and whether or not all the banks are governed by the rules and regulations of the RBI.

"If the state government has problems with the banks, should they not have reached out to the RBI? Can some nationalised banks be more acceptable and some less to the state government? What is the nature of misappropriation that the state government is talking about? Have they probed it? What really is happening within the Government of Karnataka?" the BJP asked.

He expressed his apprehension about whether the Congress-led state government was trying to deliberately create suspicion about the banking system through this action.

He appealed to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is also a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka, to take note of this order.

# ISRO targets first Gaganyaan mission launch by December, says chairman

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH)

ISRO has targeted to launch the first mission of the ambitious Gaganyaan project by December, a top official said here on Friday.

Currently, some of the rocket hardware for the human space programme has reached the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here and the integration of the crew module was going on at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Trivandrum, ISRO Chairman S Somanath said.

"Today, we are working on the first mission of the Gaganyaan called G1. The first uncrewed mission. The status today is the rocket, the S200 stage, the L1, C32 stage are all at Satish Dhawan Space Centre," he said.

He said the Crew Module integration was going on at VSSC Trivandrum while Crew Escape hardware was also ready.

"So, we have to complete with full wiring and testing should be done. Our target is by November the whole system will reach here, possibly by December launch will happen," he said, responding



to a query.

Somanath was talking to reporters after successfully launching the third and final developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle that placed the Earth Observation Satellite into orbit earlier in the day. The success of the third and final developmental flight would pave the way for launch of commercial missions using the smallest vehicle by ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL).

Today's successful mission of LV allows industry to forge

a partnership with ISRO for placing satellites into Low Earth Orbit. Besides, it would also allow a company to gain knowledge on rockets, launch vehicles, and satellites in the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle missions.

To a query about the requirement for industries to partner with the ISRO for taking up commercial launch of LV missions, Somanath said a day-long meeting was recently held with the industry.

"I am hoping that the first technology transfer will happen in India between ISRO and industry. The Request for Interest (RFI) was released and as a single (entity) or as consortia, a company can show interest on the technology transfer (from ISRO) and what were the expectations from ISRO and how to qualify for such missions," he said.

From the interactions held with the industry it emerged there was a huge amount of interest for them to learn about space, he added.

"We told them it will be a huge challenge for anyone to learn rocketry from scratch. It is not just transferring technology, we are transferring the knowledge on how things are done (at ISRO). It is not the drawings alone, it is the knowledge behind those drawings we transfer to industry," according to Somanath, also the Secretary, Department of Space.

Through the industry partnerships, ISRO would teach them on how to build a rocket, he said and added that the industry should qualify as per the criteria put forth by ISRO. The company should possess manufacturing capabilities, manufacturing facilities and financial strengths of a company would be assessed, he said.

# BRS on course-correction, wants to learn from other Opp parties in country

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

After a humiliating defeat in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, the BRS is now planning to reinvent itself and also plans to study from other opposition parties in the country to possibly emulate them, the party's working president K T Rama Rao said on Friday.

He also said a team from the former Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao-led regional party would, next month, visit Tamil Nadu to meet some political parties in the southern state, followed by other places.

"The intent is very clear. We are a party of 25 years old. I think there comes a time for everybody, every organisation like where you will have to constantly reinvent. That is the intent. We want to study other parties which have successfully navigated tougher times and have come back stronger," Rao told PTI

Video.

Rao's remarks came after the, once regarded as a formidable party, plummeted to third position in 14 out of 17 constituencies in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls.

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (then Telangana Rashtira Samithi) had won nine seats and secured a vote share of 41.71 per cent in the 2019 Parliamentary elections. The party's vote share declined to less than 17 per cent in the just-concluded Lok Sabha polls.

The beleaguered party also witnessed desertions by several leaders including some legislators.

"We also want to understand what are the kind of issues they (other opposition parties) picked up, what are the kind of methods, methodologies they have adopted. So all of this is important for us to learn from other political parties," he further said.



To a query on the Congress Party's allegation that BRS has a "tacit" understanding with BJP, Rao dismissed them saying they are baseless. If BRS had any tacit

understanding with BJP, his sister and MLC K Kavitha would not be in jail for 150 days, he said.

"I don't think there could be a more straight answer to this (allegations)," he added.

On the state government's farm loan waiver, he said it was a "cruel joke" as the dispensation reduced it from Rs 40,000 crore to just Rs 17,900 crore.

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **Rekha Meena D/o Ram Charan Meena** Employed as IPS Officer Trainee 76 RR(2023 Batch) as SVP National Police academy Hyderabad R/o A-17 Flat No. 302 Viswa Karma Colony PPD Prahalad Pur New Delhi-110044 have change my name to **Rekha R Nanglot** for all future purpose.

PD(686)C

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

**Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)**

No: 6-SEFile-256058Tender Dated:- 16.08.2024

NIT.No. 6-SEFile-256058Tender

Name of Work and its location: Tender for "Provision for segregation of 110V DC +VE & -VE cables at all levels and provision of cage clamp Terminals with Glass Fuses for enhanced fire safety in LHB EOG AC Coaches as per CAI no. ED/CAI/033 dated 02.04.2024" in LHB AC coaches."

Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 4053620.72/- including GST, (Rs. Forty Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty and paise Seventy Two only)

Earnest Money: Rs 81100.00/-

Completion period of work: 12 months of date of execution of work

Cost of Tender document on cash/by post: NIL

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 13:00 hrs on 09.09.2024 Opening of Tender at 13:00 hrs.

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 2574/24

# Downpour in Rajasthan, Bundi's Hindoli records 220 mm rain

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Heavy rain lashed parts of Rajasthan, including Hindoli in the Bundi district where the rainfall levels exceeded the 200-mm mark.

Some places in Jaipur, Dausa, Baran, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Pali and Sawai Madhopur districts witnessed heavy rainfall. Meanwhile, extremely heavy rain was recorded at some places in Ajmer and Bundi districts during the last 24 hours.

The highest rainfall in eastern Rajasthan has been recorded in Hindoli in Bundi district at 220 mm and in Bikaner's Kolayat in the western region saw 172 mm of rain from yesterday till 8.30 am today. During this period, several areas recorded light to moderate rainfall, according to the MeT department.

Light to moderate rainfall lashed some places in Alwar, Sikar, Karauli, Kota, Bhilwara, Tonk, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of the state.

"The circulation system formed over north-eastern Rajasthan is now slowly moving towards the western region. Due to its effect, there is a strong possibility of heavy or very heavy rain in some parts of Jodhpur, Ajmer and Bikaner divisions during the next 24 hours," an official said.

Heavy rainfall is likely in the state from 17 August and clear skies and sunshine will be in most parts during August 17 to 22, the official said.

Another round of heavy rains is expected in the last week of August.

**Arttech RERA No.: HRERA-PKL-FBD-391-2023**

Applications are invited online from General Public for booking of Residential Flats in the "MAULSHREE HEIGHTS" an Affordable Housing Project, proposed to be developed at Sector 84, Faridabad, by our Firm, as per the terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013, amended upto date (details available at the website of the department i.e. tcpharyana.gov.in)

- PROJECT DETAILS:**  
Project Approvals / Colonizer/Developer: M/s. Arttech Affordable Housing LLP LICENCE No./Year: 112 of 2021 dated 17.12.2021.  
Building Plan Approved on Dated: 09/12/2022 vide Memo No. ZP-1571/JD(NK)/2022/37046.
- LOCATION :** Sector-84, Faridabad
- PROVISIONS: Project Area: Project Area: 7.33125Acres, comprising of a Total 1012 No. of Flats out of which 5% flats are reserved for management quota and balance 95% flats are available for sale to the General Public.**  
Common Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000Sq.ft. (Approx.) and One Anganwadi-Cum-Creche of 2000Sq.ft. (Approx.)
- FLAT DETAILS (Offer for Public):**  
Category 3(3BHK): 03 no. of Flats having carpet area of 645.517 Sq. ft. (approx.) and balcony with an aggregated area of 164.883Sq.ft. (approx.) with a Two-wheeler Parking
- ALLOTMENT RATE OF THE FLAT(All Inclusive) + GST as Applicable + Statutory and other charges**  
Category 3 (3BHK): Rs.33,47,585/- per FlatAs per rates prescribed under the policy notified vide Memo No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013, amended upto date vide Memo No.PF-27 (VOL-III)/2023/23523 dated 19.07.2023 by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana, Town and Country Planning Department, Chandigarh(details available at the website of the department i.e. tcpharyana.gov.in)
- PAYMENT TERMS**  
Cost of the flat shall be payable as per stages of construction to be prescribed in the Builder Buyer Agreement. No interest shall be payable before the due date of payment. Default, if any, in making payment of the due instalments will attract penal interest at the rate provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017.
- ELIGIBILITY**  
i) The applicant should not be debarred from entering legally binding contract under any prevailing law.  
ii) Any person can apply but person which includes his/her spouse or his/her dependent children, who do not own any Flat/Plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban Areas in the State of Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given first preference in allotment of Flat  
iii) An applicant can make only one application. The successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy, in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retain only one flat.
- ALLOTMENT CRITERIA**  
i) The allotment of flats shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the Cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner, (circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.  
ii) After fixation of the date of draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer, informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.  
iii) For detailed criteria and time frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 notified vide No. PF27/48921 dated 19.08.2013, amended upto date (available at the Department website i.e. tcpharyana.gov.in)
- BROAD SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FLAT:** Flooring: Rooms-Ceramic tiles, Kitchen-Ceramic Tiles, Toilet- Ceramic Tiles, Balcony-Ceramic Tiles Class II, Common Area-Ceramic Tiles/Stones and any other material as decided by the Developer, Door/Window Frame-MS Z section frame /Press Steel/Aluminium or any other frame as decided by the developer, Door Shutters-Flush Doors Painted with Paint or any other shutter as decided by the Developer, Wall Tiles-Bathroom Ceramic Tiles up to 5 Feet height, Kitchen-Ceramic Tiles up to 2 Feet height above counter, Kitchen Counter Top-Stone/IPS, Wall Finish-Colour Wash/Dry Distemper, Plumbing Fitting-PPR Pipes/CPVC Pipes/UPVC Pipes or equivalent, Sanitary Fitting-Chinaware and CP Fittings, Electric Switches/ Wiring-ISI Marked or equivalent, Structure-RCC frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS Code.
- APPLICATIONS TIMELINES**  
i) Application form will be filled online by registering on the website https://edraw.tcpharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home w.e.f 01.08.2024  
ii) Last Date of submission of the Application: 01.09.2024

**ARTTECH AFFORDABLE HOUSING LLP**  
GF-10, Plot No.9, Ground Floor, Ozone Centre, Sector-12, Faridabad-121007, Haryana  
Web: www.arttechllp.com | Email Id: info@arttechllp.com | Mob.: +91-8151848484

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, ( यांत्रिकी शाखा, ) भोपाल**

क्रमांक 123/यां.वि./24

भोपाल, दिनांक 16.08.2024

**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

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

क्र. निविदा क्र.	कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. में)	निविदा क्रय करने का अंतिम दिनांक समय	
			दिनांक	समय
01	2024_UAD_364172_2 ASPHALTING OF ROAD AT VARIOUS LOCATION OF BHOPAL CITY UNDER THE ZONE 01 TO ZONE 21 EMPANELMENT BASIS	7,70,26,170/-	17-SEP-2024	05:30 PM
02	2024_UAD_364214_2 REPAIRING AND MAINTANANCE OF C.C. ROAD AT DIFFERENT PLACES IN ZONE 01 TO 21 EMPANELMENT BASIS	8,47,20,515/-	17-SEP-2024	05:30 PM

नोट - संशोधन केवल वेबसाइट पर ही देखे जा सकेंगे, समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं होंगे।

अधीक्षक यंत्री (सिविल)  
नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

फ़ोन नं. 338/024/025

**EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAINS**

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming Puja, Diwali and Chhath festivals, Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Special Trains as under:

Train No.	From	To	Days of Run	Notified up to	Period of Extension
09111	Vadodara Jn.	Gorakhpur	Monday	30.09.24	07.10.24 to 30.12.24
09112	Gorakhpur	Vadodara Jn.	Wednesday	02.10.24	09.10.24 to 01.01.25
09195	Vadodara Jn.	Mau Jn.	Saturday	28.09.24	05.10.24 to 28.12.24
09196	Mau Jn.	Vadodara Jn.	Sunday	29.09.24	06.10.24 to 29.12.24
09417	Ahmedabad Jn.	Danapur	Monday	30.09.24	07.10.24 to 30.12.24
09418	Danapur	Ahmedabad Jn.	Tuesday	01.10.24	08.10.24 to 31.12.24
09405	Sabarmati BG	Patna Jn.	Tuesday	24.09.24	01.10.24 to 31.12.24
09406	Patna Jn.	Sabarmati BG	Thursday	26.09.24	03.10.24 to 02.01.25
09043	Bandra Terminus	Gorakhpur	Tue, Sun	27.08.24	01.09.24 to 31.12.24
09044	Gorakhpur	Dahanu Road	Mon, Wed	28.08.24	02.09.24 to 01.01.25
09557	Bhav Nagar T.	Delhi Cantt.	Friday	27.09.24	04.10.24 to 27.12.24
09558	Delhi Cantt.	Bhav Nagar T.	Saturday	28.09.24	05.10.24 to 28.12.24
09041	Udhna Jn.	Chhapra Jn.	Sunday	25.08.24	01.09.24 to 29.12.24
09042	Chhapra Jn.	Udhna Jn.	Monday	26.08.24	02.09.24 to 30.12.24
09145	Mumbai Central	Barauni Jn.	Monday	26.08.24	07.10.24 to 11.11.24
09146	Barauni Jn.	Mumbai Central	Thursday	29.08.24	10.10.24 to 14.11.24

Rest information will hold good.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of other stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

**RailMadad Helpline No. 139** Visit RailMadad Website: [www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in) Download RailMadad app.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**Aro granite industries Ltd.**  
(CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510)  
Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jaspala, New Delhi 110025, Phone : 011-41686169; Fax: 011-26941994  
Email Id: [investorgrievance@arotile.com](mailto:investorgrievance@arotile.com), Website: [www.arotile.com](http://www.arotile.com)

**NOTICE OF THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION**

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Aro granite industries Ltd. ("the Company") will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 12:30 P.M. (IST) through video conference (VCO/AVM), to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular No. 14/2020 (dated 8th April 2020), 17/2020 (dated 13th April 2020), 20/2020 (dated 5th May 2020) followed with Circular No. 02/2021 (dated January 13, 2021), 2/2022 (dated 5th May 2022), 3/2022 (dated 5th May 2022), 10/2022 (dated 28.12.2022) and General Circular No. 09/2023 (dated 25th September 2023) issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/04 dated 05th January 2023 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated 07th October 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance with the said MCA Circulars read with the SEBI Circulars electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year ended on 31st March, 2024 have been sent to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository participant(s). Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the 36th AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular. The Notice and Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company [www.arotile.com](http://www.arotile.com) and on the website(s) of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively, where the Company's shares are listed.

Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the Member(s) mentioning their name, complete address, folio number, number of shares held with the Company along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz. Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Card, Passport, Utility Bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2023-24 along with AGM Notice by e-mail to [investorgrievance@arotile.com](mailto:investorgrievance@arotile.com). Members, holding shares in demat form can update their e-mail addresses with their Depository Participants.

The Notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM and join the AGM through video conference (VC) other audio-visual means (OAVM).

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e., September 11, 2024, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary and Special Businesses as set out in the notice of AGM through electronic voting systems of CDSL. All the members are informed that:

- The Ordinary and the Special Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means.
- The remote e-voting shall commence on September 15, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. (IST).
- The remote e-voting shall end on September 17, 2024, at 05:00 P.M. (IST).
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is September 11, 2024 and a person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only;
- Person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the notice of AGM and holding shares and eligible to vote, can follow the process for generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of the AGM. If such a person is already registered with CDSL for e-voting, existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote;
- Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by the CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change subsequently; b) the members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; c) the facility for voting through electronic mode shall be made available at the AGM and d) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM.

Notice is also given pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules 2014, that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books will remain closed from Thursday, September 12, 2024 to Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (both days inclusive) on account of Annual General Meeting.

If you have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-voting from the CDSL e-voting System, you can write an e-mail to [helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com) or contact at 022-23058738 and 022-23058542/43. All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL.) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futrex, Mettallia Mill Compounds, N.M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an e-mail to [helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com) or call on 022-23058542/43.

For Aro granite industries Ltd.  
Sd/-  
Ayush Goel  
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 17.08.2024





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## PM roots for women safety

PM calls for strictest punishment for crimes against women amidst protests over rape and murder of resident doctor

The streets of Kolkata have erupted in widespread protests following the heinous rape and murder of a young resident doctor, a crime that has left the entire nation in shock and sorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has expressed his firm stance on the issue, calling for the strictest possible punishment for those involved in crimes against women. The victim, a 28-year-old resident doctor at a prominent Kolkata hospital, was found murdered under gruesome circumstances after being raped. The brutal crime has triggered widespread anger, as doctors, students, and activists have taken to the streets to demand swift and severe action against the perpetrators. Placards reading "Justice for our sister" and "Stop violence against women" are being carried by hundreds of protesters across the city, while candlelight vigils continue to spread across the nation. The medical community, in particular, has expressed its fury, with many health professionals going on strike, calling for stronger protection and justice for female healthcare workers, who often face threats and harassment in the course of their duties.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in response to the national outrage, has unequivocally condemned the horrific crime. In his address to the nation on Independence Day, he emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring the safety of women in the country. Modi reiterated his stance that there must be zero tolerance for crimes against women, and perpetrators should face the most stringent punishment under the law. But it is not that we do not have strict laws for crime against women but the problem is

their execution. The new amendments to criminal laws have additional features to expedite such cases. The new provisions include the death penalty for rape, video recording of crime scenes, and a witness protection program, etc. all of which could prove to help resolve such cases. However, only time will reveal how effectively these measures will be implemented on the ground and the guilty punished speedily. Women's safety has been a recurring concern in India, and incidents like this continue to raise questions about the effectiveness of existing laws and preventive measures. The Prime Minister's call for the strictest punishment has been widely welcomed, but it remains to be seen how these words will translate into concrete legal reforms. However, having laws is one thing and reforming the society is quite another. The attitude of society towards women must change. Most cases go unreported as the victims are often blamed by society; questions like 'why were you there?', 'what were you wearing?' and so on are posed to her to hold her responsible. The process becomes punishment and the victim has to live with the stigma for the rest of her life. The nation now awaits justice—not just for one young doctor, but for all the women who have suffered in silence.

### PICTALK



Artists perform at Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Independence Day in Jaipur

# Terrorism resurges amid shifts in strategy



SUDHIR HINDWAN

With militants shifting their focus to Jammu and adopting more aggressive strategies, concerns over national security are once again at the forefront

The recent terrorist attack on Army Captain Deepak Singh, tragically killed a day before India's 78th Independence Day, must be condemned unequivocally. This act of violence, along with the discovery that at least three terrorists were hiding in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), underscores the persistence of militant activities in the region. Unfortunately, this incident is not an isolated one but a continuation of the long-standing saga of terrorism in J&K. Recent attacks in Jammu indicate a significant shift in terrorist activities due to several factors.

Firstly, terrorists want to send a message that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's commendable efforts, the situation in J&K remains unstable. Secondly, Jammu's vast forest areas provide an ideal base for militants to launch guerrilla attacks and evade security forces. Thirdly, the improved law and order situation in Kashmir has led to a shift in insurgent focus toward Jammu. Lastly, while terrorism in the region had been suppressed for a time, it has not been eradicated, and militants are now re-emerging with increased vigor.

J&K has long been a target of insurgents. Over the years, numerous terrorist attacks in areas like Sopore, Budgam, and Dooru Shahbad have raised serious concerns for security agencies. What is particularly alarming about the recent upsurge is the shift in strategy. Terrorists are no longer just targeting the military and police but are also attacking civilians, indicating their desperation to gain attention. Additionally, there has been no respite between these attacks, as militants seem relentless in their mission of destruction. Unlike in the past, Jammu has now become the epicenter of this terror onslaught due to its proximity to the border. Religion has once again resurfaced as a significant motivating factor for terrorists. The primary goal of these terrorists is to destabilize the region and create a vulnerable atmosphere. The involvement of a neighboring country with a hidden agen-



da cannot be ruled out. For many militants, terrorism provides a livelihood, with individuals willing to sacrifice their lives for monetary compensation. Ajmal Kasab, the infamous terrorist involved in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, is one such example of someone misled into committing heinous acts in exchange for money.

Despite efforts by the central government to address the issue through dialogues with Pakistan and engaging with separatists, insurgent activities continue unabated. Policymakers must recognize that terrorism directly impacts the nation's well-being. Anti-terrorism policies must be flexible and responsive to changing threats, utilizing the latest recommendations and technologies to ensure security.

Today's terrorists are far more organized and professional than those from a decade ago. Although new security measures have been implemented, the threat remains unpredictable. The region's geography provides an ideal base for guerrilla activities, and the militants have become more sophisticated in their strategies, acquiring advanced weapons from across the border. Their use of automatic weapons, grenades, and low-intensity bombs demonstrates meticulous planning and execution. This modern breed of terrorists no longer hides in the



THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF TERRORISM IS PSYCHOLOGICAL. TERRORISTS SEEK TO ALTER BEHAVIOR AND BRING ABOUT SOCIETAL OR GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES THROUGH FEAR

shadows. They openly attack, targeting financial hubs and other vital locations, as seen in recent global terror incidents. Terrorists exploit advancements in transportation and weaponry to expand their networks. Suicide squads, in particular, have shocked the security apparatus with their boldness and brutality. Terrorists meticulously plan their attacks, aiming to inspire fear and manipulate the public to achieve their objectives.

In his famous work, "Why Men Rebel," Ted Robert Gurr argues that people driven by intense motivation toward a goal often resort to violence. This is evident in modern terrorism, where militants see their acts as justified sacrifices for a cause. William Hennery also noted that some politically motivated acts of terrorism are so deeply rooted in commitment that no sanctions can deter them.

International experts like Professor Yonah Alexander have analyzed the evolution of terrorism. Modern terrorists differ from their predecessors in their use of technology and tactics. Small, sophisticated groups now employ increasingly violent methods to create a psychological impact, aiming to instill fear in the public and force governments to react.

The ultimate goal of terrorism is psychological, not practical. Terrorists seek to alter behavior and bring about societal or

governmental changes through fear. There is an urgent need for preventive measures to address the grievances fueling terrorism, improved security strategies, and an understanding of the social and cultural factors driving people to insurgency. Effective counter-terrorism efforts require not just government action but also community involvement. Citizens can play a critical role in improving security by cooperating with law enforcement agencies. Beyond strict anti-terrorism laws, programs aimed at addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty and lack of education, are essential. Several nations have taken steps to combat state-sponsored terrorism, including economic sanctions, but consensus remains elusive at both the national and international levels. The nexus between drug smuggling and terrorism further complicates matters. To address this, judicial procedures must be streamlined to ensure speedy trials for those involved in drug trafficking and terrorism. India, in particular, can learn valuable lessons from the counter-terrorism efforts of other nations, such as the United States, which has effectively prevented major terrorist attacks since 9/11.

(The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav award, is a professor and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TUNGABHADRA DAM BREACHED

Madam — Tungabhadra dam crest gate has swept away in the water after its chain link snapped. The ancient name of the river Tungabhadra was Pampa. In the epic Ramayana also, this river was called by name Pampa. Construction of the dam started in 1949 and completed in 1953 is said to be irrigating 12 lakh acres of land. It is more than 70 years since the dam was dedicated to the nation. The fall of 19th crest gate has led to the release of over 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river. By the time the new gate is fixed, much more water will be lost to the river. It is said that the water level has to be brought down to 60 cmft for installing new gate.

This incident must open the eyes of all the riparian states to inspect the dams which have been built decades ago. It goes without saying that like any other national asset, the dams have also their own life. Dams always face water pressure and it would be too high during the rainy season when the rivers carry unprecedented quantity of water. Any laxity shown in the proper maintenance of dams reduces the life of dams. It is said that the crest gate swept away during midnight.

Had it happened during day time, there would have been the possibility of people and animals falling victims to the sudden gushing of water. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has blamed the state government for ignoring the recommendations of the dam committee that came from centre. If it is true that the state government has not taken seriously the recommendations of the committee, the state government must accept the blame.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### DISAPPOINTING VERDICT

Madam — It is both sad and disappointing that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has dismissed Vinesh Phogat's appeal to be declared a joint silver medalist, despite her convincing vic-

## Independence Day pledge



The editorial, 'Happy independence day' (15-8-24) presents a positive note and it is welcome. India has marched ahead from a scrap level to the level of this day. Right from the day the country got freedom a lot of committed efforts have been put in by successive governments. There is no scope for any individual or a particular party to claim credit. However, independence day is a day to identify the important tasks and

commit to achieve them with all sincerity and nationalist spirit. The crucial task before the country is not owning a space station but providing employment to the educated youth who are longing for a job, providing a viable livelihood for the 81.35 crore poor who are depending on free rations, provide easy access to the poor avail quality education and healthcare. If these tasks are attended to the rest of the developments will happen on their own.

The development we are trying to glorify now is creating billionaires on one hand and forcing the poor mass and the middle class sections to keep on tightening their belts. Continuing this trend carries the potential of landing the country in a social and economic crisis. On this day we should also take pledge to improve the country's ranking in global indexes like hunger index, malnutrition, freedom of expression etc.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

performance and the fact that her disqualification was a result of an unfair rule.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

### RESPECT THE NATIONAL FLAG

Madam — On August 15, all Indians celebrate by singing patriotic songs, posting quotations on social media, and staging emotional plays to instill patriotism in young minds.

However, the enthusiasm often wanes the next day. Selling flags made of paper and plastic, only to have them treated disrespectfully, is wrong. This disrespect must cease. Our focus should shift to the country's needs beyond just one-day celebrations and songs. Though an individual can't change the entire system, collective efforts can. After so many sacrifices by our great leaders, we must question if we're truly an independent nation or only in name.

Md Imadaullah | Muzaaffarpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## How to make disaster relief truly effective

While people across the nation have come together to help, challenge remains in ensuring that assistance truly reaches those in need

The jury is still out on whether the recent landslides in Wayanad is a result of human callousness or nature's own waywardness. Two weeks after the deluge, there is still no confirmed count of lives lost. Survivors and search teams are continuing to sift through the debris to find remains of those swept away. With everything lost, scores are staring at the challenge of finding some means to take life forward. Monsoon doesn't evoke tender sentiments of love and romance any longer. It now denotes death and destruction. It shows how hapless man is before fate and it also bears testimony to human resilience in the face of catastrophe.

Like it happened once in 2018, when the whole of Kerala stood up and held hands to rescue and rebuild those caught in the floods, people came together in the aftermath of the recent landslides too. Helping hands were extended from far and wide and relief materials dispatched at short notice. And from hordes of donors came loads of unwanted things too: from used clothes



to perishables that cannot be used optimally. A social media post showed volunteers grappling with heaps of material that reflected collective compassion and magnanimity, but also underlined the difficulty of harnessing people's largesse effectively.

