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## A pathbreaking initiative for women's empowerment



Hon'ble Prime Minister  
Shri Narendra Modi

### SUBHADRA

All eligible women will be  
given Rs.10,000 per year  
In 5 years they will  
receive Rs 50,000

Thank You, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji



Hon'ble Chief Minister  
Shri Mohan Charan Majhi

- ▶ More than 1 crore women will receive the benefit
- ▶ Budget of Rs.55,825 crore over 5 years

#### Highlights

- ▶ All eligible women who are 21 years or more and less than 60 years would receive the benefit
- ▶ Rs. 10,000 per annum in 2 instalments to be given
- ▶ 100 women from each Gram Panchayat / Urban Local Body making maximum digital transactions will be rewarded with additional Rs.500
- ▶ Rs.5000 to be given on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day (8th March)
- ▶ DBT to be done through Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS) to Aadhaar-enabled bank accounts



Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha

# Explain steps to curb pollution, SC asks CAQM chief

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Calling the pollution control boards of Delhi-NCR "ineffective" due to staff shortage, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the body responsible for air quality management in the national capital and adjoining areas to explain how it proposes to tackle pollution and stubble burning which would spike with the onset of winter.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih directed the Chairperson of the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas to remain present virtually during the hearing of the matter. "Today, the situation is that there are large number of vacant posts in the state pollution control boards rendering them ineffective... We therefore call upon the chairman of CAQM to remain present through video conferencing on the next date of hearing and explain what



steps does the commission propose to take," the bench said.

The bench also wondered how the sub-committee on safeguarding and enforcement to be constituted by the CAQM will function due to lack of representation from the state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh due to the vacancies. It directed the five NCR states to fill the vacant posts urgently, preferably before April 30, 2025.

The bench also directed the CAQM chairperson to file an affidavit explaining the steps the commission proposes to take to check the air pollution menace, often attributed to burning of paddy straw on farms in the states adjoining the national capital, and posted the matter for further hearing on September 2. During the hearing, senior advocate Aprajita Singh, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the matter, informed the bench about a

large number of vacancies in all state pollution control boards of the Delhi-NCR region. She said under the CAQM Act of 2021, the commission is mandated to take steps to curb pollution in the region and to form sub-committees comprising representatives from the states in Delhi-NCR for enforcement of its directives.

"We are almost in September and soon problems of stubble burning and pollution will crop up due to non-functional state pollution boards. Due to huge vacancies, it would be difficult to enforce the directives issued by CAQM," Singh submitted. The bench deplored the "sorry state of affairs" at pollution control boards which are statutory bodies. Counsel appearing for Rajasthan said 395 of the 808 sanctioned posts in the state pollution control board are vacant. "Out of the 395 posts, we will be filling 115 posts in the next two months for which the process is on. The rest of the posts are to be filled through

promotions and it will take some time," he said. The court voiced its displeasure over a large number of posts being vacant and warned it will summon the chairperson of the state pollution board if the vacancies were not filled expeditiously.

Counsel for the Delhi government submitted that out of the 344 sanctioned posts in the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), as many as 233 are vacant. The bench noted the "sad state of affairs" in the capital city and asked the Delhi government to fill these vacancies by April 30, 2025. It noted that out of the 652 sanctioned posts in Punjab, 314 are vacant, and directed the state government to fill all the vacancies by April 30, 2025. It issued identical an order for Haryana, where 202 of the 483 sanctioned posts are vacant. In the case of Uttar Pradesh, the bench was informed that around 350 posts are vacant in the state pollution control board and efforts are on to fill them.

# Delhi hospitals 30 per cent short of docs, LG doing nothing: Bhardwaj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Tuesday said there is a shortage of nearly 30 per cent of doctors and specialists at many hospitals, but no efforts have been made to fill these critical vacancies despite repeated requests to the lieutenant governor.

He said excuses such as the unavailability of the chief minister and the lack of an NCCSA meeting, are being cited by the LG's office to delay appointment for these positions. Bhardwaj's statement came during a press meet here where he also discussed the series of measures taken by Delhi government to combat the spread of dengue. "We have requested that warnings and awareness announcements be made across all metro stations, bus stations and other public transport hubs to inform people about dengue prevention," the minister said.



Ranjan Dimri

Emphasising that it is very important that all government hospitals in the city are fully equipped to handle dengue cases, Bhardwaj said he directed several actions to the health secretary but was unsure if those steps have been implemented.

"I have directed the health secretary to visit one government hospital each day to check that all necessary dengue-related equipment is available. However, I'm uncertain if these visits have commenced. If not, I will personally visit the hospitals and ensure compliance," the AAP minister said. The minister further said that

he had held a meeting with the health secretary and other officials on Friday, where he pointed out that his previous directions have still not been implemented.

"I have urged schools to instruct students to wear full-sleeve clothing as a protective measure against mosquito bites. We have asked all schools to ensure that students wear full sleeves, but I am not sure whether this directive is being effectively followed," he added.

"I have also directed that the police transport department be informed about breeding sites and have asked that the district magistrate and sub-divisional magistrate also take up enforcement work," the minister said.

Regarding public awareness on dengue, Bhardwaj said there are plans to raise awareness through radio advertisements, campaigns, posters, hoardings, newspapers, and announcements in metro and public transport stations.

# BJP delegation visits MCD school, refutes Kejriwal's claims of world-class facilities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Delhi BJP leaders including state unit President Virendra Sachdeva and South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Tuesday morning visited a Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD) school and alleged that the school is understaffed, has no drinking water available, students are forced to sit on jute mats, and there is no toilet block for girls despite Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal government's claims of world-class educational facilities.

Hitting out at the AAP for the MCD school situated in Kapashera, near the Delhi-

Haryana border, Sachdeva said, "While Delhi constantly hears from Minister Atishi and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia that they have made schools world-class, standing in this MCD school, it is disheartening to see the conditions."

He claimed that children are forced to study sitting on jute mats in the school while in one hall, three different classes are being conducted simultaneously by a single teacher. "The school has 1,250 students, but there is no water cooler, and all the taps in the school are dry, broken, and there is no drinking water available for the children.



The school's toilet block is extremely dirty, and there is no separate toilet block for the approximately 550 female students," he added. The Delhi BJP chief also said there has been no principal since 2022 and seven teachers are on BLO duty while six are on long leave, leaving the school understaffed.

He added that the classrooms lack even proper blackboards. "The deplorable condition of the Kapashera school is not an isolated case. Similar conditions can be found in government schools across every corner of Delhi.

Will Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is currently in jail, and Manish Sisodia, who

is out on bail, ever consider sending their children to such schools?" he questioned.

Questioning the AAP leaders and the local MLA on the whereabouts of the educational revolution, Bidhuri added, "They will also take this entire issue to the Mayor of Delhi so that improvements can be made, and the children's future can be bright."

The BJP MP also said that they will lodge a complaint with the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and the NCPDR to ensure immediate action is taken against this treatment of children and that they are provided with basic facilities.

"Although admissions take place in April, there is still a shortage of teachers. The Kejriwal government is exploiting the name of education," Bidhuri stated.

The delegation also included the Leader of the Opposition in the MCD Raja Iqbal Singh, Councillor from Bijwasan Jaiveer Rana, and Delhi BJP's media head Praveen Shankar Kapoor.

"The Arvind Kejriwal government, which denied funds to the BJP-run MCD for eight years, continues to deceive Delhiites on primary schools, health, and sanitation, even when in power in the Municipal Corporation," he said.

# Atishi inspects area under Dhaula Kuan flyover

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Atishi on Tuesday inspected the area under Dhaula Kuan flyover and directed officials to increase the pumping capacity of rain-water and design the drainage system to handle rainfall of 100 mm per hour, days after the area witnessed heavy waterlogging.

While inspecting waterlogging area under the Dhaula Kuan flyover and the roads around it on the Ring Road, Atishi ordered the officials accompanying her to take corrective measures so that commuters do not have to face such a problem again. "Due to the unexpected rain on August 23, the problem of waterlogging arose under the Dhaula Kuan flyover on the Ring Road," she said.

"The PWD engineers shared with the minister that the reason for waterlogging on this stretch of Dhaula Kuan is its bowl shape. As there is a



slope on the stretch, the water from the adjoining roads got collected here due to incessant rain on August 23. Due to which it took time to drain out the water," a party leader shared. The AAP leader added that the PWD Minister instructed the officials to take short-term and long-term measures to remove waterlogging from this point. "She instructed the officials to upgrade the existing drainage system here as per the rainfall of 100 mm

per hour. She also instructed the officials to increase the pumping capacity by deploying mobile pumps in sufficient numbers here so that there is no waterlogging in future and people do not have to face problems," he said. The PWD Minister said that Dhaula Kuan and the roads around it are among the most important routes of Delhi. "In such a situation, the officials must take every necessary step to prevent waterlogging here," she added.

# City ready for tackling air pollution woes in winter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday directed the Principal Secretary (Environment and Forest) to ensure the Real Time Source Apportionment infrastructure at New Delhi's Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg is made fully operational by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) before winter begins.

"As you are aware that in order to identify the current and potential contributing sources to the air quality along with the quantum of their contribution, and to formulate the policies accordingly to tackle the menace of air pollution, Delhi Government decided to conduct a study on 'Real Time Apportionment of Delhi's pollution during 2021,'" he wrote. He added that Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur's study period ended in September 2023, and that the DPCC is the regulatory body for air quality, the



Environment Department's proposal for DPCC to take over the infrastructure, equipment, and mobile van was approved on June 26. "However, the last DPCC review meeting noted a delay in making the supersite fully functional," Rai claimed. The senior AAP leader directed, "In view of the above, it is directed that the existing infrastructure set up for conducting the study on Real Time Source Apportionment at Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg, New Delhi be made fully operational by DPCC, well before the onset of Winter Season so that precise

data about the sources of pollution and their quantum can be collected and mitigation measures could be taken accordingly." The Delhi Government in 2021 decided to conduct a 'Real Time Apportionment' study with IIT Kanpur to identify and assess sources affecting air quality and develop effective policies. It awarded the project "Real Time Source Apportionment and Forecasting for Advance Air Pollution Management in Delhi" to IIT Kanpur for Rs 12.727 crore plus GST, following a cabinet decision on July 7.

# Non-payment of salaries to DCW employees for last 6 months takes centre stage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, has expressed concern over the non-payment of salaries to the employees of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) for the last 6 months. He stated that the non-payment of salary has created a livelihood crisis for them. In this regard, Gupta wrote a letter to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi on August 13, requesting him to instruct the Delhi government to release the pending salaries of the commission's employees. Taking a notice on this, the Lieutenant Governor has asked the commission to take necessary action on the matter.

The Leader of Opposition mentioned that last week, a delegation of DCW employees met him and reported that they have not received their salaries for 6 to 9 months. As a result, they are facing severe financial hardships. Many employees are solely dependent on their salaries for medical treatment and medications.

Gupta added that some women, who were victims of domestic violence and acid attacks, were also appointed as employees in the Delhi Commission for Women. However, due to non-payment of salaries for several months, they are now facing severe financial crises. These women should be paid promptly, as withholding their salaries is not just an economic issue but a serious violation of their rights.

Gupta also pointed out that it is not just the employees but also the social institutions receiving grants from the Delhi Commission for Women that have not been paid. Consequently, these institutions are unable to pay their employees. He has urged the Lieutenant Governor to intervene and ensure that these female employees receive their salaries, so they don't have to struggle to make ends meet on meager wages.

# Kejriwal sold rosy dreams to youngsters only to disappoint them: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the Delhi Assembly elections slated to be held early next year, Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav on Tuesday welcomed senior AAP leaders to the party and said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal sold rosy dreams to young people only to disappoint them with unfulfilled promises.

Yadav welcomed many senior leaders of the AAP from Rajinder Nagar, Moti Nagar and Tilak Nagar to the Congress fold by offering them the party scarfs at the state party office. Welcoming the leaders, Devender Yadav said, "AAP, which took birth under the India Against Corruption banner, had sold big dreams, including clean and transparent politics, uplift of the com-

mon people, backward classes and the underprivileged." "Many young people, holding high positions and cushy jobs, left them to join the AAP, believing that it will be a new kind of party, but they all soon got disillusioned as after securing power, the Arvind Kejriwal Government turned out to be the most corrupt and opaque, forgetting all the rosy dreams it had sold to the people," he added.

The AAP leaders who joined Congress included Founder Member and Gujarat co-incharge Amar Pal Singh. Other leaders who joined were Advocate Deepak Raj Singh, Vikas Saini, Advocate Harsh Hardy, Davneet Kaur, Shiven Nayyar, Nand kishore bokolia, Vikram Singh, Darshan Singh, Rashid Ali Qureshi, Ikram Khan, Mohd. Aalam and Shamim Khan.

# Four robbers arrested after encounter, 3 hurt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Four people accused of committing several robberies in Delhi-NCR have been arrested following an encounter here. Three of the criminals were injured during the encounter after being shot in the leg, a police official said.

"A team from Phase-III police station was conducting checks near Garhi Gol Chakkar when they spotted two motorcycles with four people on them. When the police signalled them to stop, the suspects attempted to flee, prompting the police to chase them down and surround them," Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (Zone II) Shakti Mohan Avasthi said. The accused have been identified as Dharendra alias Veer Singh from Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district, Purushottam from Badaun district, Imran alias Chacha

from Amroha district and Sudhir Gupta from Shahjahanpur district. "Upon realising they were cornered, the criminals opened fire on the police team, who then returned fire. Dharendra, Purushottam and Imran were injured in the leg, after which all of them were arrested," DCP Avasthi said. Three country-made pistols, a motorcycle, 14 mobile phones and Rs 8,000 cash were recovered from the arrested accused, he said. "During interrogation, they revealed that Dharendra, Purushottam and Imran sold the stolen mobile phones to their accomplice Sudhir Gupta. They also confessed to committing more than 12 robbery incidents in the NCR," the DCP added. In another similar incident, four criminals were arrested Monday night for allegedly robbing a food company's van driver in Greater Noida.

# Authorities rebuked for passing buck on regulation of groundwater extraction

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has rebuked the authorities concerned, including the Delhi government, for passing the buck instead of disclosing which body was responsible for regulating groundwater extraction. Ruing that it was an "unfortunate situation" where the authorities were unaware of their duties and responsibilities, the green panel directed the chief secretary of Delhi to find which authority regulated groundwater extraction. A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, while hearing the matter about illegal groundwater extraction here, said that the DJB, Delhi government and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) were asked which authority is responsible for checking the



illegal extraction of groundwater, but none could answer the query. While the Delhi government's counsel did not know which officer was responsible, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said the responsibility was with the District Level Advisory

Committee and the DPCC said the deputy commissioner (revenue) was responsible, noted the bench also comprising judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member A Senthil Vel. "It is a very unfortunate situ-

ation. The matter has been pending since long and even after a lapse of so many years, authorities are not aware of their duties and responsibilities and they are shifting the responsibility to each other without clearly disclosing as to which authority is responsible for regulating the groundwater extraction in Delhi," said the tribunal in its order dated August 22. "In these circumstances, we direct the Chief Secretary, NCT Delhi to ascertain the authority's responsibility keeping in view the observation made above and to direct the concerned authority to file a report before the tribunal with regard to the action taken/proposed to be taken against the violators," it added. The matter has been posted for further proceedings on September 3.



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

**WORLD 9**  
JAPAN PROTESTS AFTER CHINESE  
PLANE VIOLATES ITS AIRSPACE

**MONEY 10**  
MARKETS SETTLE  
ALMOST FLAT

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## Protests singe City of Joy

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Many people, including policemen, were injured in pitched battles intermittently fought at various locations of Kolkata and Howrah between the men in uniform and students protesting against the rape and murder of the lady doctor at a medical college in Kolkata. Several protesters were taken into custody. The students under the banner of a relatively obscure Paschim Banga Chhatra Samaj — with apparent blessings of the Opposition BJP — marched towards the State Secretariat Nabanna to demand the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee when clashes took place. Initial jostling turned into skirmishes with the police repeatedly bursting tear gas, charging water jets and resorting to lathicharge as the charged up agitators that included many women refused to relent and turned aggressive. The pitched battles continued for more than five hours giving the police a harrowing time, sources in the administration said, adding additional combat forces and RAF had to be called in from the neighbouring districts. At various places people profusely bleeding from head were seen being carried away by their co-agitators to the hospitals. Similarly the policemen who often got isolated were also attacked. At Babu Ghat a crowd of agitators badly beat up two policemen with lathis, rods, bricks and even shoes. Some even spit on them while



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

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

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

protecting those in the healthcare field. Soon after the NTF panel also favoured setting up an online portal seeking suggestions from public, the Union Health Ministry shared a link in this regard, posting on the X social platform, "Suggestions to NTF" — <http://serviceonline.gov.in/directApply.do?serviceId=2987> for seeking suggestions from individuals and different stakeholders across the country. **Continued on Page 4**

Chatterjee Road and elsewhere shouting the hitherto familiar slogan 'we want justice.' At Princep Ghat and Mahatma Gandhi Road the police chased away the agitators who were trying to break the cordons. At Kona Express Way too, the police fought intermittently with the agitators who were trying to enter Nabanna area from Howrah side. In the melee more than 50 people, including policemen were hurt, sources said, adding that the count could go up as 'more information from other zones are still awaited.' The police had detained more than 350 people, the BJP sources said. While the police accused the agitators of resorting to violence first by throwing bricks the opposite side said the students got agitated as news spread that four of their leaders who had been organising the movement for the past several days had 'mysteriously gone missing' as they had allegedly been picked up around midnight on Monday. Incidentally most of the agitating doctors at various medical colleges and the members of the civil society remained indifferent to the Tuesday's march but continued their cease work at their workplaces, sources said. The Tuesday's clashes were the culmination of fortnight long protests by the people from all walks of life against the brutal rape and murder of a lady doctor at the RG Kar Medical College Hospital and allege effort by the Kolkata Police and the powers that be to shield the real guilty. **Continued on Page 4**

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and shared "insights" from his recent visit to Ukraine. During the telephone talks, Modi reiterated India's firm commitment to supporting an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. A day earlier on Monday, Modi had briefed US President Joe Biden on his visit to Ukraine and conveyed India's full support for the early return of peace to the region through dialogue and diplomacy. As regards talks with President Putin, Modi said in a social media post, "Exchanged perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and my insights from the recent visit to Ukraine. Reiterated India's firm support to an early, abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict." The Prime Minister also said he and President Putin also discussed measures to further strengthen Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two countries. A statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) here said Modi had on Tuesday a telephone conversation with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. The Prime Minister recalled his successful visit to Russia last month to participate in the 22nd India-Russia Bilateral Summit. The two leaders reviewed progress on a number of bilateral issues and discussed measures to further



FILE PHOTO

strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. They also exchanged views on a range of regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two leaders exchanged views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as Modi shared with Putin insights from his recent visit to Ukraine. He underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as well as sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to achieve an abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch. Modi's talks with Putin took place days after he met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. During his meeting with the Ukrainian President, Prime Minister Modi had said India is 'not neutral as it is always on the side of peace'. **Continued on Page 4**



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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and a big relief to Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha, the Supreme Court on Tuesday granted her bail in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan passed the order after noting that the investigation is over and trial will take a long time to conclude. The bench also questioned the fairness of the prosecution agency (CBI/ED) and criticised their selective approach in treating some accused as approvers. It also

## BRS leader Kavitha gets bail in Liquorgate

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha

In a major setback to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and a big relief to Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha, the Supreme Court on Tuesday granted her bail in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan passed the order after noting that the investigation is over and trial will take a long time to conclude. The bench also questioned the fairness of the prosecution agency (CBI/ED) and criticised their selective approach in treating some accused as approvers. It also

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

for over five months, is no longer necessary. Also, the trials in both cases are unlikely to be completed soon since there are about 493 witnesses to be examined and the documentary evidence runs into nearly 50,000 pages. "The appellant (Kavitha) is directed to be released forthwith on bail... on furnishing bail bonds in the sum of ₹10 lakh in each of the cases," the bench said, while allowing her appeals against the July 1 verdict of the Delhi High Court which had denied her bail in the two cases. "The appellant (Kavitha) shall not make any attempt to tamper with the evidence or influence the witnesses. The appellant shall deposit her passport with the learned Trial Judge. The appellant shall

regularly attend the Trial Court and cooperate with the expeditious disposal of the trial," reads the order. Later in the day, a city court issued release warrants for Kavitha, paving the way for her release from jail. The Supreme Court's decision has given hope to AAP convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal whose bail petition is pending in the apex court. Kejriwal's legal team is expected to argue the case on the basis of bail granted to Kavitha and Manish Sisodia in the same case. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja issued the release order for Kavitha after being informed that the politician was granted bail earlier in the day by the SC in both the cases. **Continued on Page 4**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

## Mollywood's MeToo movement topples South Indian superstar

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

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



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

industry a bad name. Lal's decision to quit was preceded by a WhatsApp chat with other office bearers and members of the executive committee. "We can expect more such allegations in coming days and it is better to quit rather than take the charges. Let a new team of office-bearers take over after the general body meeting," Lal reportedly told his colleagues. Though other office-bearers persuaded Lal to continue, the super star remained adamant and resigned. **Continued on Page 4**

## DAHI HANDI SHOW



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

## Rise of daughters in Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the absence of any 'son'rise, it is time for the 'Laadli betis' to make their presence felt in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. On Tuesday, two daughters with strong claim to political legacy from the Jammu and Kashmir divisions filed their nomination papers for the first round of polling on September 18. From Kishtwar, 29-year-old Shagun Parihar filed her nomination as the BJP candidate in the presence of J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina. She is the niece of late BJP leader Anil Parihar. Anil Parihar was killed by

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



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

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

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

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

seats for which it has announced its nominees. The BJP has made one change from the now-revised list, which was put out on Monday, as it has named Baldev Raj Sharma from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi seat in place of Rohit Dubey. All other names are the same for the same set of constituencies, announced on Monday before being withdrawn. In Srinagar, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference released a list of 32 candidates which included Omar Abdullah for the Ganderbal Assembly seat, a constituency that he represented from 2009 to 2014 when he was the Chief Minister of the NC-Congress coalition Government. **Continued on Page 4**

# India offers full support to Brazilian G20 presidency: EAM

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The India-Brazil strategic partnership has "deepened and diversified" over the years and now spans a very wide range of domains, including defence, space, security, technology and people-to-people relations, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Tuesday.