An appeal was made to the public to avoid sending vegetables and bread, and chiefly clothes, and instead dispatch other essentials. It was misconstrued by a segment of people and sent wrong signals that the hundreds who had taken shelter in relief camps did not need help anymore as much of it was languishing in the collection centres. Nothing could be further from the

truth. Whether in the tragic instances of natural calamity or in war-ravaged parts of the world where people have had to flee and seek refuge in makeshift camps, there is a colossal need for human kindness and generosity. But we often make mistakes in the way we express and extend this willingness to help and save people from aftermaths of misfortunes. The first thing that comes to our common mind when we talk of aid is heaps of clothes that we dump in collection centres.

Although the amount of second-hand wear that people dispose in the name of charity has decreased with awareness campaigns, there still is a huge dearth of information and knowledge regarding the kind of assistance people in relief camps need - be it after a natural calamity or in strife-ridden communities.

There is also scepticism with regard to monetary help: trust is lacking and not many believe that the funds are allocated rightly and to the needy because there are no means to trace the money

trail. That a lot of cash gets siphoned off is the public perception. Given this, how do good-natured people who are willing to lend a helping hand to the afflicted make a contribution? What is a trusted channel? It is hard to say with certainty, but the only choice we have is to trust the people who take up such endeavours or be part of volunteer groups that initiates such action.

It is indeed a shame that some devious minds take advantage of this opportunity to make a quick buck and instances of wrongdoing are not unheard of. But at the end of the day, it is one person's misery meeting another person's magnanimity. Creating safe and guaranteed channels of help and support will make more people come forward to restore the lives of those affected. The onus of winning public trust through transparency lies with community leaders, politicians and philanthropists. Even the kindest thoughts and action can go to waste if they are not done with discretion.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and writing coach; views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR





## FIRST COLUMN

## THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD OF ARROGANCE

Arrogance can lead to both greatness and self-destruction. The key lies in mastering it



RAVI VALLURI

Our mythology (particularly The Ramayana and The Mahabharata) is brimming with several well-stocked illustrations in respect of characters plagued with hubris, hurtling them down to their nemesis. We are aware of the conceited Ravana and the unbridled ambitions of Duryodhana. An angry and arrogant mind gets blurred and smudges the vision of an individual. Consequently, he behaves in a groundless manner, which has calamitous and baleful consequences for the person and those in his companionship. Is it possible to associate with such individuals who are prone to filibustering and arrogance?

The answer is an emphatic NO since there is no dialogue, only a monologue or a harangue by the self-conceited person. This drains our energy levels, a situation we would like to circumvent to save ourselves and our minds. The human mind assumes unnatural patterns and behaves in a volatile manner. A volcano of anger and arrogance erupts unexpectedly. Such individuals are veritable prisoners of their image, which is conceited and egotist. Mike Tyson, who earned epithets like Iron Mike, the Baddest Man on the Planet and Kid Dynamite outside the Ring, was convicted of rape and consuming marijuana and suffered from bipolar disorder.

He has had several brushes with the law. Tyson strongly felt that he was stigmatised by American society and that US society has not been constructed on the principles of justice, but on rape, grime, slavery, and injustice. He married thrice, besides various dalliances and philandering. He underwent reformation. He was proselytised and sought refuge in 'Allah'.



He converted the raw energy of anger and arrogance in the boxing ring where he was extremely successful. The mythological figures mentioned earlier, who were victims of anger and arrogance, bore bruised egos resulting from bruised feelings and emotions, alongside a deep sense of hurt and resentment. Ravana lusted after Sita and felt slighted that his sister Surpanakha was cold-shouldered and disfigured by Lakshmana. All his life Karma bore the cross of being called a shudra, his many talents, and abilities notwithstanding. Duryodhana remained perpetually infantile, given to juvenile behaviour.

Besides, he was under the delusion that the powers that be of Hastinapur would have never agreed to his accession after his father Dhritrashtra abdicated the throne. The feelings of hurt, playing a victim, jealousy, and injury, get metamorphosed in such personalities into deep-seated vexation and anger, leading to false bravado and arrogance.

The anger and arrogance get vitiated into negative thoughts, leading to self-destruction under the strain of self-delusion. However strange it may appear, there is a flip side at the end of the spectrum, where individuals have deployed emotions of anger and arrogance to become achievers. "Anybody can become angry—that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way—that is not within everybody's power and is not easy," wrote Aristotle.

Who does not miss the swagger of Vivian Richards, and the ferocity of the pace of Dennis Lillee and Thomson? Several politicians, industrialists, writers, artists, kings and monarchs could channelise this energy of anger and arrogance to become highly victorious and triumphant. "To be a tennis champion, you must be inflexible, you must be stubborn, you must be arrogant, and you must be selfish and self-absorbed. Kind of tunnel vision almost," says Chris Evert. Therefore, arrogance is a double-edged sword. Often it subsumes the personalities to self-destruction as they lack the power of self-discrimination and self-examination, thus becoming victims of guilt and persecution complex.

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## Afghanistan's struggle after the US withdrawal



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

As Afghanistan observes the third anniversary of the contentious US withdrawal, the country continues to face upheaval, struggling with a severe humanitarian crisis under Taliban

Experts from the United Nations have issued a statement regarding the situation in Afghanistan, commemorating three years since the United States and its allies' shameless and disgraceful withdrawal, betraying the Afghan people. Based on historical patterns, this represents yet another instance of a nation being abandoned, leaving its people in a dire state while the US and its proxies maintain indirect control. The irony is striking: the very group once branded as terrorists by the West is now, paradoxically, expected to govern, despite having been considered freedom fighters not long ago. The UN experts express grave concern over ongoing human rights violations under the Taliban regime, highlighting systemic discrimination, segregation, and severe marginalisation of women and girls.

As we confront three years of this precarious status quo, it is evident that isolationism is inadequate. The international community must seek effective engagement strategies to address the complex realities in Afghanistan, moving beyond mere diplomatic or punitive measures. In this context, it is crucial to reassess Afghanistan's historical trajectory, where the land has been used as an instrument by powerful actors, often at the expense of one of the most vibrant and resilient human communities. In the aftermath of the September 2001 attacks, the world bore a heavy cost as the United States' war on terror led to the deaths of over a million unarmed civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, ostensibly in pursuit of justice for the three thousand lost lives. This tragic toll exposes the brutal reality of US foreign policy, which relies on organised violence against perceived threats to its dominance, highlighting the need for a significant realignment. The disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan, marked by the abandonment of billions of dollars worth of weapons, exemplifies the catastrophic failure of this approach.

Meanwhile, a recent UNICEF report reveals the severe mental health crisis afflicting Afghan children, with over 24 per cent suffering from anxiety—ten times the global average—and 15 per cent battling depression, underscoring the profound psychological trauma inflicted by the ongoing conflict. Western civilisation often positions itself as the pinnacle of human development, a hubris that has led to immense destruction. The US's quest for global dominance sowed the seeds of terrorism; groups now labelled as terrorists, such as the Afghan Mujahideen, were initially supported by the US through covert operations like Operation Cyclone, with British intelligence aiding in what became one of the most costly US operations. During the Cold War, the US, in its zeal to counter Soviet influence, allied with any force against the USSR, turning a blind eye to human rights and legal norms. While seeking to replicate the Soviet Union's Vietnam misstep, the US supported the Mujahideen in Afghanistan via Pakistan. In 1987, President Reagan praised Mujahideen's progress and promised ongoing support for a free Afghanistan.

Yet, subsequent US actions revealed stark hypocrisy and a readiness to use ruthless tactics for political advantage. The Afghan crisis offers crucial insights into global power dynamics. Understanding the Soviet invasion requires recognising its complex



DURING THE COLD WAR, THE US, IN ITS ZEAL TO COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE, ALLIED WITH ANY FORCE AGAINST THE USSR, TURNING A BLIND EYE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL NORMS

background and the rise and fall of Afghanistan's communist regime from 1978 to 1989. The communist ideology, as practised under Stalin, evolved into a form of tribal feudalism, which some in Afghanistan found more appealing than Western market economies.

This alignment facilitated political power for those who exploited socialism for their ends, illustrating how political ideologies can be distorted to serve specific interests, ultimately leading to their downfall. The introduction of communism into Afghanistan profoundly impacted its social structure. Afghanistan, a fragmented region with diverse tribal groups and a mountainous terrain, was ill-suited for a unitary political system. Federalism might have been more effective, but this reality was often overlooked, leading to ongoing violence that the Taliban would inherit. In the 20th century, reformist movements emerged, bringing communist ideologies to Afghanistan. Abdulrahman Mahmudi, an early communist figure, founded the newspaper Nida'-yi-Khalq (Voice of the People) and the Hezb-e Khalq (People's Party) in the late 1940s. Although imprisoned and later dying in 1963, Mahmudi's legacy continued through his family until the 1970s, eventually evolving into a Maoist movement. Prominent leftists like Mir Muhammad Siddique Farhan and Noor Muhammad Taraki also played significant roles, with Taraki becoming a key communist leader after returning from India.

The Afghan monarchy, led by Mohammad Zahir Shah, was overthrown in a coup by his cousin General Mohammad Dawood Khan on July 17, 1973. Dawood established the Republic of

Afghanistan but was ousted in 1978 by leftist leaders Noor Mohammad Taraki, Babrak Karmal, and Hafizullah Amin, following the assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber. Taraki's presidency and Amin's prime ministership attempted significant social reforms, but their rapid implementation in a culturally resistant society led to widespread protests.

The political struggle culminated in a coup by Amin, who ousted Taraki, later reported as dying of an "unknown illness" but suffocated by guards. Key figures in pre-Taliban Afghan politics included Mohammad Zahir Shah, Mohammad Dawood Khan, Mir Akbar Khyber, Noor Mohammad Taraki, and Hafizullah Amin. Mohammad Zahir Shah, king of Afghanistan from 1933 to 1973, oversaw significant social reforms and modernisation efforts. Educated in Kabul and France, Zahir Shah returned to Afghanistan at age 19 and took on various roles within the monarchy. By the early 1960s, he was a respected ruler who embraced democratic principles and established a new parliament, working to modernise Afghanistan and improve living standards. Many nostalgic images of pre-Taliban Afghanistan reflect the successes of his administration.

In 1973, while Zahir Shah was in Italy for eye surgery, his cousin Mohammad Dawood Khan overthrew the government and established a new regime. Zahir Shah spent decades in Italy, during which Afghanistan's progress towards democracy was undone. Dawood's regime, followed by the leadership of Noor Mohammad Taraki and Hafizullah Amin, marked a shift towards Cold War-era conflicts. The assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber, whose killer remains debat-

ed, facilitated Taraki and Amin's rise to power. Taraki's government, which came to power in April 1978, was seen as a new dawn but soon became mired in violence and discord. The administration's failure to address the needs of Afghan refugees and internal dissent led to widespread dissatisfaction. Taraki's efforts to implement rapid social reforms, aimed at expediting the revolution, only intensified internal strife and fuelled extremist opposition, further destabilising the country. In August 1978, Noor Mohammad Taraki, addressing the growing Islamic protest movement, remarked: "From the moment our party assumed power, capitalist and reactionary forces have sought to undermine us using religion as a weapon against our progressive agenda. This tactic is outdated and flawed. These forces, driven by imperialistic agendas, aim to overthrow our government, believing they can succeed swiftly. But we are resilient, and their conspiracies are merely remnants of failed efforts against progressive movements." Taraki's statement reflects the early resistance he faced, which he struggled to address effectively.

Internal strife within his party, particularly with Hafizullah Amin, compounded his challenges. Taraki, who once praised Amin's ambition, soon discovered Amin's dangerous intentions. Despite Taraki's belief that Soviet support would safeguard his power, his political naivety and disregard for social realities created a fertile ground for extremist groups nurtured by Pakistan. This eventually led to Amin's rise and the Soviet intervention. To be continued

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)

## Brutality against female doctors raises questions on safety in govt hospitals

The brutal assault on a resident doctor in Kolkata has sent shockwaves across the nation raising questions about systemic negligence

In 1973, Aruna Shanbaug, a 25-year-old nurse at Mumbai's KEM Hospital, was brutally assaulted—raped and strangled with a metal dog chain—which left her in a vegetative state for the next 43 years. Five decades later, history has repeated itself with the horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old resident doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College. Both crimes occurred within hospital premises, underscoring the vulnerability of female medical staff in supposedly secure environments. The question is inevitable: has the state failed these women—and society—yet again?



RAHUL KAMBLE

disrupted medical services, as they demand justice and action. While a "civic volunteer" was arrested, there is growing suspicion that more individuals were involved in this gruesome crime. What's particularly alarming is that the assailant may have been a regular visitor to the hospital, raising the likelihood that he had prior interactions with the victim. The nature of her injuries, as revealed by the

post-mortem report, suggests that this was not only an act of sexual violence but also one of intense personal vengeance. Crimes of this brutality—especially those involving rape—are not isolated incidents in India. In 2022, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported an average of 90 rapes per day. However, authorities acknowledge that the actual number could be much higher, as many rapes go unreported due to societal taboos. Unofficial estimates suggest that over 100 rapes occur daily in India, with a staggering 80% of them classified as brutal. Despite the shocking frequency of such attacks, society and the state have failed to address the root causes effectively. The 1973 case of Aruna

Shanbaug was a grim precursor to today's epidemic of violence against women. After being raped and left for dead by a ward boy, she remained in a coma for 43 years, lovingly cared for by her colleagues. Her assailant, however, served only seven years in jail. Aruna's case remained in the media spotlight for decades, yet no sweeping reforms were made to improve the safety of female medical staff. Hospitals like RG Kar Medical College continue to lack basic security protocols, leaving women vulnerable to heinous acts of violence. Despite the public outcry that followed Aruna's case, and the more recent protests in Kolkata, most state-run hospitals have not implemented adequate safety measures.