In his opening remarks at the 9th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), Jaishankar congratulated the Latin American country for conducting the G20 meetings successfully. "I would like to reiterate India's full support to the Brazilian G20 presidency and also recall that we got your fullest support during our own presidency. We appreciate various unique initiatives centred on the theme of building a just world and a sustainable planet," he said.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, who arrived here on August 25, said in his opening remarks that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will be



glad to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in November. Brazil is currently the chair of the influential bloc. The G20 presidency was relayed to Brazil by India last year. Jaishankar, in his address, welcomed his Brazilian counterpart and the delegation and said he looks forward to a "very productive Joint Commission Meeting". "Our strategic partnership, which was established in 2006, has deepened and diversified over the years. It

now spans a very wide range of domains from defence, space and security, including cyber, trade and investment, oil and natural gas, biofuels, agriculture, animal husbandry, food processing, health and medicine, traditional medicine, science and technology, culture and people-to-people relations," he said. The external affairs Minister said India and Brazil have a "substantial bilateral trade basket" and it has by and large gone up, adding that in the last year, "we have had some chal-

lenges" and that is something he looks forward to discuss with Vieira.

"We also have very important energy cooperation between our two countries and we have particularly valued the biofuels cooperation that India and Brazil have established. On the people-to-people relations, these are again a very big source of support for our relationship. We are very pleased to see greater appreciation of Indian culture, performing arts, philosophy in Brazil and celebrations related to India in various platforms," he added. Vieira, in his opening remarks, said Brazil and India, as "vibrant and multi-ethnic democracies" from the developing world, represent a "positive drive" to international affairs.

"Both our Governments work towards achieving sustainable development and prosperity for our societies. We hold a common view on many pressing issues on the global agenda," he said. Vieira said India and Brazil are also "close partners" in inter-

national arrangements, such as IBSA, BRICS, G20, G4 and BASIC (a bloc consisting of Brazil, South Africa, India and China).

The Brazilian foreign Minister said India and Brazil's strategic partnership has "promoted a fast-growing cooperation in many sectors". Jaishankar later also posted a few pictures of his meeting with Vieira on social media. "Co-chaired a fruitful and comprehensive meeting of the 9th India-Brazil Joint Commission with FM Mauro Vieira. Took stock of our bilateral ties, including our cooperation in trade, defence, energy and bio-fuels, health, sustainable agriculture, space, connectivity, technology and furthering business linkages.

"Also exchanged views on global geopolitical developments, the shared concerns and aspirations of the Global South, and advancing our engagement in BRICS, IBSA, G20 and the UN. Reiterated India's continued support to Brazil's G20 presidency," he wrote on the microblogging platform.

# Gurugram DEO's directive on enforcement of model code

**STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM**

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Gurugram, Nishant Kumar Yadav directed the officers and employees to keep a strict watch on the implementation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Yadav directed officials while addressing a meeting with concerned officials of the four assembly constituencies of the district here in Gurugram on Tuesday. During the meeting Additional Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) Balpreet Singh said, that after the implementation of Model Code of Conduct, 62 FIRs have been registered against the concerned persons and liquor worth Rs 7 lakh has been seized. At the same time, hoardings and banners have been removed from 2,155 places. Yadav informed that the dis-

trict administration is fully prepared for fair and peaceful elections. The Election Commission has also issued several guidelines regarding the Model Code of Conduct. "According to the instructions issued by the election commission, no candidate will be able to use any person's private land, building premises, wall for campaigning purposes like hanging flags, pasting posters and writing slogans," Yadav said. Despite this if anyone found floating norms, strict action will be taken against them as well as their supporters and workers. The officials of the concerned assembly should fix the responsibility of his subordinate officers and ensure that the campaign material is removed with immediate effect," Yadav added. He said that it has come to his notice that after removing the campaign material at some places, hoardings are being put up again by

political parties. At the same time, even after the implementation of the code of conduct, the campaign of the candidate is running on through some autos and other vehicles.

The District Election Officer directed to identify such persons and register an FIR against them. The District Election Officer clarified that the candidates can use banner posters for election campaign at their residence, office, campaign vehicle and can open an office for election campaign. The expenditure incurred in opening offices etc. during the election will be within the scope of the instructions given by the Election Commission.

Yadav also expressed displeasure over the working style of the four Joint Commissioners of the civic body regarding removal of promotional material and also gave instructions to issue show cause notice to them.

## IN BRIEF

### REC SIGNS MOU WITH JNPA

**New Delhi:** REC Limited, Maharatna PSU under Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, signed an MoU with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) for financing up to Rs 45,000 crore for various upcoming projects of JNPA, which includes development of Vadavan Port. Rahul Duvidedi, IAS, Executive Director, REC signed the MoU with Umesh Sharda Wagh, Chairman, JNPA. MoU was signed in the presence of Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Sanjay Sethi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary (Transport and Ports), Government of Maharashtra and other senior officials from REC and JNPA were also present. This MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between JNPA and REC whereby JNPA implements projects in the infrastructure sector of its expertise and REC shall provide the required funds.

### NFR ADVANCES TOWARDS ZERO SCRAP MISSION

**Maligaon:** In line with the "Zero Scrap Mission" of Indian Railways, North Frontier Railway (NFR) has taken significant steps to make all the establishments and units under its jurisdiction free from scrap materials. Under this mission, continuous monitoring is ensured to keep the stations, depots, sheds, workshops and sections scrap free. As a part of the "Zero Scrap Mission", NFR has sold 23628 MT scrap rails/p-way (permanent way) materials and 19192 MT of miscellaneous scrap items generating revenues worth Rs 202.84 crores during the last fiscal year. During the same period condemned rolling stock i.e. 26 diesel locomotives, 247 coaches and 284 wagons were also sold.

### GNDU WELCOMES ITS PARIS OLYMPICS SHOOTERS

**Amritsar:** Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) welcomed its shooters, Ashvarya Partap Singh Tomar and Sifat Kaur Samra who represented the India at Paris Olympics 2024. Both students from Department of Physical Education have made the university proud at the international level. Prof Jaspal Singh Sandhu, Vice Chancellor, Prof Palwinder Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof KS Kahlon, Registrar, Prof PMS Bedi, Dean Student's Welfare, Dr Amandeep Singh, Head, Physical Education Department, Dr Karwanmandeep Singh, Incharge Sports, Dr Baljinder Singh Bal, Associate Professor and Rajwinder Kaur, Shooting Coach was also present on the occasion. They extended their heartfelt congratulations to both Olympians for their representation of GNDU on the international stage.

### GNDU'S LITERARY MAGAZINE ISSUE RELEASED

**Amritsar:** The School of Punjabi Studies of Guru Nanak Dev University hosted a special event for the releasing of the September-December 2024 issue of the Literary Magazine 'Akhar'. Dr Manjinder Singh, Head of the School, highlighted that under the guidance of Editor-in-Chief Vishal, Akhar is venturing into new avenues and redefining its presence in popular Punjabi literary magazines by curating enriching content centered on creativity and thoughtful discourse. Dr Manmohan Singh (IPS) commended Editor-in-Chief Vishal for steering 'Akhar' in a direction that honours its esteemed legacy and applauded the hard work reflected in this issue. Dr Baljit Kaur Riar said that the Akhar team's efforts fulfilled poet Praminderjit's vision for 'Akhar'. GNDU organised an Orientation Session on Technical Textiles

### ORIENTATION SESSION ON TECHNICAL TEXTILES ENDS

**Amritsar:** The Orientation Session on Technical Textiles under the SIDBI Cluster Intervention Programme for the Technical Textile Cluster, Amritsar, successfully concluded at Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan Auditorium, GNDU, Amritsar. The event saw enthusiastic participation from industry stakeholders, including textile MSMEs, researchers, and Government representatives. The session opened with welcome by KPMG team, followed by series of insightful talks on the current state of the Textile & Technical Textile Sector in Punjab and the role of SIDBI in supporting MSMEs through targeted interventions. Chief Guest, Satyaki Rastogi, CGM, SIDBI, emphasised on the importance of cluster-based strategies for fostering innovation and growth among textile MSMEs.

# Nursing student raped by auto-driver in Maharashtra

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In yet another sexual crime that came on the heels of rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata and abuse of two nursery girls at Badlapur, a 19-year-old nursing student was allegedly raped by an autorickshaw driver at Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra's coastal Konkan region.

After the latest incident came to light, nurses and hospital staff members staged protests demanding action against the accused.

The victim nursing student had hired an auto-rickshaw to go home, but the driver gave her water laced with an intoxicant, causing her to lose consciousness. The driver then took her to an isolated location and allegedly committed a sexual assault on her and later abandoned her. The victim girl is currently at a Ratnagiri hospital. The accused autorickshaw

driver has absconded after the incident.

Ratnagiri's Superintendent of Police Dhananjay Kulkarni said that a 11-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to investigate the incident. "The SIT would be headed by a lady Inspector. The teams have been sent out to various locations and the incident would be probed from all angles.

"As part of the investigations, we are securing CCTV footage of various locations," Kulkarni said. "We have formed 5 police teams to look out for the accused and also scan CCTV footage of the route from where the auto was hired," local police station in-charge Mahesh Toraskar said.

In a related development, Opposition NCP (SP)'s Working President and MP Supriya Sule said that the recent sexual crimes were evidence of the fact that there was complete breakdown of law and order in the state.

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

A day after the shocking collapse of a 35-feet tall statue of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district, the Indian Navy on Tuesday deputed a team to investigate the cause of the sudden crash of the imposing Shivaji statue, even as the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) rooted for registration of an FIR against those responsible for the mishap.

In a statement issued to the media, the Indian Navy expressed its "deep concern" over the incident and said: "Along with the State Government and concerned specialists, the Navy has deputed a team to immediately investigate the cause of this unfortunate accident and initiate steps to repair, restore and reinstate the statue at the earliest".

On a day when the Opposition MVA rooted demanded registration of an FIR against those responsible

"hastily" erecting the tall Shivaji statue on the Navy Day on December 4, 2023, the Congress staged protests in Karad, Kolhapur and Nashik in protest against the collapse of the monument within nine months after its installation.

Former chief minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan, who led the protest in home town of Karad in western Maharashtra, said that Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde, deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Ravindra Chavan should accept their "moral responsibility" for the collapse of Shivaji's statue and resign from their posts.

Alleging that the statue of Shivaji came to be erected at Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg district with a political intent ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Chavan said: "The material used and the work that went into the construction was of inferior quality. There was

# Shivaji statue collapse: MVA seeks resignation of CM, DCM



corruption in the construction of the statue. The incident has caused a blot on the self-respect of Maharashtra. Chief minister Shinde, his deputy Fadnis and PWD Minister Ravindra Chavan should resign from their posts, accepting moral responsibility".

Following the Shivaji statue collapse, Thane-based sculptor Jaydeep Apte and structural consultant Chetan Patil have come under scanner. Also under the scanner is an Assistant Engineer of the

Public Works Department. That the statue was erected "hastily" could be evidenced from the fact that the work order for the erection of the state was issued on Sep. 8, 2023. The statue was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi 85 days later on December 4, 2023.

Demanding registration of an FIR against the Maharashtra government and the Centre in connection with the incident, State Congress President Nana Patole said: "Ministers in the state gov-

ernment are now shirking their responsibility. They are pointing fingers at the central government. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the deity of Maharashtra. We will not tolerate any insult or disrespect to iconic Shivaji Maharaj".

"The BJP-led coalition government in Maharashtra is a commission agent. This government takes commission in cement, sand, bricks and iron. They are not ashamed of anything. The task of erecting a grand idol of Shivaji Maharaj was given to Apte, a novice and inexperienced sculptor from chief minister Shinde's home district of Thane. As much as Rs 2.36 crore was spent on this work, while Rs 5 crore was spent on beautification," Patole said. "Actually, the task of erecting the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj should have been given to an expert and experienced person. Salt water in the sea, speed of wind should have been studied but in the name of taking credit and commission, the government has insulted

Maharaj without paying attention to the quality of work," Patole said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut claimed that even Aurangzeb and Mughals did not insult Shivaji Maharaj "in a manner as the BJP-led MahaYuti government has done. "We demand the resignation of the chief minister for hurting the feelings of (the people of) Maharashtra. Public Works Department Minister Ravindra Chavan should be sacked. They did not even spare Shivaji Maharaj when it came to corruption," Raut said.

MNS President Raj Thackeray said: "Statues, monuments are only for political convenience. I have said many times in the past that the real memorial of the Maharaj is not some grand statue, but his forts and forts... People should destroy this system of politicizing symbols. And only if that happens, we can say that we are living in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Maharashtra."

# NDA touches majority mark in...

**From Page 3**

The 12 vacant Rajya Sabha seats include those held by Union ministers Piyush Goyal, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, who have since been elected to the Lok Sabha. In addition to Goyal, Sonowal, and Scindia, other Rajya Sabha members who transitioned to the Lok Sabha after winning parliamentary elections include Kamakhyia Prasad Tasa (BJP), Misha Bharti (RJD), Vivek Thakur (BJP), Deepender Singh Hooda (Congress), Udayanraje Bhosle (BJP), KC Venugopal (Congress), and Bipal Kumar Deb (BJP).

# Protests singe...

**From Page 3**

The Left Front earlier detached itself from the movement with Meenakshi Mukherjee on Sunday night telling that neither the Students' Federation of India nor the Democratic Youth Federation — the students' and youth arms of the CPI(M) — would join the movement. Meanwhile, in protest against the "atrocities perpetrated by the police on a peaceful march," the BJP on Tuesday declared a 12-hour bandh in Bengal.

Union Minister and State party president Sukanta Majumdar, urged the people to "participate in the general strike" from 6 AM to 6 PM "so as to knock some shame in the police and the State Government. However the State administration said that as it

was the policy of the government not to allow any kind of strike, "government will not allow any bandh on Wednesday", asking the people not to participate in the strike. Alapan Bandopadhyay, the chief advisor to the Chief Minister said that "all the transport services will remain operational, and shops, marketplaces and other business establishments will remain open."

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that "despite the act of shame in RG Kar Hospital and despite the Government taking all the steps some vested interests have made it a political agenda to pull down an elected Government ... and the strike is a part of that ... as strikes are out of fashion in Bengal there will be no bandh on Tuesday."

# Safety of healthcare workers...

**From Page 3**

"It is operational as of today." The 10-member panel was set up following Apex court's suo motu action last week regarding the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, a case that ignited nationwide protests and disrupted medical services. Given the gravity of the

situation, on Wednesday, a meeting co-chaired by the Union home secretary and Union health secretary will be held with state chief secretaries and DGPs through video conference to discuss short term measures regarding the security of medical professionals. The NTF members informed that they have been approached directly by various stakeholders and have individually received almost 300 to 400 suggestions.

The states have also been requested to provide information on the security measures available in the medical institutions. A Google sheet has been shared

# Rise of daughters in J&K...

**From Page 3**

Omar had to take a U-turn as he had earlier decided to not fight for a seat in the legislature of a Union Territory. Ganderbal is seen as a stronghold for the National Conference, having elected three generations of the Abdullah family. NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah had won the seat in 1977, followed by his son Farooq Abdullah who secured victories in 1983, 1987 and 1996. Omar Abdullah was later elected from the constituency in 2008.

# PM Modi shares...

**From Page 3**

"We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken sides. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place for war," Prime Minister Modi said. "I want to assure you and the entire global community that India is committed to respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity (of States) and it is of utmost importance to us," he added.

During his visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Modi had also said he hoped to see the "rising sun of peace." "I want to assure you that India is ready to play an active role in any effort towards peace. If I can play any role in this personally, I will do that. I want to assure you as a friend," he had said to Zelenskyy. On August 23, Modi paid a

nearly nine-hour visit to Kyiv, the first-ever trip to Ukraine by an Indian Prime Minister since it became independent over three decades ago, and held wide-ranging talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

He also invited Zelenskyy to visit India and the Ukrainian leader said he would be happy to travel to the "great" country. Last month, Prime Minister Modi had visited Moscow and met President Putin. Reiterating India's stand on the Ukraine conflict, he had urged the Russian President to return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy asserting that "no solution can be found on the battlefield". The Russia-Ukraine war is in its second year and shows no sign of ending anytime soon. On Monday, Russia carried out drone and missile attacks across Ukraine.

# BRS leader Kavitha gets...

**From Page 3**

The bench reiterated its observation in the Manish Sisodia judgment that the undertrial custody should not be turned into a punishment. It also set aside a July 1 order of the Delhi High Court which denied bail to the BRS leader in the two cases. The Delhi HC on July 1 had denied bail to Kavitha. Among other grounds, Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma held that Kavitha was a "well-educated" woman who could not be considered "vulnerable", so the exception would not apply to her. A trial court order by Judge Kaveri Baweja had interpreted the provision on the same lines to deny bail to Kavitha.

Both CBI and ED came in for some sharp criticism over the "fairness" of their investigation, with the apex court observing "Sorry to see this state of affairs". "You will pick and choose anyone?" it asked, while referring to one of the witnesses whose statements were read out in the court during the arguments. "The prosecution has to be fair. You can't pick and choose anyone. What is this fairness? A person who incriminates himself has been made a witness," the bench said.

# Mollywood's MeToo movement topples South...

**From Page 3**

Also, he asked others to submit their resignations. Lal is undergoing treatment in a corporate hospital in Ernakulam following dengue fever. Meanwhile Mukesh, the CPI(M) MLA who has been alleged of misbehaviour by Minu Muner has filed a complaint with the director general of police against the female artist accusing her of trying to abuse him.

A section of CPI(M) is of the view that Mukesh is being helped by the Eezhava lobby in the party to wriggle out of the dilemma.

While a section of film artists welcomed the move by Lal and his associates to quit, another section challenged the move. "I was shocked to hear about the new development. It would have been ideal had the office bearers facing the allegations submitted their resignations," said Anup Chandran, a senior character artist.

The ongoing "crisis" in the film industry has its roots in the internal wrangle in the CPI(M) as well as the turf war in film industry between two directors.

conditions, and preventing sexual violence against them. The task force's agenda also involves ensuring compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, mandating the formation of Internal Complaints Committees in all hospitals and nursing homes. The 10-member NTF includes notable figures such as Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, Director General (Medical Services), Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director, Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, Dr M Srinivas,

AHMS-Delhi Director and Dr Pratima Murthy, Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru who bring a wealth of experience from various sectors of healthcare. The Union Health Ministry has already issued directives to the hospitals and medical colleges to ensure safety of the medical professionals. These include enhancing security in high-risk areas like emergency rooms and intensive care units, implementing baggage screening at hospital entrances, and improving infrastructure with separate resting and duty rooms for male and female staff.

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

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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



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

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

PTI ■ AGARTALA

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



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

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Gujarat government's response on former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt's plea against his conviction in a 1990 custodial death case in which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. "Issue notice returnable in four weeks," a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale said. The court also tagged the appeal with other matters related to the case. Bhatt has moved the top court challenging the Gujarat High Court's January 9, 2024 order dismissing his appeal. The court also upheld the conviction of Bhatt and co-accused Pravinshih Zala under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.



The high court had dismissed the state government's appeal seeking to enhance the sentences of five other accused who were acquitted of murder but convicted under Sections 323 and 506. While Bhatt and Zala are behind bars, the court cancelled the bail bonds of the five other accused who are out of jail. "We have also gone through the reasoning recorded by the trial court while convicting the concerned accused persons

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

Bhatt and six other police officials of torturing him in custody and causing his death. Bhatt was arrested on September 5, 2018, in another case where he is accused of falsely implicating a man for drug possession. The trial in the case is underway. He is also an accused in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots cases along with activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat director general of police R B Sreekumar. Bhatt had also hit the headlines when he filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court alleging then chief minister Narendra Modi's role in the 2002 Gujarat riots. The allegations were debunked by a special investigation team. He was suspended from service in 2011 and sacked by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August 2015 for 'unauthorised absence'.

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

PTI ■ BHOPAL

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

aggressive and started pelting stones, it was stated. Talking to PTI, Chhatrapur's Superintendent of Police (SP) Agam Jain said Ali, the main accused of the August 21 incident, was arrested from Chhatrapur during the day, and further legal steps will be taken after presenting him in the court. Jain said the police had formed 10 teams to apprehend the accused. Ali has a criminal record and has six cases, including murder and offences under the Arms Act to his name, since 1988, the SP said, adding that the administration is also investigating complaints of illegal encroachment lodged against Ali. The police are probing to find out where Ali stayed

when he absconded after the incident and who was handling his social media account where he shared his videos during this period, Jain said.

# Effective governance key to achieving our developmental goals: Siddaramaiah



Aayog has been instrumental in shaping our development strategies. We appreciate the guidance and support provided and are keen to continue collaborating on various initiatives. We believe that through shared knowledge, resources, and expertise, we can address the challenges we face and unlock new opportunities for growth," he said. He emphasised on the state's dedication to contributing to the collective vision of a progressive and prosperous India. "We are committed to working together with all stakeholders to achieve our common goals and make a positive impact on the lives of our citizens," he added.

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**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

• CHANGE OF NAME •

**I, Shyamal Biswas S/o Mr. Kanai Biswas R/o Santipur, District Nadia, West Bengal Pin Code-741404, have change my name from Nepal Biswas to Shyamal Biswas for all future purposes.** PD(707)C

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said that effective governance is key to achieving the state's developmental goals and that the government is investing in technology and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the administrative processes. Addressing a meeting with NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery here, the chief minister said that sustainability is at the core of the state government's development strategy. "We are committed to environmental conservation and are implementing policies aimed at reducing our carbon footprint. For example, Karnataka is a leader in renewable energy; 53 per cent of our installed capacity of 32 Giga Wats comes from renewable energy sources. "Our efforts also include protecting natural resources and encouraging sustainable agricultural practices. We recognise that environmental stewardship is essential for long-term prosperity and quality of life," he said. The chief minister said the state government is investing in technology and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in administrative processes. "For example we have a strong set of e-Governance solutions. Using these we were able to roll out the five guarantees in a record time of less than three month. Using our DBT module, we are transferring over Rs 54,000 crore to the beneficiaries directly into their bank accounts," he said. Siddaramaiah further said that by adopting e-governance tools and fostering a culture of responsiveness, the government aims to improve service delivery and citizen engagement. "Our partnership with NITI

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुसूचण खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान,**

60/1, एका हाऊस, इन्दिरा नगर (नियर अनुराग चौक), देहरादून-248001  
Phone No/Fax: 0135 2532509  
Email Id: eemdujs@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक : 1397 / ई-निविदा सूचना / 2024-25 दिनांक : 27 / 08 / 2024

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जौलीग्रान्ठ पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत वार्ड नं-02 आर्या नगर पेयजल योजना में पेयजल वितरण का सुदृढीकरण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, सिंगल बिड के आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा क्र.सं.	कार्य विवरण	घरोहर धनराशि (रु० में)	निविदा का मूल्य (रु० में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	जौलीग्रान्ठ पेयजल योजना के अन्तर्गत वार्ड नं-02 आर्या नगर पेयजल योजना में पेयजल वितरण का सुदृढीकरण एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य।	56600.00	2000.00 + GST	03 माह

अर्हता:- विभाग में "D" एवं उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार / फर्म ही निविदा में प्रतिभाग करने हेतु पात्र होंगे।

निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् है।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि।	29.08.2024 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि।	29.08.2024 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।	02.09.2024 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की तिथि।	09.09.2024 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।	18.09.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी, स्टॉप पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज।	18.09.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	बिड खोलने की तिथि।	19.09.2024 at 11:00 Hrs

ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारियाँ व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

**Public Notice**

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Krishna Devi is the owner of Plot No. 3 on Second Floor Front Side Portion 'Said Floor' built on property bearing No. B-72, area measuring 63 sq. yards, i.e. 52.67 sq. meters, out of Kharsa No. 38 situated in the area of Kolia, Ilaah Shihadara Delhi-110091, through Sale Deed dated 20.10.2022 as do. No. 9870 executed by Mr. Arun Khanna on behalf of Mrs. Brij Bai Khanna in favour of Mrs. Krishna Devi.