The issue of relying on "civic



volunteers" instead of trained security personnel has long been a problem in government-run hospitals. These volunteers are often paid meager wages and supplement their income through unofficial means. Many have political affiliations, which give them a degree of immunity from disciplinary action. Year after year, issues related to hospital safety—such as malfunctioning CCTV cameras, poorly lit areas, and inadequate

security staff—are flagged but seldom addressed. These failures have made doctors, especially women, increasingly vulnerable to attacks. The horrific gang rape of a young woman in Delhi in 2012 led to promises of reforms, yet most of these remain unfulfilled. The Nirbhaya Fund, created in the aftermath of that tragedy to improve women's safety, remains largely underutilized. Between 2013 and 2022, less than half of its allocation was spent. The gap between intentions and outcome remains wide, and women continue to pay the price for this failure. The implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act of 2013 has been half-hearted at best. Women in the

medical profession are especially vulnerable—not only to sexual assault but also to intimidation and violence from patients, hospital staff, colleagues, and even senior faculty. In many government hospitals, security is virtually nonexistent in certain sections, leaving female staff, including doctors and nurses, at the mercy of anyone who wishes them harm.

There is a pressing need for the government to regulate security protocols in medical institutions across the country. Promises on paper are insufficient; action must follow. Hospitals must invest in safe lodging for female doctors, and legislation protecting doctors from violence must be passed without delay. The Supreme Court of India, in May 2023,

criticized authorities for failing to ensure a secure workplace for women. Such failures are not just administrative oversights—they are a direct threat to the lives of women in the medical profession. The case in Kolkata, where the city ironically ranked as the safest in India in 2024 according to NCRB data, exposes a troubling disconnect between official statistics and the grim reality on the ground. The tragic deaths of women like Aruna Shanbaug and the young doctor in Kolkata serve as stark reminders that much remains to be done to protect women in India. Their stories should not just be a cause for temporary outrage but a call to action for systemic change.

(The author is a freelance writer, views are personal)



# Parliament elects Thaksin's daughter as Thailand PM

**AP ■ BANGKOK**  
Thailand's Parliament elected Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the youngest daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, as the country's new prime minister Friday. Paetongtarn becomes Thailand's third leader from the Shinawatra family, after her father, who was ousted by coup before returning from exile last year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also became Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt and the country's youngest leader at 37. She is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party but was not an elected lawmaker, which was not required for her to be a candidate for prime minister. Paetongtarn was the sole nominee and got a majority of the votes in Parliament with the voting ongoing. The last prime minister had been removed by the Constitutional Court two days ago over an ethics violation.



Thaksin is one of Thailand's most popular but divisive political figures and was ousted by a military coup in 2006. He is widely seen as a de facto leader of Pheu Thai, the latest in a string of parties linked to him. His residual popularity and influence is a factor behind the political support for Paetongtarn.

acknowledged her family ties but insisted she was not just her father's proxy. "It's not the shadow of my dad. I am my dad's daughter, always and forever, but I have my own decisions," she told a reporter. However, her father's shadow is too big to be dismissed and her work will not be easy with him continuing to call political shots for Pheu Thai, said Petra Alderman, a political research fellow at England's University of Birmingham. "Thaksin was a political force to reckon with, but he was also a liability," she said. "He has a tendency to overplay his political hand, so serving in his shadow has never been easy." Paetongtarn's nomination followed the removal of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Wednesday after less than a year in office. The Constitutional Court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach regarding his appointment of a Cabinet member who was jailed in connection with an alleged bribery attempt.

# Diplomacy intensifies to halt Israel-Hamas war

**AP ■ JERUSALEM**  
International diplomacy to prevent the war in Gaza from spreading into a wider regional conflict intensified Friday, with the British and French foreign ministers making a joint trip to Israel while internationally mediated cease-fire talks in Qatar were expected to enter their second day. The new push for an end to the Israel-Hamas war came as the Palestinian death toll in Gaza climbed past 40,000, according to Gaza health authorities, and fears remained high that Iran and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon would attack Israel in retaliation for the killings of top militant leaders. "This is a dangerous moment for the Middle East," British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said. "The risk of the situation spiraling out of control is rising. Any Iranian attack would have devastating consequences for the region." Lammy and French Foreign Minister Stéphane Séjourné were expected to hold a joint meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer. "It's never too late for peace," Séjourné said. "We must at all costs avoid a regional war, which would have terrible consequences." International mediators believe the best hope for calming tensions would be a deal between Israel and Hamas to halt the fighting and secure the release of Israeli hostages. The United States, Qatar and

Egypt began a new round of talks Thursday, meeting with an Israeli delegation in Qatar. Hamas, which didn't participate directly in Thursday's talks, accuses Israel of adding new demands to a previous proposal that had U.S. and international support and to which Hamas had agreed in principle. Israel accuses Hamas of adding its own new demands. White House National Security spokesperson John Kirby called the talks an important step. He said a lot of work remains given the complexity of the agreement and that negotiators were focusing on its implementation. A U.S. official briefed on Thursday's talks called the discussion "constructive." The official was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Qatar said the talks would continue Friday. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed across the heavily guarded border on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 250 to Gaza. More than 100 were released during a weeklong cease-fire in November, and around 110 are believed to still be inside Gaza, though Israeli authorities believe around a third of them are dead. Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive has killed 40,005 Palestinians, Gaza's Health Ministry said Thursday, without saying how many were militants. Israel's military spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Thursday that Israel had

killed more than 17,000 Hamas militants in Gaza in the war, without providing evidence. Diplomats hoped a cease-fire deal would persuade Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah to hold off on retaliating for the killing of a top Hezbollah commander in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut and of Hamas' top political leader in an explosion in Tehran that was widely blamed on Israel. Kirby said that Iran has made preparations and could attack soon with little to no warning — and that its rhetoric should be taken seriously. The mediators have spent months trying to hammer out a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the hostages in exchange for a lasting cease-fire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Both sides have agreed in principle to the plan. President Joe Biden announced on May 31. But Hamas has proposed amendments and Israel has suggested clarifications, leading each side to accuse the other of trying to tank a deal. Hamas has rejected Israel's demands, which include a lasting military presence along the border with Egypt and a line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians returning to their homes to root out militants. In a reminder of how the violence has spread from Gaza, masked Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank stormed the village of Jit, setting homes and cars on fire Thursday, Israeli and Palestinian media said.

# Hurricane Ernesto targets Bermuda after hitting Puerto Rico

**AP ■ SAN JUAN**  
Hurricane Ernesto has barreled towards Bermuda after leaving hundreds of thousands of people in Puerto Rico without power or water as sweltering heat enveloped the US territory, raising concerns about people's health. A hurricane warning was in effect for Bermuda, with Ernesto expected to pass near or over the island on Saturday. The Category 1 storm was located about 450 miles (730 kilometres) south-southwest of Bermuda on Thursday afternoon. It had maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph) and was moving north at 13 mph (20 kph) over open waters. "I cannot stress enough how important it is for every resident to use this time to prepare. We have seen in the past the devastating effects of complacency," said National Security Minister Michael Weeks. Ernesto was forecast to near Category 3 hurricane status on

Friday and then decrease in strength as it approaches Bermuda, where it is expected to drop between 6-12 inches of rain, with up to 15 inches in isolated areas. "All of the guidance show this system as a large hurricane near Bermuda," said the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Ernesto is then expected to pass near or east of Atlantic Canada on Monday. Meanwhile, the spinning storm on Thursday was generating southern winds in Puerto Rico, which have a heating effect as opposed to the typical cooling trade winds that blow from the east. "We know a lot of people don't have power," said Ernesto Morales with the National Weather Service as he warned of extreme heat and urged people to stay hydrated. More than 290,000 of 1.4 million customers remained in the dark Thursday evening, more than a day after Ernesto swiped past Puerto Rico late Tuesday as a tropical storm before strengthening

into a hurricane. A maximum of 735,000 clients were without power on Wednesday. Hundreds of thousands also were without water as many questioned the widespread power outage given that Ernesto was only a tropical storm when it spun past the island. "I haven't slept at all," said Ramón Mercedes Paredes, a 41-year-old construction worker who planned to sleep outdoors on Thursday night to beat the heat. "I haven't even been able to take a shower." At a small park in the Santurce neighbourhood of the San Juan capital, Alexander Reyna, a 32-year-old construction worker, sipped on a bright red sports drink that friends provided as roosters crowed nearby above the slap of dominoes. He had no water or power and planned to spend all day at the park as he lamented the lack of a breeze, a slight film of sweat already forming on his forehead: "I have to come here because I cannot stand to be at home."

# Kamala Harris will make one hell of a president: Biden

**Washington (PTI):** US President Joe Biden has said that Kamala Harris will make "one hell of a president" as they appeared together in their first public event since she replaced him as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. Biden and Harris appeared on Thursday at Prince George's County Community College in Maryland, just outside Washington DC. The Democratic Party event celebrated the Biden administration's newly announced deal to cut the cost of 10 common prescription drugs for millions of Americans. The meeting also offered a glimpse of their dynamic, weeks into a realignment of the party ticket. "I have an incredible partner in the progress we made," President Biden said. "She's going to make one hell of a president," an untethered Biden said, praising his deputy who will be challenging the former president

and the Republican Party's candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 election. Harris, 59, became the first-ever woman of colour to be on the top of a presidential ticket of a major American political party when Biden withdrew from the race for the White House last month and backed her. She is also the first ever Indian American to be nominated as presidential candidate of either the Republican or the Democratic Party. Harris's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, was Indian and her father, Donald Jasper Harris, a Jamaican; both immigrants to the US. During the event, Biden, 81, brought the crowd to their feet multiple times. "There's a lot of love in this room for our president," Harris said. "Few leaders in our nation have done more, on so many issues, including to expand access to affordable health care, than Joe Biden," she said.

# Trump refuses to tone down personal attacks on Harris

**PTI ■ WASHINGTON**  
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has said he is "entitled" to personally attack his Democratic rival Kamala Harris because he doesn't "have a lot of respect for her", as he dismissed calls from allies to refocus his campaign on policy issues in his bid to reclaim the White House. Trump, 78, said he is "angry" at Vice President Harris, 59, over the Biden administration's handling of issues ranging from inflation to immigration. "I don't have a lot of respect for her. I don't have a lot of respect for her intelligence. I think she'll be a terrible president. I think it's very important that we win. And whether the personal attacks are good or bad she certainly attacks me personally," the former president told reporters at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey on Thursday. Trump was responding to questions from his party members urging him not to



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a news conference at Trump National Golf Club, Thursday in Bedminster, N.J. AP/PTI

make personal attacks on Harris, who is the first woman of colour running for the presidency. "As far as the personal attacks (against Harris), I'm very angry at her because of what she's done to the country. I'm very angry at her that she weaponised the justice system

# China alarmed by US missile system deployed to its North

**Manila (AP):** China expressed its "very dramatic" alarm over a mid-range missile system that the US military recently deployed to the Philippines, and warned it could destabilise the region. But Manila's top diplomat said Friday he reassured his Chinese counterpart that the weaponry was only in the country temporarily. Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo said his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, expressed China's concern over the US mid-range missile deployment to the Philippines during their talks last month in Laos on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meetings with Asian and Western countries. "We discussed it and, well, they made it very dramatic," Manalo said in response to questions during a news conference in Manila.

# S African leaders to meet in Zimbabwe amid Mpox, political tensions

**AP ■ HARARE**  
African leaders will meet in Zimbabwe on Saturday for a scheduled summit of the 16-nation Southern African Development Community that may discuss the rising issue of mpox outbreaks across the continent but is less likely to tackle international concerns about the human rights record of its host. This week, the World Health Organisation declared the mpox outbreaks in Africa a global health emergency. The SADC region includes Congo, which has more than 90 per cent of mpox cases. Mpox has been present in central and West Africa for years, but it has been detected in more than a dozen African countries this year, including some where it was never previously reported. Scientists have also identified a new form of mpox in Congo that might be more infectious. WHO raised concerns it might start to spill over international borders, and Sweden has reported its

first case of the new variant. South Africa's Democratic Alliance party, which is part of the coalition government, has urged South African delegates at the SADC summit to raise the issue of mpox. South Africa and other southern African nations have reported only a few cases, but the Democratic Alliance said Congo's large outbreak "shows just how fast the situation can change". As heads of state or their representatives began arriving for the summit in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, there was criticism from United Nations human rights figures and other groups over an alleged political crackdown by the government of Zimbabwe, where more than 160 activists and opposition members have been arrested in recent months. On Thursday, the UN's human rights office released a statement on behalf of a range of experts calling for the release of dozens of activists and opposition members who have been jailed. The statement said three

# Pakistan reports 3 Mpox cases

**Islamabad (PTI):** At least three patients with mpox virus have been found so far in Pakistan, it emerged on Friday as the government decided to strengthen the screening system at the airports. The mpox detection in Pakistan is the first in Asia and it might be more easily transmitted. The World Health Organisation has declared the spread of mpox a global health emergency. All three patients belong to the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in the northwest, the militancy-whacked region bordering Afghanistan. Salim Khan, the director general of health services for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that two patients were

detected on their arrival from the United Arab Emirates, while a third patient's samples had been sent to the National Health Institute in Islamabad for confirmation. According to the spokesperson of the Federal Ministry of Health, the last patient in whom this virus was found belongs to the Mardan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is not yet clear which strain of mpox the said patient contracted and whether it is the same variant that was first confirmed outside of Africa in Sweden. "Contact tracing of the affected person has been started and samples of more people are being obtained," the spokesman said. Officials said that all three patients were

being quarantined and their contact tracing was going on. Pakistan's Ministry of Health also issued an advisory on the disease on Thursday, which states that "the screening system at airports and entry points is being further strengthened." Prime Minister's Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath says that federal hospitals have been instructed to take precautionary measures and the Ministry of Health and Border Health Services are "alert to deal with any kind of situation." The WHO declared the outbreak of mpox in parts of Africa as a cause of international concern and a threat to public health.