Mrs. Krishna Devi is in the process of mortgaging the said land in the process of mortgaging Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, in the process of mortgaging this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law, Veritas - North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; e-mail: [accounts@lvnorth.in](mailto:accounts@lvnorth.in)

Ranjana Kumar Jha (Advocate)  
Chamber-231, Western Wing Taz Hazi Court, Delhi-110054, Mobile - 9990647903

**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(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising the 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.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Sandeep Kumar/ Kusum./ LBDEL00005206779	Flat No-M 1503, 14th Floor, Tower-M, In Terra Heritage Located at Alwar Bye Pass Road, Sector-51, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan - 301019/ August 22, 2024	January 17, 2024 Rs. 94,986/-	Delhi/ NCR/ Bhiwadi

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold for 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 28, 2024  
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Sincerely Authorised Signatory  
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is informed that Rajneesh Kumar Raghav S/o Mangat Ram Raghav is the owner of D-212, Sector-17, Noida, G.B. Nagar 201301 has lost the original Property Documents like as 1. Original Allotment Letter issued by Noida in favour of M/s Metro Surgical Trading Company 2. Original Possession Certificate issued by Noida in favour of M/s Metro Surgical Trading Company dated 07/06/1979. 3. Original TM issued by Noida in favour of M/s Power Electric Equipment Pvt. Ltd. Dated 30/09/1989. If anyone found these documents and have any objection regarding these documents of the Property, inform me on my given Mobile No. 9911004142 within 15 days from publication.

Yogesh Kumar (Advocate)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Seema Gupta is the owner of Entire second & third floor with roof rights 'said floor' Built up ground bearing no. 63, Area measuring 292.22 Sq. Yds., situated at the layout plan of Gujranwala town, Gujranwala Co-operative housing building society, Part II, Delhi through Gt/Deed dated 28.08.2021 as do. No. 11526 executed by Mr. Kapil Gupta in favour of Mrs. Seema Gupta in respect of said Property.

Mrs. Seema Gupta is in the process of mortgaging the said property to HDFC Bank Ltd. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law, Veritas - North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline (s): +91102-201683; e-mail: [accounts@lvnorth.in](mailto:accounts@lvnorth.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Rajeev Kumar S/o Shri Hariom Gautam R/o New Shivpur Khurja Distt. Bulandshahr. I have registered a Basiyat Mukhtiyarname whose details are Sanjeev Kumar S/o Mr. Hariom Gautam and Mrs. Snehadita D/o Mr. Hariom Gautam R/o Village Quarsi Tehsil Khurja, dated 09.08.2011, which is on page no. 341/352 of book No. 4 Volume 200, at No.108, dated 09.08.2011. E-Registry was done in Khurja in favour of Chandra Shekhar S/o Shri Hariom Gautam R/o Village-Quarsi, Tehsil-Khurja, has been lost/misplaced. Whose use by any other person is illegal. If Found please Contact: 9312403660

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that Smt. Asha Rani Bose r/o N-16, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi - 19 (hereinafter referred to as the 'said Property') expired on 09.09.2009 in Delhi, leaving behind her only last & final registered Will dt. 29.05.2002 vide which her property at N-16, C.R.Park, New Delhi-19 has been bequeathed and devolved onto her 03 sons namely Shri Sushanta Kumar Bose (Basement & Ground Floor), Shri Prasanta Kumar Bose (First Floor) and Shri Jayanta Kumar Bose (Second Floor & above).

That all the living legal heirs of Smt. Asha Rani Bose entered into a Family Settlement Deed dt. 05.06.2024 and recorded their no objection to the registered Will dt. 29.05.2002 of Smt. Asha Rani Bose. On the demise of Shri Prasanta Kumar Bose his sons Shri Kaushik Bose & Shri Shouvik Bose have become the joint owners of the first floor of property No. N-16, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 vide registered Relinquishment Deed dt. 30.07.2024 executed by their mother Smt. Swapna Bose.

That Shri Sushanta Kumar Bose, Shri Jayanta Kumar Bose, Shri Kaushik Bose & Shri Shouvik Bose have executed & registered a Partition Deed dt. 21.08.2024 vis-à-vis their respective floors in property No. N-16, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019. It is hereby notified to the general public and to all concerned that Shri Sushanta Kumar Bose (Basement and Ground Floor), Shri Kaushik Bose & Shri Shouvik Bose (First Floor) and Shri Jayanta Kumar Bose (Second Floor & above) are the absolute owners in possession of their designated floors in property No. N-16, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-19. If any person (s) has any interest / right / claim / etc. in the said property then he / she may file his / her / their claim / written objections with M/s Arjun Mitra & Associates, Advocates & Legal Consultants with office at - 1605, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi within 30 days of the publication of this general circulation, failing which it will be deemed that no person(s) has any claim / right / interest in the said property apart from Shri Sushanta Kumar Bose, Shri Kaushik Bose & Shri Shouvik Bose and Shri Jayanta Kumar Bose.

Arjun Mitra (Advocate)  
I-1605, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Step in the right direction

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

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



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

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## PICTALK



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

# A new standard for global populism

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



SHIVAJI SARKAR

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

A 74-year-old Indian blogger after a lavish Indian corporate marriage in July blurted out on X-twitter, "In my 74 years, I have not seen, or even heard of, a more tasteless, egotistical or pretentious wedding than the recent, 24X7 televised extravaganza. The perversity and its real portent lie elsewhere. "It lies in the way money was expended, at a time when the average Indian has never been worse off economically, when inequality and unemployment have reached record heights, when 67 percent of the country's wealth, when 800 million people have to be provided free/ subsidized foodgrains to survive".

Not much different is the weekend speech of Harris. She says, "We know that many Americans don't yet feel that progress in their lives. Costs are still too high and it feels too hard to get ahead." No wonder Republican nominee Donald Trump calls her too liberal. It seems so similar to the echoes of severe price rises and joblessness during the June Lok Sabha elections in India amid rows of mutton, muslim, mandir and mujra, mehngai and berojgari. Yes, Indians and Americans need food, a minimum quality of



life and freedom from organised oppression. Indians are certainly more concerned because with whatever rank in the world economy, it is nowhere near the US. If the American economy is not in good shape, Indians can at best be convalescing, post-COVID-19. But the stranglehold of the honchos in India is more gripping than in the US, which has strong anti-trust laws despite the protests from the big. Indian policies suit the big shops more with quite a few trillions being waved off in taxes and other benefits, including tailoring national and stock market policies. Harris instead, despite being the Vice President of the USA, empathising with the American people, says, "The bills add up. Food, rent, gas, back-to-school clothes, prescription medication. After that, for many families, there's not much left at the end of the month. As president, I will take on the high costs that matter most to most Americans."

Those words any Indian voter would love to hear from their leaders. It follows a dozen proposals for improving the lives of Americans. Some like 3 million new housing units to the people seemingly have been picked up from Indian political party manifestos. Like India's PM Avas, she proposes to provide up to \$25,000 in down payment support for a million first-time home buy-

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



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

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

(The author is a freelance writer and columnist; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CELEBRATING KRISHNA'S BIRTH

Madam — Krishna Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, is a joyous celebration that embodies the triumph of love and divine joy over evil and negativity. This auspicious occasion marks the arrival of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu, who brought hope and redemption to a world plagued by darkness and despair.

As devotees around the world honor Krishna's birth, they are reminded of his profound teachings in the Bhagavad Gita, which emphasize the importance of spiritual growth, self-realization, and the eternal victory of good over evil. Through vibrant festivities, soulful bhajans, and heartfelt pujas, Krishna Janmashtami celebrates the unconditional love and divine joy that Krishna embodies, inspiring devotees to embrace their own spiritual journey and revel in the bliss of the divine.

Purva Pandya | Ujjain

### STALIN'S NEW MOVE

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

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

## Unified pension scheme launched



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

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

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

### PM MODI BROKERS PEACE

Madam — Modi's visit to Kyiv will strengthen India-Ukraine bilateral relationship. Like with Russia in March 24 Modi is likely to have had the message of peace with Zelenskyy about ending the war and restoring peace. The catch is both Russia and Ukraine are not keen in fighting any further but both wanting to end the war on their own terms. Kyiv does not want to compromise on its sovereignty and territorial integrity which could lead to an instability and even a revolution in Ukraine.

Kyiv wants to retrieve all the Ukrainian territory occupied by Russia something that Russia is unwilling to do. The US and NATO have rejected Russia's demand to end the war. Under this situation it is extremely unlikely that a peace can be brokered by PM Modi as an one off attempt. Unlike other leaders of the world PM Modi enjoys a special relationship with Putin who in his words has called Modi as his best friend. India also in none of the resolu-

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

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The risk of monetising public education

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



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

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

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



PI

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

Private parties, if allowed to rent out spaces, should work closely with the academic and research community of the university. It should also help in imparting knowledge and transformation to students. In many NTIs, the guest house rate has been increased tenfold, as mandated by the policymakers.

Unfortunately, people who visit these institutions including academicians and parents of students have to pay more than what is the market rate in that area. Although these initiatives can offer significant financial support, they also pose a potential threat of altering the core purpose of public sector institutions. It can be detrimental to maintaining high academic standards and fostering a wide range of intellectual perspec-

tives. Additionally, it can generate pressures to give higher priority to programs and research areas that provide greater profits, perhaps overlooking subjects that are less financially rewarding but equally crucial for societal progress. It is vital to provide students with a well-rounded education that encourages critical thinking and broad-based knowledge.

Public sector academic institutions hold a distinct and crucial role in maintaining the social fabric of the nation. Their objective is not to earn financial gain but rather to generate enlightened minds capable of critical thinking, and contribute to the development of the nation. The great minds working in every field, including the bureaucrats and political leaders are groomed by these public sector institutions. For this to continue, we should not put a price tag on every facility a public sector university offers to the student or society at large.

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



## FIRST COLUMN

### LIVE IN THE PRESENT

### MOMENT, IT MATTERS MOST

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



RAVI VALLURI

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

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



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

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

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

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

# Catalyst for cinematic evolution and excellence



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



VEDANT HAMIRWASIA

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

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

**The Power of Data-Driven Insights:** One of the most exciting aspects of these systems is their ability to harness data for good. Through sophisticated learning analytics, educators gain unprecedented insights into each student's progress.

This foresight allows for timely interventions, ensuring no student falls behind. Predictive analytics even allows these systems to anticipate which students might struggle, enabling proactive support measures.

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

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

**Engagement, the Secret Sauce of Success:** Engagement is crucial for effective learning, and these technologies serve it up in spades.

Interactive content, gamification elements, and multimedia experiences make learning feel less like a chore and more like an adventure. By catering to diverse learning preferences, these systems ensure that every stu-



dent finds their groove and stays motivated.

**Levelling the Playing Field:** Perhaps one of the most profound impacts of these technologies is their poten-

tial to promote equity in education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# BJP targets 10 cr new members in one month

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP will launch a fresh membership drive with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to get the certificate for the renewal of his membership from the party President Jagat Prakash Nadda.

The BJP this month set a target of enrolling at least 100 million new members across the country except in the election-bound Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand. The first phase of the membership drive will go on till September 25 and then a review of the exercise will be



carried out before the launch of the second phase on October 1. It will continue till October 15. Party sources said that Sadasyatya Abhiyan 2024 will be launched in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 2, in the National Capital. According to BJP leaders, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and elected representatives from Sarpanch to parliamenta

rians will spearhead the BJP's nation-wide membership drive starting from September 2, an exercise which will serve as the launch pad of the party's internal polls leading to the election of its new President. BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde, who is also the head of the membership drive, appealed to people to join the party in a big way. "A strong BJP will lead to the making of a 'Viksit Bharat', he said.

# Monkeypox: Testing kit to deliver result in 40 minutes

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As Monkeypox increasingly threatens global health, India has taken a significant step forward with the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSCO) approving a new indigenously developed RT-PCR testing kit that can deliver results within 40 minutes. The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay, created by Siemens



Healthineers, is designed to detect both clade I and clade II variants of the virus. This advancement marks a crucial milestone for India's "Make in India" initiative and is a pivotal addition to the country's arsenal in combating the Monkeypox public health emergency. "IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay will be manufactured at our molecular diagnostics manufacturing unit in Vadodra, which has a manufacturing capacity of 1 million reactions per year. The factory is all set to make the kits available," said Siemens Healthcare Private Ltd.

**दि बाजपुर को-ऑपरेटिव सुगर फेक्ट्री लि०,**  
बाजपुर, उद्यमसिंह नगर (उत्तरप्रदेश)

पंजाब: काठगौरी | 2024-25/1028 | दिनांक: 27.08.2024

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

मिल में विभिन्न सामग्री तथा सेवाओं एवं मिल के परेडि सत्र 2024-25 के कुशल संचालन के दृष्टिकोण मिल में 03 अक्टूबर हेतु एका पॉन्ड का मोडिफिकेशन कर निर्माण कार्य हेतु पंजीकृत, प्रिथिचित एवं अनुमति देयदारों से दिनांक 28.08.2024 सांय 4.00 बजे से दिनांक 30.08.2024 सांय 10.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ई-निविदा सूचना [www.bazpursugar.com](http://www.bazpursugar.com) तथा विस्तृत निविदा पत्र [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

**कार्यकारी प्रबंधक**

**State Council of Educational Research & Training (S.C.E.R.T.) GOVERNMENT OF DELHI**

Applications are invited For DPSE Course (2024-26) Under Management Quota For the Recognized & affiliated institutes of SCERT For more details, Contact:

**Rukmini Devi College of Education**  
B-5, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi # 011-48018033, 8882780401.

**Manvi Institute of Education & Technology**  
C-7, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi # 782757477, 8851738056

Apply latest by 06.09.2024

**LOST & FOUND**

I, RAJINDER PAL GAMBHIR SON OF SHRI A.C. GAMBHIR RESIDENT OF B-1/537, JANAK PURI, DELHI-110058, do hereby solemnly inform That I have lost following property documents pertaining to DDA FLAT NO. 78-B, GROUND FLOOR, POKHET-1, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110019 viz : (a) Possession Intimation letter issued by DDA, (b) NOC for Water and Electricity issued by DDA. I have already filed complaint about the above mentioned lost documents vide LR No. 2035211/2024 dated 17.08.2024.

**RAJINDER PAL GAMBHIR**

**APPROXIMATE IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 23,91,323/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Ninety One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three Only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDMT00336796, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 20.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 21.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **LALIT KUMAR, JYOTI and SAROJ**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 13,14,600/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,31,460/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty One Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

FLAT NO. SF - 10, 2ND FLOOR FRONT LHS, PLOT NO - B-8/1, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201102.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 22.08.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**

Head office at: C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058. Phone: 011-25611042, 25611043, 25611044. E-mail: [legal@kangrabank.com](mailto:legal@kangrabank.com), [legal1@kangrabank.com](mailto:legal1@kangrabank.com), [www.kangrabank.com](mailto:www.kangrabank.com)

**APPENDIX IV (See rule 8(i))**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, [54 of 2002] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 25-04-2024, calling upon the Borrower **Sh. Surinder Singh S/o. Late Sh. Manjeet Singh S/o. Upper Ground Floor & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Property No.1004, Gali No.9, Kharsa No.93, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019** also at **Sh. Surinder Singh S/o. Late Sh. Manjeet Singh, C/o. Surinder Singh Tour & Travels, DDA Office, Near Metro Station, Mangalpur, Dwarika, Delhi-110045**, and calling upon the Mortgagor/Surety Smt. Baljeet Kaur, W/o. Late Sh. Manjeet Singh S/o. Upper Ground Floor & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Property No.1004, Gali No.9, Kharsa No.93, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, also at **Smy. Baljeet Kaur W/o. Late Sh. Manjeet Singh, B-31, Sangam Vihar, Shiv Shakti Mandir, Sangam Vihar, Mehrauli, Delhi-110062**, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.15,79,196/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred & Ninety Six Only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The above mentioned Borrower, mortgagor & surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the above named borrower, mortgagor, surety and the public in general that the Bank has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2024.

The borrower, mortgagor & surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of **Rs.15,79,196/-** together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

The borrower, mortgagor & surety attention is also being invited towards provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below mentioned mortgaged property/Secured Asset.

**DISCUSSION OF THE PROPERTY**

The property under All that part and parcel of the ENTIRE UPPER GROUND FLOOR consideration is ENTIRE & ENTIRE THIRD FLOOR WITH TERRACE RIGHTS OF upper ground floor & PROPERTY BEARING NO.1004, GALI NO.9, AREA ENTIRE Third Floor, area MEASURING 80 Sq. YDS. OUT OF KHARSA NO.93, SITUATED measuring 80 Sq. Yds. AT GOVINDPURI, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019, Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar-V, Delhi-110019.

(MEENAKSHI VATS) AUTHORIZED OFFICER THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. HEAD OFFICE AT: C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58. Phone No.913568418,913568419

Place: Delhi  
Date: 23.08.2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This public notice is hereby given that our client intends to enter into a transaction with (1) Mr. Anoop Kumar Arora S/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Arora (2) Mr. Sukhvinder Singh Chadha S/o Sh. Ajit Singh Chadha (3) Mr. Mahesh Chand Goyal S/o Late Sh. Shyamal Goyal (4) Mr. Ram Naresh Agarwal S/o Lt. Sh. R. L. Agarwal (5) Shree Durga Foundation, a charity, trust having its office at 5/19-B, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 (6) Ram Naresh Agarwal HUF, a Hindu Undivided Family, through its Karta Ram Naresh Agarwal S/o Lt. Sh. R. L. Agarwal (7) Mrs. Saiba Agarwal W/o Shri Udit Agarwal (8) Legend Marketing Private Limited having its registered office at 5/19-B, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110007 (9) Mr. Udit Agarwal S/o Shri Ram Naresh Agarwal (10) Mr. Sidharth Kumar S/o Shri Prabhoo Dayal (11) Mr. Ram Kumar Bhatia S/o Sh. Baldev Raj Bhatia (12) Mr. Naresh Kumar Bhatia S/o Sh. Baldev Raj Bhatia (13) Mr. Surinder Kumar Bhatia S/o Sh. Baldev Raj Bhatia (14) Mrs. Veena Bhatia W/o Surinder Kumar Bhatia (15) Mrs. Sunita Bhatia W/o Ram Kumar Bhatia (16) Mrs. Renu Bhatia W/o Naresh Kumar Bhatia and (17) Black Pepper Hospitality and Events Private Limited, having its registered office at Plot no. 3, LGF, CBD Ground, Shandara, Delhi-110032/1 to 17 collectively referred to as "Owners" in connection with the acquisition of their respective shares/units in the commercial building (the "Building", as further delineated in Schedule-I) and the corresponding undivided interest in the parcel of land (the "Land", as further delineated in Schedule-II) upon which the Building is erected.

**SCHEDULE-I (Land)**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing commercial Plot no. 3, situated at Central Business District (East), Shandara, New Delhi-110032, admeasuring 1998 sq. meters butted and bounded as:

On the East: Open Space  
On the West: Road  
On the North: Road  
On the South: Plot No.5

**SCHEDULE-II (Building)**

Building shall mean the building built and constructed on the Land i.e. a standalone independent commercial building comprising of (i) Basement measuring 1033.27 sq. mts. (ii) Ground Floor measuring 1184.26 sq. mts. (iii) First Floor measuring 1166.08 sq. mts. (iv) Second Floor measuring 1166.08sq. mts. and Third Floor measuring 1145.00 sq. mts. in aggregate admeasuring 5694.69 sq. mts. i.e., 61,297.64 sq. feet (covered area) and (vi) Terrace above the Third Floor.

Land and Building are hereinafter referred to as "Subject Property".

If any person or any legal entity including any Government/ Public Department, Bank or Financial Institution, etc., is having or claiming any form of right, title, claim, benefit, demand or interest in the Subject Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, Will, release, relinquishment, decree or order of any Court of law, encumbrance, mortgage, lease, lien, charge, license, gift, inheritance, undivided share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, spondens, easement, options, right of first refusal or pre-emption or encumbrance of whatsoever nature or otherwise howsoever, or under any agreement, deed, document, or power of attorney or any objections of any manner whatsoever is hereby required to inform the same in writing with notarized/verified true copies of documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned at their under mentioned address within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the title of the Subject Property is clear, valid and marketable and no one has any rights/ title/ interest/ claim/ demand whatsoever on the Subject Property. Any claims without supporting documents will not be entertained. Please mark your envelope with the superscription [CN-DSA].