International and Human Rights Watch, over 160 activists have been arrested recently. Many, including a mother and her 1-year-old baby, have been held in pretrial detention for weeks. Zimbabwe's president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, is set to take over the rotational leadership of SADC, but there has been little diplomatic pressure on the 81-year-old's administration from neighbours in SADC, even though rights groups have alleged he has overseen a crackdown before and since last year's presidential election, where he was reelected for a second term. Ahead of Saturday's summit, Zimbabwe has paved over damaged and potholed roads, planted palm trees along highways and even promised uninterrupted electricity and water supplies for delegates, while Zimbabweans are often hit by blackouts and water cuts. Analysts doubt that regional leaders will step up and use this summit to caution Zimbabwe over its rights record. "They avoid the difficult issues," said Antony Reeler, a Zimbabwean researcher and political analyst.

# Many suspects in Pakistan anti-Christian rampage still at large

**Multan (Pakistan) (AP):** Most of the suspects in a rampage last year against minority Christians in eastern Pakistan over alleged blasphemy are not in custody and authorities have failed to deliver justice to the victims, a human rights group said on Friday. "More than 90 per cent of the suspects of the attack in Jaranwala, in Punjab's Faisalabad district, are still at large," Amnesty International said in a statement on the anniversary of one of Pakistan's worst attacks on Christians, in which churches and homes of Christians were destroyed. The violence erupted after saw Muslims alleged that they saw a local Christian and his friend desecrating pages from a Quran. The attack drew nationwide condemnation. No one died, as terrified Christians quickly fled to safer places. Amnesty International said it obtained its information from police after filing a Right to Information Request. It said of the 5,213 accused, 380 were arrested and 4,833 were still at large. It said of those who were arrested, 228 were released on bail and 77 others had the charges against them dropped. It said trials of the suspects have not started and about 40 per cent of victims who lost property are still awaiting government compensation. Abid Khan, the regional police chief, said investigators have referred the cases of suspects linked to the violence to an anti-terrorism court, and their trial was expected to start soon. "Despite the authorities' assurances of accountability, the grossly inadequate action has allowed a climate of impunity for the perpetrators of the Jaranwala violence," Babu Ram Pant, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for South Asia, said in the statement.

# India's I-Day celebrated with fervour across New York City

**PTI ■ NEW YORK**  
The hues of the Indian tricolour, India's rich cultural heritage and strong bilateral relations with the US resonated across the city as the country's 78th Independence Day was celebrated here with patriotic fervour. A slew of events commemorating India's Independence Day were held across the city on Thursday highlighting the strong people-to-people ties between India and the US as well as India's rich heritage. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at the Consulate General of India in New York, Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Times Square and lower Manhattan in the presence of members of the Indian diaspora and city officials. Minister of



State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita, who was in the city before travelling on to Latin America, addressed members of the diaspora at the flag hoisting ceremony in the Consulate and Times Square. Leading diaspora organisation Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT-NE (FIA) held a special

Independence Day celebration at the iconic New York City destination Times Square, which was seeped in the hues of the Indian tricolour, as patriotic songs reverberated through the air and the country's rich cultural heritage was on full display. Consul General of India in New York Binaya Pradhan hoisted the tricolour at the Consulate as well as at Times Square. Margherita told members of the diaspora that "as I address you for the first time on American soil, I am struck by the profound connection between our two great nations". Echoing the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Margherita said that India and the US, two of the world's largest democracies and economies, share a bond that goes beyond mere diplomatic ties.

# TikTok compares itself to American news outlets as it fights forced sale or ban

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
TikTok on Thursday pushed back against US government arguments that the popular social media platform is not shielded by the First Amendment, comparing its platform to prominent American media organizations owned by foreign entities. Last month, the Justice Department argued in a legal brief filed in a Washington federal appeals court that neither TikTok's China-based parent company, ByteDance, nor the platform's global and U.S. arms — TikTok Ltd. and TikTok Inc. — were entitled to First Amendment protections because they are "foreign organizations operating abroad" or owned by one. TikTok attorneys have made the First Amendment a key part

of their legal challenge to the federal law requiring ByteDance to sell TikTok to an approved buyer or face a ban. On Thursday, they argued in a court document that TikTok's U.S. arm doesn't forfeit its constitutional rights because it is owned by a foreign entity. They drew a parallel between TikTok and well-known news outlets such as Politico and Business Insider, both of which are owned by German publisher Axel Springer SE. They also cited Fortune, a business magazine owned by Thai businessman Chatchaval Jiaravanon. "Surely the American companies that publish Politico, Fortune, and Business Insider do not lose First Amendment protection because they have foreign ownership," the TikTok attorneys

wrote, arguing that "no precedent" supports what they called "the government's dramatic rewriting of what counts as protected speech." In a redacted court filing made last month, the Justice Department argued ByteDance and TikTok haven't raised valid free speech claims in their challenge against the law, saying the measure addresses national security concerns about TikTok's ownership without targeting protected speech. The Biden administration and TikTok had held talks in recent years aimed at resolving the government's concerns. But the two sides failed to reach a deal. TikTok said the government essentially walked away from the negotiating table after it proposed a 90-page agreement that

detailed how the company planned to address concerns about the app while still maintaining ties with ByteDance. However, the Justice Department has said TikTok's proposal "failed to create sufficient separation between the company's U.S. operations and China" and did not adequately address some of the government's concerns. The government has pointed to some data transfers between TikTok employees and ByteDance engineers in China as why it believed the proposal, called Project Texas, was not sufficient to guard against national security concerns. Federal officials have also argued that the size and scope of TikTok would have made it impossible to meaningfully enforce compliance with the proposal.



# B'desh caretaker govt promises action

**PTI ■ DHAKA**  
Bangladesh's newly-appointed Home Affairs Ministry adviser has vowed to take swift legal action against those who attack or abuse minorities, stressing that there is no place for violence, conflict, or hatred in the country. Brigadier General (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain's assurance came during a meeting with a delegation from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Bangladesh at his office in the Secretariat on Thursday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of Hindu communities following the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina, who resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs. Hussain emphasised that Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony, where people of all religions have grown up together without any divisions. He said that no one would be spared if they attacked or abused minorities, and swift

# Yunus inducts four more advisers

**Dhaka (PTI):** The interim government in Bangladesh led by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus was expanded on Friday with four more advisers joining his team of civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders. The new advisers are Wahiduddin Mahmud, an economist, Ali Imam Majumdar, former cabinet secretary, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, former power secretary, and Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury. With these four, the strength of the members — all equivalent to ministers — in the interim government's advisory council rose to 21. Nobel Laureate Yunus and 13 other advisers were sworn in



Majumdar was appointed as special assistant to this interim government's chief adviser on August 12; while Chowdhury is former director general of Border Guard,

Bangladesh. Hasina had resigned and secretly left for India on August 5 in the face of the massive mass upsurge originating from a students' movement over the quota system for government jobs, marking the end of her Awami League regime since December 2008. Most of the advisers are civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders. Globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance', Yunus, 84, was declared as the head of the interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin after dissolving Parliament, a decision prompted by a demand by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

legal action would be taken. He said that there is no place for violence, conflict, or hatred and that the country believes in peace. During the meeting, Satyanjan Baroi, president of ISKCON Bangladesh, requested the adviser to take priority measures for the safety of minorities and presented eight

proposals for ensuring their safety, including enacting laws, establishing monitoring cells, forming a Minority Commission and providing continuous state security for temples. The adviser assured his full support for these matters. The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance said that the minority community faced attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on the Hindu religion." Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus who is heading the interim government on Tuesday reached out to the distressed Hindu commu-



Participants prepare a kite during Denpasar international kite festival in Sanur, Bali, Indonesia on Friday. AP/PTI

# Palau's president says China is weaponising lucrative tourism

**AP ■ WELLINGTON**  
Beijing weaponised tourism to the Pacific archipelago of Palau over its allegiance to Taiwan and its accusations that China was behind a major cyberattack there, President Surangel Whipps Jr said. Palau, along with Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, is one of three Pacific nations to recognise Taiwan as an independent democracy — viewed as a snub by Beijing, which asserts it is part of China. Taipei's allies in the Pacific have dwindled from five countries in 2019; Nauru abandoned its ties in January. Whipps told the AP in an interview late Thursday that, in 2020 while he was running for his current post, the Chinese ambassador to a neighboring country pledged to flood his tourism-dependent nation of 20,000 people with a million visitors if he capitulated to the country's stance. "That continues to be the overture," he said by phone Thursday. "They say, why are you torturing yourselves? Just join us and the sky's the limit." Whipps refused. "We don't need a million tourists," he added. "It's not always about how much money we get." His stance is vanishingly rare amid Pacific island nations — some struggling to sustain themselves and feeling overlooked by Western powers while their backyards are increasingly the settings for some of the world's most potent contests for influence. Amid

intensifying conflict over ocean territory, resources and political sway, Beijing's pressure on the three hold-out countries was increasing, analysts said. "As the number of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Pacific dwindles, the obstacles to China's regional diplomacy diminish," said Mihai Sora, Director of the Pacific Islands Program at the Lowy Institute. China's penalties for Palau's intransigence are not new, but they have escalated in the months leading up to November's election in which Whipps will seek another term as leader, he said. In May, he blamed China for a major cyberattack on Palau in which 20,000 government documents were stolen. The claim was unproven, Whipps said, but no other motive or actor had emerged. Earlier that month, Palau tourism industry representatives were denied visas to enter Macau for a lucrative international industry conference. Then reports appeared in China's state media and on an official WeChat channel in June, warning tourists of an increase in safety issues for Chinese visitors to Palau. The remarks, seen by the AP, urged citizens to be cautious when traveling there. Whipps rejected the reports of security problems but said the claims had stuck — visitor numbers from China halved in 2024, now down to 30% of its tourists. Once, 70% of Palau's visitors came from China, but

# Ukrainian officials urge civilians to evacuate eastern town of Pokrovsk

**AP ■ KYIV**  
Military authorities in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Friday urged civilians to speed up their evacuation because the Russian army is quickly closing in on what has for months been one of Moscow's key targets in the war. The call for people to get out as soon as possible came as Kyiv's forces are trying to divert the Kremlin's military focus to Russian soil by launching a bold incursion across the border into the Kursk region. The urgency also underscored the high-stakes gamble Ukraine is making by taking the war into Russia with its ongoing assault that started August 6. The attack was a daring attempt to change the dynamics of the 2½-year conflict, but

it could leave Ukraine's short-handed defense at the mercy of Russia's push. The Kremlin's forces have had battlefield momentum and superior forces in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region since the spring. Evacuations in the Donetsk region around Pokrovsk have become increasingly urgent in recent weeks. Pokrovsk officials said in a Telegram post Friday that Russian troops are "advancing at a fast pace. With every passing day there is less and less time to collect personal belongings and leave for safer regions." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned on Thursday that Pokrovsk and other nearby towns in the Donetsk region were "facing the most intense Russian assaults."

# Pak govt admits tinkering with internet: Report

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
For the first time, the Pakistan government has confirmed that it was upgrading its "web management system" to cope with cyber security threats amid speculation about the installation of a so-called "firewall" that could be leading to internet disruptions in the country, according to a media report on Friday. Millions of people across Pakistan have been facing trouble accessing internet services for some time now due to limited connectivity, particularly while using mobile data in some regions. So far, official stakeholders in Pakistan have either been feigning ignorance in response to public outcry and media queries, or claiming that the problems were because of telecom and internet service providers, or even Meta. While talking to reporters after the

Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication meeting on Thursday, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the government had sought a report from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and other institutions over the internet disruption. "The internet should never be slow. We have even been talking about bringing 5G technology to Pakistan. There is no doubt about that, and conversations about higher internet speed are underway," the Dawn newspaper quoted Khawaja as saying. When the minister was asked about the 'firewall' — a blanket term used by the public to describe the causes of internet disruption in the absence of any official explanation — she said the issue had been "blown out of proportion." "The government has been operating a web-management system. The system is now being upgraded." She also called the process "a routine exercise" across the globe to enhance internet security, without giving any detail to substantiate her claims about which other countries have deployed this system. "It is the right of the government to take measures to protect its interests given the cyber security attacks that Pakistan is facing." This was the first time an acknowledged government's actions, which have been blamed for everything from slow browsing speeds, the arbitrary blocking of social media platforms and WhatsApp connectivity issues on mobile data, the paper said.

# Flights, trains cancelled in Tokyo area as a strong typhoon swerves nearby

**Tokyo (AP):** Flights and trains in the Tokyo area were cancelled Friday, and people were warned of strong winds, heavy rains and potential flooding and mudslides as a typhoon swerved near Japan on its way further north in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoon Ampil was forecast to reach the waters near Tokyo in the evening then continue north, bringing stormy conditions to the northern Kanto and Tohoku regions early Saturday. It had sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph) with higher gusts Friday morning and was moving north at 20 kph (12 mph), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Ampil was not expected to make landfall and would weaken to a tropical storm by Sunday. The Shinkansen bullet trains running between Tokyo and Nagoya were halted for the entire day, according to Central Japan Railway, a common response to typhoons here. Bullet trains serving northeastern Japan and some local Tokyo trains were suspended temporarily or switched to a slower schedule. Dozens of departing and arriving flights were cancelled at Tokyo's two airports, Haneda and Narita, as well as at Kansai, Osaka and Chubu airports. The flight cancellations affect some 90,000 people, according to Japanese media reports. Several highways may also partly close to traffic.

Airports and train stations had been packed Thursday with people moving up their plans to avoid disruptions from the typhoon. Friday morning was drizzly and windy in Tokyo, and traffic and crowds out on the streets were sparse, mostly because of the Bon summer holiday period, not just the weather. Stores remained open.

# Wickremesinghe backed by grand alliance in SL presidential poll

**Colombo (PTI):** Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, the front runner in the presidential poll scheduled for next month, was on Friday endorsed by a grand coalition of over 30 political parties and groups. This comes after Wickremesinghe, 75, announced himself as the independent candidate on Thursday by handing over nominations to contest the September 21 presidential election. Wickremesinghe, the leader of the now decimated grand old party, the United National Party (UNP), is backed by the Rajapaksa family breakaways from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP).

**GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR NOTICE**  
Applications forms for allotment of hostel Shops/Vehicle Stands from session 2024-25 (Extendable upto 30-06-2029) of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur, Regional Campus, Jalandhar & University College, Jalandhar are invited till 28.08.2024. The details, terms & conditions and forms can be downloaded from the university website link: <https://online.gndu.ac.in/tenders-notice.aspx>  
Dean Student's Welfare  
NA/12/24801/2023/36732 Dated CHD - 8/16/2024

**verka**  
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812.66  
www.verka.coop  
Notice Inviting Tender  
Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head office, Chandigarh a) Dry Fruits i. Badam ii. Kaju 4 Pc iii. Kishmish iv. Pisti v. Elaichi b) Augmentation & Re-strengthening of existing 4 No's foundations (60 kl to 100 kl milk silos) of liquid milk plant at Verka Mohali Dairy.	06 Months/ 700 kg 7950 kg 670 kg 525 kg 1000 kg Two Months
2.	For Verka Chandigarh Dairy Auction Notice for Vehicles:- i. Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2105, Model-2008, Diesel ii. Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2821, Model-2009, Diesel iii. Tata 407 Vehicle No. PB85-E-6730, Model-2007, Diesel iv. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No. CH04J-2719, Model-2009 v. Hero Honda Motor Cycle No. CH04J-1841, Model-2009	01 No. 01 No. 01 No. 01 No. 01 No.
3.	For Verka Mohali Dairy Annual rate contract for used Polyethylene/Polypropylene/assorted used curd/ kheer cups/misc bottles scrap, assorted used matka scrap, misc used Cans (Capacity 10 to 15 L) Scrap, Misc used Cans (Capacity 20 to 50 L) scrap and half yearly rate contract for disposal of other unserviceable items lying at Verka Mohali Dairy.	Annual/05 Tankers
4.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Hiring of Road Milk Tankers for transportation of Milk with/without Punjab at Verka Bathinda Dairy. (Capacity 10 Tons & Capacity 15 Tons and above).	03 No's. each
5.	For Verka Patiala Dairy a) Hiring of insulated S.S road milk tankers for milk transportation within Punjab & other states Cap- 15,000 to 30,000 Ltr. b) Hiring of insulated vehicle for transportation of Fresh Milk and Fresh Milk products for:- i. Route no 2 (Jhabra). ii. Route no 4 (Bhadurgarh, Urban Estate & Gurbaish colony, Patiala). iii. Route no 5 (Thapar uni, Bhadson road, Patiala & surrounding area). iv. Route no 7 (Sirhind, Fatehgarh Sahib, Bhadson Amhla). v. Route no 9 (Ambala, Mulana and Sahi). c) Hiring of Insulated Vehicle for transportation of Frozen and Ambient Milk products in Verka Jalandhar Dairy Milkshed area.	Annual/05 Tankers
6.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy Job Contract for operation and maintenance of pouch filling machines and tray washer including coding on pouches.	Annual
7.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Hiring of insulated Single portion Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of Milk from BMC/MCC (cap. 10,000 Ltr.) b) Supply of Indonesian Steam Coal.	Annual/ 12 No's 2000MT
8.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) Hiring of Vehicles for transportation of Milk from MPC/S/Farms to MCC and Milk Plant. Tata 407/409, Mahindra Max, Mahindra Pick, Bolero Pick, Tata Ace. b) Pest Control Services.	17 Routes
9.	For Verka Jalandhar Dairy a) Supply of Aluminium foil for 450g/500g, 1 kg, 5 kg & 15 kg Matka. b) Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of ammonia based cold room in Verka Jalandhar Dairy Milkshed area.	Annual Annual
10.	For Verka Ferozpur Dairy a) Hiring of car (Bolero/ Swift/ Toyota Etios or its equivalent). b) Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of ammonia based cold room with puff panel & its accessories, with civil structure complete.	01 No. 01 Complete Job
11.	For Verka CFP, Bhatiana (Khanna) Transportation of Molasses from The Budhewal and The morinda co-operative sugar Mills Ltd. to Verka Cattle feed plant, Bhatiana (Khanna).	Annual
12.	For Verka CFP, Ghanaia (Bhaini) Disposal of old bardana jute gunny bags above 50 kgs/ Katta upto 50 kgs and Plastic kattas.	Annual / Approx. 13-14 Lakh bags

NOTE:  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/24804/2023/36735 Dated CHD - 8/16/2024 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

**verka**  
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812.66  
www.verka.coop  
Notice Inviting e Tender  
e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Name of Work/Item	Khanna	GKB
For Cattle Feed Plant, Khanna & Ghaina - Ke. Bangar		
1. MFPP Molecule	25 MT	23 MT
2. Formaldehyde Solution (with drum) 37-40%	45 MT	12 MT
3. Ferrous Sulphate/ Iron Sulphate 30% min	3 MT	1.2 MT
4. Zinc Sulphate zn33% min	10 MT	7.5 MT
5. Manganese Sulphate 32% min.	2 MT	2.3 MT
6. Calcium Chloride	15 MT	12.3 MT
a) Assay 90-95%		
b) pH 200g/l = 7		
7. Sodium Thiosulphate.	4 MT	4.3 MT
8. Copper Sulphate cu. 24% min.	3 MT	1.6 MT
9. Magnesium Chloride	5 MT	4 MT
a) Assay: not less than 98%		
b) pH 5% solution: 4.5-7.0		
10. Sodium Butyrate (Assay: 98.0%(min), Lead: 20 ppm (max), Arsenic: 2 ppm (max))	1 MT	1.1 MT
11. Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetner, Cattle Feed Grade Free Flowing Powder	5 MT	9 MT
12. HMTBA based chelates	17 MT	18 MT
13. Live Yeast (saccharochoyces cereverial)	20 MT	14.00 MT
14. Potassium Iodide	-	0.105 MT
15. Potassium Carbonate	-	15.00 MT
16. Choline	-	.600 MT
17. By pass fat (rate contract for three months)	150 MT	35 MT

NOTE:  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop) & e Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in).  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/24805/2023/36736 Dated CHD - 8/16/2024 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

**PPGCL**  
PRAYAGRAJ POWER GENERATION COMPANY LTD.  
Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301  
Plant Address: PO-Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Ahmedabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107  
Phone : +91-120-6102008/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835  
**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for Hiring of Ambulance (ALS & BLS Type) of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India.  
Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL - <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- [www.pspscil.in](http://www.pspscil.in)  
Mobile No.96461-22067  
**E-Tender Enq. No. 554/P-1/EMP/P-12775 dated 14-08-24**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_125574\_1 to conduct Energy Audit of GGSSTP Units III to VI having capacities of 4x210MW. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14.08.2024/ 5.00 PM onwards.  
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
RTP-91/24  
76155/12/3308/2023/36725 Dated CHD - 8/16/2024

**JITF INFRA LOGISTICS LIMITED**  
CIN NO. : L60231CT2008PLC016434  
Registered Office: A-11(7), Uday Society, Sector-3, Tatibahda, Raipur-492099, Dharsiwa, Chhattisgarh, India  
Website: [www.jitfinfra.com](http://www.jitfinfra.com), E-mail: [contactus@jitfinfra.com](mailto:contactus@jitfinfra.com)  
**NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY**  
For transfer of unclaimed amount of Fraction Shares to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Account (As per Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013).  
In terms of requirements of Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), as amended, the Company is required to transfer the unclaimed amount of fraction shares which remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years, to the IEPF Account established by the Central Government.  
A separate communication has been sent to all the Shareholders, who have not claimed the unclaimed amount of fraction shares at their registered email or communication address with the Company.  
A list of such shareholders who have not claimed the amount of fraction shares during the period of seven consecutive years and the amount of which are therefore liable for transfer to the IEPF Account is available on the website of the Company at [www.jitfinfra.com](http://www.jitfinfra.com).  
Shareholders are requested to forward the requisite documents, as per the above-mentioned communication to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), to claim the unclaimed amount. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of receipt of a valid claim by the Shareholders, the Company would be transferring the said amount to IEPF Account without further notice in accordance with the requirement of the said Rules.  
Please note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed amount transferred to IEPF pursuant to the said Rules. Please note that after such transfer, Shareholders/Claimants can claim the transferred amount from the IEPF Authority, for which details are available at [www.iepf.gov.in](http://www.iepf.gov.in).  
For any information/clarifications on this matter, the concerned Shareholders/Claimants may write to the Company at [Contactus@jitfinfra.com](mailto:Contactus@jitfinfra.com) or to the RTA of the Company M/s RCMC SHARE REGISTRY PRIVATE LIMITED, B-25/1, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase -2, New Delhi - 110020 Phone: 011-26387320, 26387321, E-mail ID: [investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com](mailto:investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com).  
For JITF INFRA LOGISTICS LIMITED  
Sd/-  
ALOK KUMAR  
COMPANY SECRETARY  
M.NO.: A 19819  
Date: 16.08.2024  
Place: Raipur



# Sensex jumps to two-week high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex spurted by 1,330 points to close at a two-week high while Nifty jumped 397 points to settle above the 24,500 level on Friday as easing fears of a recession in the US triggered buying in IT shares amid a sharp global stocks rally. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84, marking its best single-day gains in more than two months. During the day, it zoomed 1,412.33 points or 1.78 per cent to 80,518.21. The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week high of



24,541.15. As many as 47 Nifty shares closed in green while three closed in red. From Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL

Technologies, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers. Sun Pharma emerged as the only laggard. "The stability of the Japanese Yen has been instrumental in driving a global market recovery. Besides that, the strong US retail sales and a decline in weekly jobless claims have helped alleviate fears of a US recession. "Further, the market sentiment has improved due to a decrease in US CPI inflation. On the backdrop of these, the Indian IT firms exhibited strong buying interest," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled significantly higher. European markets were

trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended with sharp gains on Thursday. "The Indian frontline indices traded significantly higher today, mirroring the positive global market sentiment. The gains in the market were broad-based as the midcap and smallcap indices also moved higher. This upbeat market mood was primarily driven by reduced volatility, which stemmed from increased expectations of a US rate cut in September," Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox, said. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.80 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.70 per cent. All indices ended higher. IT index soared 2.72 per cent and realty jumped 2.45 per cent.

Teck (2.23 per cent), auto (1.90 per cent), commodities (1.89 per cent), power (1.80 per cent), financial services (1.77 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.74 per cent) also closed higher. A total of 2,462 stocks advanced while 1,467 declined and 107 remained unchanged on the BSE. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,595.27 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were buyers as they bought equities worth Rs 2,236.21 crore, according to exchange data.



## FDI in food processing sector down 30 per cent to ₹5,037 cr in 2023-24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's food processing sector declined 30 per cent in the last fiscal to Rs 5,037.06 crore, according to official data. The FDI in the food processing sector stood at Rs 7,194.13 crore in 2022-23. According to the data presented by the Food Processing Industries Ministry in Lok Sabha, the FDI in food processing sector stood at Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2934.12 crore in 2020-21. FDI was Rs 6,414.67 crore in 2019-20; Rs 4430.44 crore in 2018-19; Rs 5,835.62 crore in 2017-18; Rs 4,865.85 crore in 2016-17; and Rs 3,312 crore in 2015-16 in the food processing sector. In order to enhance foreign investment in the food processing sector, the ministry has taken various measures, including 100 per cent FDI permitted through automatic route for the food processing sector subject to sectoral regulations. It has allowed 100 per cent FDI, under the government approval route, for trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India. The government has exempted

all processed food items from the purview of licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. There is a lower GST for raw and processed products. More than 71.7 per cent of food products under various chapters/sub-heads are covered in lower tax slabs of 0 per cent and 5 per cent. The export of processed foods declined 17 per cent to USD 10,881.81 million in 2023-24 from USD 13,078.3 million in the preceding fiscal. For the development of this sector, the ministry is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) schemes. All these three schemes are demand-driven and implemented across the country. These schemes are aimed at creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, and to help in providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, reducing wastage, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of processed foods.