Dated 28-08-24

**LEXNEGOTIUM Advocates**  
Attn: Vikas Pant, Principal Partner  
3-D, Row House Surya Vihar Apartments, Dundaheera Gurgaon, 122016, Haryana  
Tel: +91 124 400 8001 | +91 989911 5125 | +91 987386 5125

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 17.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 30,69,449/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00339275, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 21.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 22.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **RANJEET RAM and VIBHA DEVI**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 11,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,10,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

FLAT NO. SF 3, SECOND FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHTS, REAR RIGHT PLOT NO. D/714, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 21.08.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 24,15,316/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00273771, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 20.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 21.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **RASHID, SAMI UDDIN ANSARI, KRISHAN and KULDEEP CHOUDHARY**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 15,75,500/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Five Hundred only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,57,550/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

FLAT NO. SF - 10, 2ND FLOOR FRONT LHS, PLOT NO - B-8/1, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201102.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 22.08.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 15,48,426/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Six only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00391858, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 16.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 17.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **SANNI KUMAR and REKHA DEVI**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 70,000/- (Rupees Seventy Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

FLAT NO. SF - 403 (LIG) HAVING COVERED AREA 29.72 SQUARE METERS EQUIVALENT TO 320 SQUARE FEET ON 2ND FLOOR REAR LHS (WITH ROOF RIGHTS), IN THE COLONY KNOWN AS DLF ANKUR VIHAR, CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. A - 7/2, SITUATED IN PARGANA LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 20.08.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 30,90,767/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLND00291181, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 16.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 17.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **MANISH KUMAR MEHRA and AMIT KUMAR MEHRA**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 12,25,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,22,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

FLAT NO. SF - 3, 2ND FLOOR, REAR LEFT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. B-1/22A, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201102.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 20.08.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 25,31,898/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLRHN0391811, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 21.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 22.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **SANJAY KUMAR and NEETU**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 14,32,100/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Eighty Two Thousand One Hundred only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,43,210/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Ten only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

RESIDENTIAL FLAT NUMBER GF - 3, M. I. G., (GROUND FLOOR), HAVING A COVERED AREA OF 700 SQUARE FEET I. E. 65.03 SQUARE METERS, SITUATED AT PLOT NUMBER A - 47, BLOCK - A, COMPRISING OF KHARSA NUMBER 1278, IN "S. L. F. VED VIHAR", HADBAST VILLAGE LONI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.

**BOUNDED AS:**  
EAST : PLOT NO. A-58 NORTH : FLAT NO. GF - 4 (M. I. G.)  
WEST : COMMON PASSAGE SOUTH : PLOT NO. A-46

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 22.08.2024  
Place : GHAZIABAD

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 19,94,937/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLND00420108, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 22.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 23.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **SURAJ SINGH and DEEPA SINGH**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 13,55,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Five Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,35,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF/ TERRACE RIGHTS TOWARDS BACK SIDE, RIGHT PORTION OF BUILT - UP PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 105 AND 106, ADMEASURING 42 SQ. YDS. I. E. 35.12 SQ. MTR. APPROX., OUT OF KHARSA NO. 11/12, 13/1, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE MATIALA, DELHI STATE, AREA ABADI KNOWN AS COLONY MANSARA PARK, BLOCK - D - 1, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059, WITH PROPORTIONATE RIGHTS OF THE LAND UNDER EARTH, COMMON RIGHT TO USE OF STAIRCASE, ENTRANCE, PASSAGE & SUBMERSIBLE, WITH ALL COMMON RIGHTS OF THE BUILDING, INCLUDING RIGHTS TO APPURTENANT THERETO, WITH COMMON ONE TWO WHEELER PARKING SPACE AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SAID PROPERTY, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:

EAST : GALI 10 FT.  
WEST : ENTRY / FRONT SIDE FLAT / ROAD 20 FT. WIDE  
NORTH : LHS FLAT / PART OF PLOT NO. 106  
SOUTH : VACANT PLOT

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 22.08.2024  
Place : NEW DELHI

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**APPENDIX IV-A**

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.)** [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 19,94,937/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLND00420108, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 22.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 23.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **SURAJ SINGH and DEEPA SINGH**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 13,55,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifty Five Thousand only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 1,35,500/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF/ TERRACE RIGHTS TOWARDS BACK SIDE, RIGHT PORTION OF BUILT - UP PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 105 AND 106, ADMEASURING 42 SQ. YDS. I. E. 35.12 SQ. MTR. APPROX., OUT OF KHARSA NO. 11/12, 13/1, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE MATIALA, DELHI STATE, AREA ABADI KNOWN AS COLONY MANSARA PARK, BLOCK - D - 1, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059, WITH PROPORTIONATE RIGHTS OF THE LAND UNDER EARTH, COMMON RIGHT TO USE OF STAIRCASE, ENTRANCE, PASSAGE & SUBMERSIBLE, WITH ALL COMMON RIGHTS OF THE BUILDING, INCLUDING RIGHTS TO APPURTENANT THERETO, WITH COMMON ONE TWO WHEELER PARKING SPACE AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SAID PROPERTY, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:

EAST : GALI 10 FT.  
WEST : ENTRY / FRONT SIDE FLAT / ROAD 20 FT. WIDE  
NORTH : LHS FLAT / PART OF PLOT NO. 106  
SOUTH : VACANT PLOT

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. [www.sammaancapital.com](http://www.sammaancapital.com); Contact No: 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: [auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com](mailto:auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com). For bidding, log on to [www.auctionfocus.in](http://www.auctionfocus.in).

Date : 22.08.2024  
Place : NEW DELHI

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED (Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)**

**SPACE INCUBATRICS TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED**

Regd. Off: Pawan Puri, Muradnagar, Distt. Ghaziabad-201206  
Uttar Pradesh (INDIA)  
CIN: L71100UP2016PLC084473  
Email: [spaceincubtrics@gmail.com](mailto:spaceincubtrics@gmail.com),  
Website: [www.spaceincubtrics.com](http://www.spaceincubtrics.com), Phone: 01232-261288

**Notice of AGM:**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of **SPACE INCUBATRICS TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED** will be held on **Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 02:30 P.M.** at Pawan Puri, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad-201206 (UP), to transact the Ordinary and Special businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM dated August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. The Notice of the AGM along with the Explanatory Statement thereto and the Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 2024 has been separately sent in electronic mode to all those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). Physical copies of the Notice of AGM have been sent to all other Members who have not registered their email addresses, at their registered addresses, by the permitted mode. The Annual Report and a copy of the Notice of AGM are also available on the website of the Company at [www.spaceincubtrics.com](https://www.spaceincubtrics.com)



# Ukraine troops control nearly 500 sq miles of Kursk region

AP ■ KYIV

The chief of Ukraine's army said ON Tuesday that the country's troops control nearly 1,300 square kilometres (500 square miles) of Russia's Kursk region since their surprise incursion three weeks ago. Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi also said that Ukraine has captured 594 Russian prisoners in its operation. "The enemy drags troops from other directions, in such way weakening them. They attempt to create a ring of defence around our offensive group of troops and plan counter-offensive actions," Syrskyi said, commenting on the situation in the Kursk region. The seized territory is roughly the size of Los Angeles. His claim, which could not be independently confirmed, came hours after Ukraine endured a second consecutive barrage of nighttime air and missile attacks from Russia. Five people were reported killed and 16 injured in the attacks, which President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said included 81 drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles. He said four people died, but the governor of the Zaporizhzhia region later said a fifth person had died there from burns in the attacks. "We will undoubtedly respond to Russia for this and all other attacks. Crimes against humanity cannot go unpunished," Zelenskyy wrote on X. The Kursk operation, the largest incursion into Russia since World War II, forced some 130,000 residents to evacuate their homes. Russia has sent reinforcements into the region, but it was not clear to what extent these movements might be weakening Russia's position in eastern Ukraine, where it was making slow advances in efforts to gain ground in the Kharkiv region. The Russian Defence Ministry said Tuesday that Ukraine has suffered heavy casualties in Kursk — some 6,600 troops either killed or injured — and that more than 70 tanks have been destroyed along with

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

AP ■ KYIV

Nighttime Russian drone and missile attacks struck across Ukraine, killing at least five people on Tuesday, a day after a heavy barrage pounded energy facilities throughout the country. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the attacks included 81 drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles and that 16 people were injured. He said four people died, but the governor of the Zaporizhzhia region later said a fifth person had died there from burns in the attacks. "We will undoubtedly respond to Russia for this and all other attacks. Crimes against humanity cannot go unpunished," Zelenskyy wrote on X. In the Kyiv region, which had struggled with blackouts after Monday's onslaught, five air alerts were called during the night. The regional administration said air defences destroyed all the drones and missiles but that falling debris set off forest fires. After the Monday barrage across Ukraine of more than 100 missiles and a similar number of drones, Prime



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

based weapons and strike drones against critical energy infrastructure facilities that support the operation of Ukraine's military-industrial complex. All designated targets were hit." In Russia, meanwhile, officials reported four Ukrainian missiles were shot down over the Kursk region, where Russian forces are fighting Ukrainian troops that made a surprise incursion this month. The fighting in the region has raised concerns about the nuclear power plant there. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi arrived inspected the plant on Tuesday, but did not immediately give a public assessment.

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

based weapons and strike drones against critical energy infrastructure facilities that support the operation of Ukraine's military-industrial complex. All designated targets were hit." In Russia, meanwhile, officials reported four Ukrainian missiles were shot down over the Kursk region. The fighting in the region has raised concerns about the nuclear power plant there. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi arrived inspected the plant on Tuesday, but did not immediately give a public assessment.

## Japan protests after Chinese plane violates its airspace

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's top government spokesperson said on Tuesday a Chinese military aircraft had briefly entered Japanese airspace the day before, calling the incident an "absolutely unacceptable" territorial violation and safety threat. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said that a Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance plane briefly entered Japan's southwestern airspace Monday, forcing its military to scramble fighter jets. He added that it was the first time the Japanese Self Defense Force detected a Chinese military aircraft in Japan's airspace. "The Chinese military aircraft's incursion into Japan's airspace not only is a serious violation of our territorial rights but also a safety threat," Hayashi told a regular news conference. "We found it absolutely unacceptable." The Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance plane circled above Danjo Island off the southwestern coast of Japan's main southern island of Kyushu for two minutes, the Joint Staff of the Japanese Self Defense Force said late Monday, adding that officials were analyzing the latest Chinese military activity. The Joint Staff said Japan scrambled fighter jets and warned the Chinese plane to leave. Hayashi stressed that China's military activity around Japan in recent years has become "increasingly expanding and intensifying." Hayashi said Japan will continue watching Chinese military activity and do its utmost to respond to possible anti-airspace violations. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano summoned acting Chinese Ambassador Shi Yong to strongly protest the airspace violation. Okano also demanded that China take steps to avoid such incidents. According to Japan's military, it scrambled jets nearly 669 times between April 2023 and March 2024, about 70% of the time against Chinese military aircraft, though that did not include airspace violations.

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

AP ■ MANILA

The Philippine defence chief said Tuesday that China is "the biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia and called for stronger international censure over its aggression in the South China Sea, a day after China blocked Philippine vessels from delivering food to a Coast Guard ship at the Sabina Shoal. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr spoke at an international military conference organized in Manila by the US Indo-Pacific Command amid a spike in clashes between China and the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea and in its airspace. China is "the biggest disruptor of international peace" in Southeast Asia, Teodoro told the conference, which was attended by military officials and senior diplomats from the US and allied countries. He later told reporters on the sidelines of the conference that international statements of concern against China's increasingly assertive actions in the disputed waters and elsewhere were "not

enough." "The antidote is a stronger collective multilateral action against China," Teodoro said, adding that diplomats and defense officials should determine those stronger steps. Pressed by reporters to be more specific, Teodoro said a UN Security Council resolution condemning and ordering a stop to Chinese acts of aggression would be a strong step but acknowledged the difficulty of pursuing that. "The world is not that perfect," Teodoro said. There was no immediate reaction from Chinese officials. China, like its geopolitical rival the US, is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and has power to veto such an adversarial step. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has paid "attention" to China's aggressive actions but should do much more, Teodoro said. The 10-nation Southeast Asian bloc includes the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, which have South China Sea claims that overlap with each

other, as well as China's and Taiwan's. "ASEAN, to remain relevant and credible, cannot continue to ignore what China is doing in the South China Sea," Teodoro said. In the latest incident in the South China Sea, Philippine officials said China deployed "an excessive force" of 40 ships that blocked two Philippine vessels from delivering food and other supplies to Manila's largest coast guard ship in the disputed Sabina Shoal in the latest flare-up of their territorial disputes in the busy sea passage. China and the Philippines blamed each other for the confrontation on Monday in Sabina Shoal, an uninhabited atoll both countries claim that has become the latest flashpoint in the Spratlys, the most hotly disputed region of the sea passage that is a key global trade and security route. China and the Philippines have separately deployed coast guard ships to Sabina in recent months on suspicion the other may act to take control of and build structures in the fishing atoll.