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LIMITED					
Regd. Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.					
CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460, Website: www.uliltd.com,					
Email id: investorrelations@uliltd.com, Phone: 011-26253522					
Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th June, 2024					
Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes Below)	Quarter Ended			Current year ended 31st March 2024
		30.06.2024	31.06.2024	30.06.2024	
		[Unaudited] [1]	[Unaudited] [2]	[Unaudited] [3]	[Audited] [4]
1	Total Income from Operations	154.57	198.67	124.41	726.18
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	10.63	(24.31)	38.56	8.39
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	10.63	(24.31)	13.79	8.39
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	10.63	(24.31)	13.79	8.39
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)				
8	a) Basic	0.35	(0.81)	0.46	0.28
	b) Diluted	0.35	(0.81)	0.46	0.28

**Notes :**  
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2024 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.uliltd.com.  
For United Leasing & Industries Limited  
SD/-  
ANIL KUMAR KHANNA, Managing Director, DIN: 0020783

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	
REGISTERED OFFICE	
Farm No. 10, Tropical Drive, Ghitorni, M.G Road, New Delhi - 110030 Mob-9310100001. Email: customercare@manibhavnam.com	
PUBLIC NOTICE	
This is to inform the public in general, and the customers in particular, that the management of the Company has decided to close the following branch :	
<b>Name</b>	Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited
<b>Current Address</b>	Ground Floor, Prem Niwas Guest House, Nayapura, Osian, The Osian, Dist. Jodhpur, Rajasthan
<b>Contact Details of Closing Branch</b>	+919910705878 vipin.gupta@manibhavnam.com
<b>Tentative Date of Closing</b>	25th November, 2024
It is clarified that due care is being taken by the Company to ensure that no inconvenience whatsoever is caused to the Company's customers during the process of closing. The loan accounts of all the valued customers shall continue with another branch from new address (i.e., <b>KHASRA NO-1588/2, V/P- OSIAN, GROUND FLOOR, NEW BUSSTAND ROAD, NEAR HERITAGE SAFA HOUSE, TEH-OSIAN, DIST-JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN</b> ). Customers are hereby requested to kindly take note of the aforesaid change, which will be effective tentatively from 25th November 2024.	
In case any further clarification is required and/or in case of any difficulty, the customer may contact the officials of Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited <b>Contact: - +91 9910705878, Mr. Vipin Gupta</b>	
Date: 11th August 2024	Place: Osian

ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED				
CIN: U45400DL2007PTC168922				
ANNEXURE I				
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]				
(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)				
S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended		For the Year ended
		30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	17.49	402.64	1,079.02
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(35.00)	(95.06)	(1,427.70)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(35.00)	(95.06)	(1,427.70)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(36.74)	(95.25)	(1,778.97)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(36.74)	(95.25)	(1,782.57)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve )	(4,099.34)	(2,375.28)	(4,062.60)
8	Net worth	(4,098.34)	(2,374.28)	(4,061.60)
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	20,769.55	16,156.23	16,425.32
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio *	(0.59)	(6.80)	(4.04)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic: (in Rs)	(367.43)	(952.53)	(1,789.69)
	2. Diluted: (in Rs)	(367.43)	(952.53)	(1,789.69)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
14	Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.09)
15	Interest Service Coverage Ratio *	-	(0.26)	(18.53)
16	Current Ratio	0.85	0.91	0.85
17	Long Term Debt to Working Capital Ratio	-	(0.25)	-
18	Bad Debt to Accounts Receivable Ratio	-	-	-
19	Current Liability Ratio	1.00	0.97	1.00
20	Total Debt to Total Asset Ratio	0.05	0.35	0.05
21	Debtor Turnover Ratio	-	7.92	12.67
22	Inventory Turnover Ratio	-	0.01	0.05
23	Operating Margin	0.00%	-32.43%	-165.89%
24	Net Profit Margin	-210.09%	-23.66%	-164.87%

**Notes:**  
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.  
b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).  
c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.  
d) \* - The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.  
e) Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of ATS Infrabuild Private Limited

SD/- Kashinath Jha Director DIN- 09834435	SD/- Santosh Kumar Director DIN- 09835334
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Place: Noida  
Date: 14/08/2024

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under CIRP)				
Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019				
CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550				
Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com				
ANNEXURE I				
Format for publishing financial results in newspapers				
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]				
(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)				
S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter Ended	For the Quarter Ended	For the Year ended
		30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	0.20	2.50	4.26
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(1.50)	(20.22)	(49.47)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(1.50)	(20.22)	(49.47)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(1.56)	(10.53)	(527.83)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1.56)	(10.53)	(527.83)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve )	(3,269.14)	(2,750.28)	(3,267.57)
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-
9	Net worth	(3,268.14)	(2,749.28)	(3,266.57)
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,40,326.86	1,92,152.85	2,33,446.74
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	(73.54)	(69.89)	(71.47)
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic:	(15.65)	(105.37)	(5,278.33)
	2. Diluted:	(15.65)	(105.37)	(5,278.33)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.0000)	(0.002)	(0.0002)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-	(0.014)	(1.180)

**Note:**  
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.  
b) For the other line items referred in the Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).  
c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

SD/- Kashinath Jha Director	SD/- Santosh Kumar Director
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Gaurav Katiyar  
Interim Resolution Professional  
Reg. No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409

Place: Noida  
Date: 14/08/2024





# WINGS OF COURAGE

## UNVEILING THE IAF'S UNTOLD KARGIL SAGA



Through rare footage and powerful testimonies, riveting documentary, 'Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' pays tribute to the bravery and strategic brilliance of Indian air force in Operation 'Safed Sagar'

**K**argil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force' is more than just a recounting of military history; it is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of India and the brave men and women who defend our skies. As the nation marks the 25th anniversary of the Kargil victory, this documentary stands as a fitting homage to their legacy. This Independence Day, DocuBay streamed a new documentary, 'Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force'. Produced by Media Indica in association with Juggernaut Productions, this film sheds light on the critical and often overlooked role the Indian Air Force (IAF) played

during the Kargil War. The documentary delves into the heart of Operation 'Safed Sagar', revealing the untold stories of courage, innovation, and strategic brilliance that defined the IAF's contribution to the conflict. Through the eyes of veterans and officials, viewers will be taken behind the scenes of daring missions that were instrumental in securing India's victory. What sets this documentary apart is its access to rare footage and personal diaries that provide a unique perspective on the Kargil War. The documentary takes a 360 degree look at the IAF's cutting-edge aircraft, including the Mirage and MiG, in



action and gains a deeper understanding of the technological advancements that played a pivotal role in the conflict.

Featuring first-hand accounts from iconic figures such as Air Chief Marshal Tipnis, Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa, Air Marshal Padamjit Singh Ahluwalia, Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, and Group Captain Nachiketa, the documentary weaves together a powerful narrative of valor and sacrifice. Combined with stunning visuals, these stories offer an emotional and inspiring portrayal of the Kargil War. "We are honoured to collaborate with the Indian Air Force to bring Kargil 1999: The Untold Story of the Indian Air Force to our audiences," said Girish Dwibhashyam, COO of DocuBay. "The film will not only delight defence and aviation

enthusiasts but will also be a gripping tale that will enthrall audiences worldwide." Richa Pant, Creative Director and Producer at Media Indica, shared the challenges faced during production: "Shooting this documentary on Operation Safed Sagar has been incredibly demanding. Our research team spoke to over 40 veterans, and matching their stories to historical facts was a daunting task. We had an overwhelming amount of material, yet only 55 minutes to tell this important story." The film will stream from 15 August 2024. Indeed, it would be a compelling way to celebrate India's spirit and the bravery of its armed forces.

# A Fashion Show that Celebrates Inclusion and the Human Spirit

In a heartwarming celebration of individuality, the Tamana Foundation and FDCI came together for a fashion show that was a heartfelt tribute to the beauty of diversity and inclusion. It honoured the strength of individuality and left an indelible mark, inspiring and uplifting all who attended, says SAKSHI PRIYA



**I**n a spectacular fusion of fashion and philanthropy, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) recently co-hosted an unforgettable fashion show with the Tamana Foundation. The event, titled "Walking Tall, Walking for Hope, Walking for Inclusion," was more than just a display of stunning designs; it was a powerful celebration of inclusivity, diversity and the human spirit. The highlight of the evening was the participation of Tamana herself and the students of the Tamana Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting individuals with developmental and multiple disabilities, who graced the runway with their confidence and grace. The Tamana Foundation, established in 1984 under the inspiring leadership of Shayama Chona, a Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee, has grown from a humble tent with just three students into a beacon of hope for hundreds with special needs. Named after the Hindi word for "aspiration," Tamana is dedicated to ensuring that every individual, regardless of ability, receives the care and support they deserve. The foundation has since expanded to three centres in New Delhi, offering comprehensive programmes that include education, therapy, and vocational training for those on the autism spectrum and with other developmental challenges. The event was honoured by the presence of Sunil Sethi, Chairperson of FDCI, Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation and other esteemed



dignitaries. The fashion show was not just about showcasing clothes, it was about creating a world where everyone is celebrated for who they are. The event opened with a soul-stirring performance by Diwakar Sharma, whose melodious voice set the tone for an evening filled with emotion and inspiration. The applause that followed his performance was a tribute to the impact of his music and the significance of the show. As the models took to the runway, it was clear that this was no ordinary fashion show. The designs, created by some of India's most talented designers, including Payal Pratap, Namrata Joshipura, Anju Modi and Payal Jain, were a tribute to the power of hope, diversity and human resilience. Each piece was carefully crafted to highlight the beauty of individuality,

with intricate embroidery, vibrant colours and innovative silhouettes that captured the essence of the evening. Payal Pratap's collection, featuring monotonous with a pop of red and multicoloured embroidery, was a standout. Anju Modi's chic shift dresses and asymmetrical silhouettes, paired with silver oxide jewellery, added a touch of elegance to the runway. Namrata Joshipura's collection, with its black and golden palettes, corsets and draped skirts, exuded charm and sophistication. The use of satin skirts and black gowns, combined with minimalistic makeup and sleek ponytails, created a look that was both modern and timeless. Payal Jain's maximalist bohemian prints and denim pieces added a burst of colour and energy to the runway, showcasing the designer's ability to blend traditional elements with contemporary styles. The showstopper of the evening, however, was not a designer or a celebrity but Tamana herself and the students of Tamana Foundation. Their inclusion walk, accompanied by designers and educators from various prominent schools, was a moment of pure joy and pride. Each student, dressed in their finest,

walked the runway with a smile that lit up the entire room. The audience was visibly moved, with many wiping away tears of happiness and admiration. The evening was beautifully rounded off with a touching speech from Tamana, which expressed the spirit of the foundation and left a lasting impact on all who attended. This fashion show was a celebration of life, diversity and the power of inclusion. It was a reminder that, while we may all be different in many ways, at our core, we share the same humanity. The credit for this beautiful and inspiring event goes to the talented designers, the dedicated Tamana Foundation team and the visionary leadership of FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi, who continues to use fashion to drive social change and a special acknowledgment to Shayama Chona, President and Founder of Tamana, whose unwavering commitment has profoundly transformed lives and established Tamana as a beacon of hope and inclusion. The Tamana Fashion Show 2024 was a heartfelt celebration of the human spirit, radiating beauty, hope and unity. It beautifully demonstrated how fashion can be more than just clothing; it can be a powerful force for bringing people together and inspiring change, creating a world where everyone, regardless of their abilities, feels valued and celebrated. The event was a moving reminder of the strength and joy that come from embracing our shared humanity.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



# The Call of the Mirror: Reflecting on Reality

'The Call of the Mirror' invites viewers to engage deeply with art, enriching a space for introspection and connection. Each artwork challenges and enriches, offering a personal journey through diverse and compelling perspectives, SAKSHI PRIYA

**I**n the hustle and bustle of daily life, it's refreshing to encounter moments that invite us to pause and reflect. "The Call of the Mirror," curated by Rohit J. Kapoor, offers such an opportunity. This group art show provides a rare chance for people to step away from their routines and engage profoundly with art that speaks directly to the heart. What makes this exhibition truly special is its range of voices and perspectives. Each artist brings something unique to the table, encouraging visitors to explore different aspects of the human experience. For instance, Asha Thadani's powerful photographs address challenging social issues, inviting viewers to confront and reflect on topics like caste and child labor. Suvajit Mondal's ceramics, meanwhile, offer a more meditative look at our relationship with nature, encouraging us to think about our impact on the world around us. The blend of traditional and modern art forms adds another layer of intrigue. From Maulik Oza's beautifully



ceramics to Sergey Vinogradov's surreal portraits, 'The Call of the Mirror' showcases a wide range of artistic expression. This mix not only highlights the artist's versatility but also mirrors the evolving landscape of art itself. What really stands out about

this exhibition is how it engages viewers on a personal level. It's not just about admiring art from a distance; it's about seeing oneself reflected in the works and exploring how they resonate with personal experiences and emotions. This interactive element transforms the experience, making it a journey of self-discovery as much as it is a visual feast. 'The Call of the Mirror' is more than an exhibition, it's an invitation to slow down, reflect and connect with art in a meaningful way. It serves as a reminder of art's power to mirror our lives and inspire personal insight. For anyone seeking a deeper connection with art, this exhibition offers a compelling and enriching experience.



# Horse riding, bharatnatyam and skating on Manu's mind during break from shooting

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Her shooting hand bruised by repeated pistol recoils during unrelenting training, Manu Bhaker will take a well deserved three month break. But it will be no vacation. The double Olympic medallist will continue her other routines including yoga and waking up at 6 am — which she hates. And oh yes. She also plans to catch up on her hobbies — horse riding, skating, Bharatnatyam and violin practice to name a few. The 22-year-old, who won bronze medals in the 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team (partnering Sarabjot Singh), was at PTI headquarters on Friday along with her coach and shooting great Jaspal Rana for a freewheeling interaction with its editors. Proudly flaunting her medals, the vivacious youngster from Haryana's Jhajjar spoke about

her Paris preparations, how the Tokyo setback was nothing more than a distant memory now, and also her plans to indulge in everything that she put on hold for her Olympic dreams. "Now, I have some time off and I can probably do that (martial arts) again," said Bhaker, a karate kid in her teens before a change of heart led her to shooting. "I was not able to get that kind of time to invest myself into that (martial arts). Finally, I can take time off for my hobbies, and I have many, many hobbies. Horse riding... Personally, I love horse riding, skating, I can still manage on the roads, then fitness, I really enjoy working out. "Then, I have dance (as a hobby) also, I am learning Bharatnatyam. I love the dance forms. I was training in France, I wasn't able to get time, not able to cope up with the (Bharatnatyam) classes," said Bhaker, whose trainer is from

Tamil Nadu. "She takes my classes personally and then I have violin also," she added. As she revealed her bucket list for the "holiday", Rana had a faint smile on his face and he also made it a point to shake his head in disapproval at the very mention of horse riding. "...Then she has to come back in one piece," Rana said, drawing a laugh from Bhaker. "Skating and horse riding are something she should not be doing and she'll be responsible for whatever happens. Who rides a horse thinking that they will fall?" he wondered aloud. A bemused Bhaker was not going to back down easily, their banter also being a reflection of the easy equation between one of the most talked about coach-player combinations in Indian sports right now. "I have been learning horse riding for sometime now," she retorted immediately, asserting that she would be responsible



if anything goes haywire. "I was waiting that after the Olympic, I will do horse riding. And so many other things I want to do like skydiving, scuba diving. I've waited for so long," she said, inviting another shake of the head from Rana. On his part, Rana was clear that the break was to ensure that the youngster's shooting hand gets back to full fitness. "This (pointing to her injured hand) is the reason we are making her rest for three months. Because this (injury) has been for the last eight months and it has not healed till now," Rana said. "So rest is mandatory for the hand, and we had decided much before the World Cup (Final was awarded to New Delhi)... Our decision to stop for three months was before that," he added. "It will not be very easy but this break is required. It's not something we'll enjoy. It's only the shooting part which will not be there but her mental (training) waking up in the morning for yoga, everything will be as per what we were doing. Because that's the lifestyle she has to follow." Bhaker will not compete in the season-ending prestigious ISSF World Cup Final for elite shooters from across the world in October in Delhi, and also likely skip the national championships and the camps that will follow to tend to her injured hand. Bhaker had done a rendition of the national anthem on a violin, gifted to her by her brother, and a video of it went viral after her Paris performance. "Yes, I was able to manage something on the violin, but I'm only on the basics," said the champion shooter. "Indian classical is my preference, but I'm only like beginning to learn it, so I'm not at the advanced level. I'm just one month into it... Just the basics."



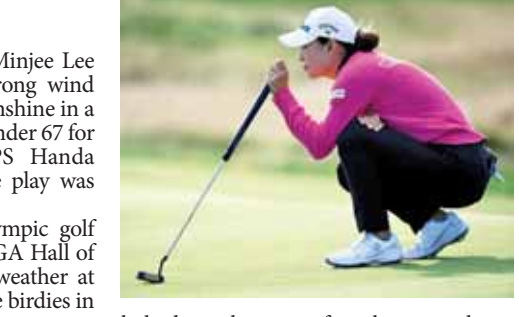
## Have to prepare mentally to transition from player to coach: Sreejesh

**PTI ■ KOCHI**  
Indian hockey's goalkeeping stalwart P R Sreejesh, who was given a grand welcome on his arrival at the international airport here, said he will be spending the next 2-3 months to mentally prepare himself to transition from a player to a coach. With regard to the enthusiastic welcome given to him, including a roadshow from the airport to Palariyattom here, he said it was like the "cherry on top of the cake". "Working hard for the country, sacrificing a lot and then winning a medal, it is not just for me, but for the country. So, to be a part of this happiness, the welcome organised by everyone, is like the cherry on top of the cake. The pleasure is doubled," he said, speaking to reporters outside the airport. Regarding the next step of his career, Sreejesh said that he knows what he has to do as a player.

"But, as a coach, what all I should do or the transition from a player to a coach, I have to mentally prepare for that. So, I will spend the next 2-3 months on that," he said. A big crowd, including several MLAs, welcomed Sreejesh at the airport. People holding up placards with his photo cheered him on as he came out of the airport. Thereafter, the hockey player held a roadshow from the airport in an open-top jeep. Along the route of his roadshow, people waved and cheered him on, some handed him flowers and bouquets and others walked up to his vehicle to shake his hand and congratulate him, according to visuals shown on TV channels. Sreejesh bid adieu to the game following his starring role in the country's second consecutive Olympic bronze at the just-concluded Paris Games. He is now going to be the team coach of the junior Indian hockey team.

## Australia's Minjee Lee leads rain-delayed Women's Scottish Open with opening 67

**AP ■ IRVINE (SCOTLAND)**  
Two-time major champion Minjee Lee of Australia managed a strong wind and caught a break with rare sunshine in a wet Scottish summer with a 5-under 67 for a one-shot lead in the ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open before play was stopped for the day. Lydia Ko, coming off her Olympic golf medal that put her into the LPGA Hall of Fame, faced the worst of the weather at Dundonald Links and made five birdies in her round of 69. Former U.S. Women's Open champion A Lim Kim and American Megan Khang were at 68. The opening round was suspended by bad weather and a water-logged course. Lily May Humphreys of England was at 4 under with six holes to play. Play was



halted at the start for about an hour because of rain, and there was another weather delay of 2 hours, 20 minutes. Lee is coming off a disappointing Olympics outside Paris when she was never in the hunt and wound up finishing in a tie for 22nd. She played bogey-free on a tough course, picking up birdies on both

par 5s on the back nine. "Always a happy girl after a bogey-free round," Lee said. "I feel like I played smart golf, I'd say. I gave myself a lot of opportunities for birdie. I feel like when I was in trouble, I kind of missed it in the right spots and could get up-and-down, so that was good." Lee figures she caught a break not having to deal with the brunt of the rain, although there was no escaping the fierce wind. Ko got the worst of both, describing the weather as so chaotic that she was too busy dealing with it to get overly stressed. "If it's just windy, it's fine. But it was windy and rain," Ko said. "It's hard when you have to hold the umbrella sideways and not up. I'm pretty sure it was built for you to hold it like vertically. So it's just very difficult out there."



## Smith eyes IPL comeback after stellar show in MLC

**PTI ■ SYDNEY**  
Bolstered by his strong show at the Major League Cricket, veteran Australian batter Steve Smith is hopeful of making a return in the Indian Premier League next year. The 35-year-old, who was ignored for the T20 World Cup and the upcoming tour of Scotland and England, guided the Washington Freedom to their maiden MLC title, finishing the T20 tournament as the franchise's equal leading run-scorer with 336 runs at a strike rate of 148.67. Smith made a 52-ball 88 against a bowling attack that featured Australian captain Pat Cummins and Pakistan quick Haris Rauf in the final against the San Francisco Unicorns and was adjudged the player-of-the-match. "I'd certainly love another opportunity at IPL. I'll be throwing my name in the hat, and we'll see how we go," Smith was quoted as saying by FOX Cricket. "I feel like in every opportunity I've had in T20 cricket recently and franchise stuff, I've played

quite nicely. So hopefully I just keep putting my name up there and enjoying it." Smith has not featured in the IPL since 2021, having gone unselected in the previous two auctions. With the national selectors preferring youngsters, the veteran also opened up on his axing and said he would go about his business trying to get better. "In terms of international T20s, I don't know what's going on there," Smith said. "They've obviously got some people they want to bring in, and that's fine. "I understood the way that they wanted to stack up for the World Cup, with all the strong guys that smack it miles. I understood that. "I'm not that fussed. I'll just go about my business, keep trying to improve and get better." Asked about giving a shot at winning gold at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, Smith said: "That's still a while away as well, so we'll wait and see. Never say never. "I did watch quite a bit (of the Paris Olympics). I quite enjoyed it."

## Grand chess tour: Nothing changes for Praggnanandhaa, Firouzja leads

**PTI ■ SAINT LOUIS (USA)**  
Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa could not really change his fortunes for the better and remained in last spot going into the final day of the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz chess tournament here. Before that, he won a couple of games in the blitz section. Praggnanandhaa scored two wins at the expense of present favourites Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia and Hikaru Nakamura of Russia besides a lone draw with tournament leader Alireza Firouzja of France but lost the remaining six games in the first leg of blitz that kept him on the

bottom of the tables with only nine rounds remaining in the blitz section. Alireza Firouzja made most of his opportunities count to shoot into sole lead on 17.5 points and now enjoys 1.5 points lead over Wesley So of United States, who happened to score the most (7/9) in the blitz section, and Nepomniachtchi. The other leader Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France slipped to fourth spot on 15.5 point, a half point clear of wild card Armenian-turned-American Levon Aronian. Nakamura, who started off as a favourite in the blitz section, is in sixth spot on 13.5 points, ahead of tour leader and



compatriot Fabiano Caruana who has 13 points. American Lenier Dominguez on 12 points is eighth at this point ahead of Nodirbek

Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan who has 10 points in all. Praggnanandhaa remains a distant last on 6.5 points, looking for a change in fortunes on the final day. Wesley So was the surprising star of the day winning six, drawing two and losing just one game against Firouzja in nine rounds of blitz. The result propelled the American to joint second spot. However, Firouzja still remains set to win the crown given his 1.5 points lead and if that happens he can even overtake Caruana as the leader of the tour with just one event remaining in form of Siquefield cup set to begin from August 18.

## Increased participation should be our goal in new Olympic cycle: Chef de Mission Narang

**PTI ■ PARIS**  
Chef de Mission Gagan Narang hailed India's performance in the just-concluded Paris Olympics and said it's time to chalk out a strategic roadmap ahead of the new Olympic cycle to increase the participation in the 2028 Games in Los Angeles. A total of 117 Indian athletes participated across 16 disciplines at the Paris Games and India ended their campaign with six medals - one silver and five bronze. "Firstly, I congratulate the medal winners. A total of 6 medals (1 Silver, 5 Bronze) is a commendable effort," said Narang ahead of his return from the French capital. "Though, personally, I feel we could have finished with a few more medals, it is worth mentioning the near-misses. There were at least six 4th place finishes and quite a few of our athletes finished in the finals of their respective events. "This is encouraging, and we should take heart from these results, introspect on the fine margins and how we can better these performances," he added.



Narang, who had won a bronze in shooting at the London Olympics, said the National Sports Federations (NSFs) should chart out a roadmap to increase participation in the next Games. "We must find ways to build a strong sports culture and increase the number of participations from India. That should be our goal for this new Olympic cycle," he said. "Also, most importantly I feel whilst we are teaching our athletes how to win, we must also teach them how to accept defeat and come back with a bang." There were six fourth place finishes in Paris and Narang said it is important to take lessons from the near misses and move ahead.

"There are many learnings and take aways from these performances in Paris. From what I saw at this Olympics, it's only the small margins that we need to close in now to elevate this performance," he said. "I will be submitting my observations in an extensive report to the IOA and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. While India has come a long way in the past decade, and we had a fully equipped medical team at the village with Dinshaw Pardivala as CMO. "We will grow from strength to strength to compete with the USA and China in the future in sport science backup as well." "NEED TO CREATE A PATHWAY FOR ATHLETES": Narang said

collective efforts must be made to chart an athlete's career trajectory, which also includes long-term financial literacy and utilising the athlete's experience by absorbing them into the system. "To further the growth, collective efforts are being made and should be strengthened further to chart our athlete's career. We need to plan life after sport for an athlete so that their approach is long term," he said. "Financial literacy, absorbing them into the system and utilizing their knowledge and experience, creating job opportunities in district, state and national sports organizations as administrators and coaches should be a priority." Narang said such steps will help athletes to pursue their events with confidence. "Only then will parents and the athletes feel secure to pursue sport professionally and invest their time and efforts in it. We must also focus on athlete's mental well-being, this is extremely critical for athletes to feel assured and that they are cared for," he noted.

## SA20 season three player auction to be held on October 1

**PTI ■ DURBAN**  
The player auction ahead of the third season of the SA20 will take place in Cape Town on October 1 with a total of 13 slots left to be filled, announced Graeme Smith, the league commissioner. The upcoming edition of the SA20 is scheduled to be held from January 9 to February 8 next year. Following the conclusion of the pre-signing and retention window, the teams will have to pick up 13 more players from the auction. Retired India wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik recently joined Paarl Royals, becoming the first player from the country to join the South African league. In addition to this, each franchise will also need to select their 'Season 3 Rookie, while three of the franchises still have a wildcard to announce before December 30. Apart from Karthik, international stars like Ben Stokes, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Trent Boult, Johnny Bairstow, Devon Conway, Zak Crawley, Rashid Khan and Rahmanullah Gurbaz will also be seen in action in the league. "To have the calibre of international players joining local heroes like Aiden Markram), KG (Kagiso Rabada) and Heinrich (Klaasen) sets up an explosive



season," Smith stated in a release. "We are also incredibly proud of all the domestic players who have been retained by the teams, including the majority of the rookies who have been incorporated as fully-contracted players for Season 3," he added. **SQUADS AS THEY STAND AHEAD OF SEASON 3 AUCTION:** **DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS:** Brandon King, Quinton De Kock, Naveen Ul Haq, Kane Williamson, Chris Woakes, Preenelan Subrayan, Dwaine Pretorius, Keshav Maharaj, Noor Ahmed, Heinrich Klaasen, Jon-Jon Smuts, Wiaan Mulder, Junior Dala, Bryce Parsons, Matthew Breetzke, Jason Smith, Marcus Stoinis. **JOBURG SUPER KINGS:** Faf Du Plessis, Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Maheesh Theekshana, Devon Conway, Gerald Coetzee, David Wiese, Leus Du Plooy, Lizaad Williams, Nandre Burger, Donavon

Ferreira, Imran Tahir, Sibonelo Makhanya, Tabraiz Shamsi. **MI CAPE TOWN:** Rashid Khan, Ben Stokes, Kagiso Rabada, Trent Boult, Azmatullah Omarzai, Dewald Brevis, Ryan Rickelton, George Linde, Nuwan Thushara, Connor Esterhuizen, Delano Potgieter, Rassie Van Der Dussen, Thomas Kaber, Chris Benjamin. **PRETORIA CAPITALS:** Anrich Nortje, Jimmy Neesham, Will Jacks, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Will Smeed, Migael Pretorius, Rilee Rossouw, Eathan Bosch, Wayne Parnell, Senuran Muthusamy, Kyle Verreynne, Daryn Dupavillon, Steve Stolk, Tiaan van Vuuren. **PAARL ROYALS:** David Miller, Muejeb Ur-Rahman, Sam Hain, Joe Root, Dinesh Karthik, Kwen Maphaka, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Bjorn Fortuin, Lungi Ngidi, Mitchell Van Buuren, Keith Dudgeon, Ngaba Peter, Andile Phehlukwayo, Codi Yusuf, John Turner, Dayyaan Galiem, Jacob Bethell. **SUNRISERS EASTERN CAPE:** Aiden Markram, Zak Crawley, Roelof van der Merwe, Liam Dawson, Ottneel Baartman, Marco Jansen, Beyers Sneyepoel, Caleb Seleka, Tristan Stubbs, Jordan Hermann, Patrick Kruger, Craig Overton, Tom Abell, Simon Harmer, Andile Simelane, David Bedingham.