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

AP ■ BANGKOK

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

and no expansion of the battlefield. China and Russia were absent from a peace summit hosted in Switzerland in June. Russia was not invited while China chose not to attend. Initially, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said China had pressured other countries to not attend the peace summit. But since then, Ukraine has recognized China's role in a peace process, given its close relationship with Russia, with the Ukrainian foreign minister paying a visit to the country in July, the first since the war began. While a diplomatic dialogue between Russia and Ukraine so far appears out of reach, the war has shifted. In August Ukraine opened a new front in the war by attacking the Russian oblast of Kursk, in a surprise move that

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

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China General Li Qiaoming was on Tuesday conferred the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, one of the top honours in Pakistan, for his "unwavering commitment" in promoting close cooperation between the militaries of the two all-weather friends. Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif and Army Chief General Asim Munir participated during a special investiture ceremony at the President's House and attended by service chiefs and parliamentarians. "The citation at the ceremony highlighted General Li Qiaoming's four-decade career, noting his significant contributions to the Chinese military. His intellect, administrative skills, and dedication have earned him a reputation as a courageous and capable officer, crucial in promoting peace and stability in China and beyond," the state-run news agency Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said. "General Li is renowned for his exceptional professionalism and skills in maintaining peace and stability around China. As a friend of Pakistan, he greatly strengthened Pak-China military relations with unwavering commitment," it said. Earlier on Monday, Qiaoming met with Prime Minister Sharif and discussed various aspects of the Pakistan-China friendship, particularly the bilateral defence and strategic partnership, the report said. Sharif underscored that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and trusted friends and highlighted that the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, "making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries." The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges and noted that the defence and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region.

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

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Former Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged Tuesday with sedition over a speech he made that allegedly questioned the integrity of the country's previous king, Muhyiddin, who led Malaysia from March 2020 until August 2021, pleaded not guilty in a court in northeast Kelantan state. According to the charge sheet, Muhyiddin made the seditious remarks last month during a by-election campaign in Kelantan. Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the country's rotating monarchy, which began when Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. The monarchy plays a largely ceremonial role, but are revered by the nation's majority Muslims. In his speech on August 14, Muhyiddin had questioned why then-King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah

didn't invite him to be prime minister following a hung Parliament in November 2022. Muhyiddin had claimed he had the backing of majority lawmakers. Muhyiddin's Islamic nationalist bloc received stronger-than-expected support from Malays, who account for two-thirds of Malaysia's 34 million people. Sultan Abdullah appointed then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister after Anwar cobbled up support from rival parties to form a unity government. Sultan Abdullah from central Pahang state, who ended his reign on Jan. 30 this year, didn't comment on the case. But his son issued a strong rebuke to Muhyiddin, saying his remarks were dangerous and could divide the people and undermine the royal institution. Muhyiddin was questioned by police following complaints against him. He had denied insulting the royalty, saying his remarks were factu-

al and that he had handed in sworn oath of support by 115 lawmakers in the 222-member parliament. Zaid Malek from Lawyers for Liberty, a human rights and law reform group, slammed the use of the colonial-era Sedition Act against Muhyiddin. He said questioning or criticizing the exercise of constitutional power by the king wasn't seditious. The law, introduced by the British in 1948, criminalizes speech or actions with an undefined "seditious tendency," including that which promotes hatred against the government and monarchy or incites racial discord. "The king is a constitutional monarch, and not a feudal ruler. His exercise of his power can thus be debated, questioned or criticized. This is the very bedrock of our system of constitutional monarchy," Zaid said. Anwar had backtracked on his pledge to repeal the Sedition Act, which has long been used to suppress dissenting voices, he added.

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

against terrorism will not go waste. "The entire nation is committed for complete elimination of terrorism from the country," he said. Prime Minister Sharif said all available resources would be provided to the Armed Forces to curb terrorism. He said time has come to eliminate terrorism. "We need to move forward towards this path with firm resolve," he said. He said doors of dialogue are open for those who believe in Pakistan and its Constitution. However, no talks will be held with the enemies and terrorists, he added. Referring to the terrorist incidents, he said it is no secret now that the terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, operating from Afghanistan, are behind terrorist attacks. He said the government has already sensitized the Afghan government on the issue. He said the terrorist acts being carried out in Balochistan are

aimed at creating anarchy and disturbance in Pakistan and to disrupt the steps being taken by the government for development of the country. However, their nefarious designs could not terrorize the people and disrupt the development process. Prime Minister Sharif stressed the need for forging unity, saying such despicable designs are only meant to impede the country's progress, ongoing CPEC projects in Balochistan and undermine the time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China. He announced to soon visit Balochistan to hold in-depth deliberations on the situation and decide on immediate measures to deal with it. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited

Balochistan on Tuesday to support the provincial government in its efforts to tackle militancy. "My aim to visit is to let you all and the people of Balochistan know that the federal interior minister is standing behind the Balochistan chief minister. Whatever decision he (chief minister Bugti) makes, we will support him," he told the media in Quetta flanked by Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. Naqvi ruled out any fresh operation, saying that a police station house officer was enough to tackle the law and order with proper and timely response. "They are terrorists and our civil armed forces, armed forces, and the police know how to combat them," the minister said.

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday reiterated that the Army and the ISI are responsible for his condition and expressed fear for his life. Khan, 71, lodged at the Adiala Jail since last year, also blamed the current dispensation for being averse to criticism, for deteriorating law-and-order situation across the country, and also for ruining Pakistan's cricket that is facing repeated defeats. In a post on X from jail, Khan repeated claims about rigged elections and said only a government with a genuine mandate will be able to plan for fundamental reforms. "The ISI controls all administrative matters related to my imprisonment. I'm saying it again: if anything happens to me, the Army Chief and DG ISI will be responsible," the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said in a detailed post on X. Khan's comments come two days after the Pakistan government said that the

former prime minister's trial in cases concerning the violence on May 9 last year might go to the military courts. "The events and vandalism on May 9 last year invited the application of the Army Act since military installations were attacked and damaged," Government spokesperson for legal affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik had said. On May 9 last year, violent protests erupted after Khan's arrest by paramilitary Rangers from the premises of the Islamabad High Court in connection with an alleged corruption case. His party workers allegedly vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander House), the Mianwali airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad. A mob also attacked the Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. Khan's longish post on X started with "reminding" the nation of the two attempts on his life: first in Wazirabad, Punjab province and then again at the Judicial Complex in Islamabad. The ISI stole the CCTV footage from

Wazirabad, and the night before the attack in Islamabad, the ISI had taken control of the area where it happened, he claimed. "In their panic, they have made my conditions in jail even tougher. The staff assigned to ensure that my food isn't poisoned has been changed for the fourth time," he wrote. He also described the conditions of his and his wife Bushra's cell — rats fall from the top when she prays — and said the court has been informed about it. Khan further said that he had already explained why the Islamabad rally was postponed and how it had nothing to do with "contacts with the establishment." This entire government runs on lies; I don't even read the news about them. I have no contact with the establishment. If we do hold talks with them, it will only be for the sake of the country and the constitution," the PTI supremo added. Drawing a parallel to the situation that unfolded in Bangladesh, he also came up with a curt comment: "Cattle can be

herded in a desired direction, not humans" and said, "The Army Chief, Chief Justice, and Police Chief were all loyal to the Prime Minister (in Bangladesh), but when the people took to the streets, they won their rights." Anyone critical of the regime is labelled a digital terrorist. When internet services were shut down, people protested, but those in power couldn't handle the criticism. No one is permitted to even voice their problems. The nation blames a specific institution for this," he added. What are his qualifications? Under him, the law-and-order situation across the country is deteriorating," the PTI leader asked and described terror attack incidents in KP and Balochistan. The former cricketer-turned-politician rued about "the embarrassing defeat against Bangladesh" on Monday and said it set a new low. He also lamented the current condition of cricket in Pakistan, saying: "The blame for all of this collapse falls on one institution."

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

**76155/12/3350/2023/37011 Dated CHD :- 8/27/2024** GHPT-73/24

**M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)  
Nishtha Parisar, Bijalee Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23  
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636  
Ref. : MD/MK/04/NIT/1410 Date : 27.08.2024

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

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

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

# Markets settle almost flat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Stock market benchmark Sindices Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note after a volatile session on Tuesday due to the emergence of profit-taking near record high levels amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine.

The NSE gauge, however, hit a new lifetime peak of 25,017. According to traders, profit booking in metal, consumer durable and FMCG shares negated gains in telecom, tech and IT stocks. After oscillating between highs and lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex eked out a marginal gain of 13.65 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 81,711.76 — its sixth consecutive session of rise. During the day, it hit a high of 81,919.11 and a low of 81,600.51. The NSE Nifty ended almost flat, up 7.15 points or 0.03 per cent, at 25,017.75 — its ninth straight session of gains.

The domestic market witnessed profit-booking near record highs. While the positive expectations regarding a potential rate cut by the Fed in September remain, the recent geopolitical tensions



and rising crude oil prices have made investors cautious amid high valuations. "Further, the recent shift in FII stance towards the domestic market and the anticipation that the RBI will align with the Fed's actions are expected to foster a positive outlook in the near term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. On the Sensex chart, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers. In contrast, Hindustan Unilever, JSW Steel, Titan, NTPC and Tata Motors were

among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.58 per cent, and smallcap index went up by 0.50 per cent. Among the indices, telecommunication jumped 1.13 per cent, tech (0.70 per cent), financial services (0.68 per cent) and healthcare (0.44 per cent). On the other hand, metal, consumer durables, power, commodities and consumer discretionary were among the laggards. Trading session lacked momentum due to weak investor participation on

account of Janmashtami and ended almost unchanged from its previous close. Weak US market cues and subdued Asian indices prompted local investors to book profit towards the fag-end, indicating that intraday volatility will continue amid growing geopolitical tensions and sluggish global growth," Prashant Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory, while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower.

European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. The US markets ended mostly lower in the overnight trade on Monday.

"There are both headwinds and tailwinds for the market now. Headwinds are coming from the escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine. Brent crude has shot up above USD 81. The strongest tailwind comes from the expected rate cuts by the Fed which will spill over to other central banks, including the RBI," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India are offering up to 20 per cent higher salaries as compared with the IT services, especially at entry and mid levels, a report said on Tuesday. According to the report by TeamLease Digital, India has over 1,600 GCCs employing over 1.66 million professionals. It is poised to welcome 800 new GCCs in the next 5-6 years, which shows the country's growing prominence as a global tech hub.

GCCs are centralized units established by multinational companies to manage specific business functions or processes, leveraging cost advantages, a skilled workforce, and favourable business environments in strategic locations worldwide. GCCs play a vital role in driving efficiency and innovation across sectors such as IT, finance, and research and development. On the other hand, IT products & services encompass development, production, and management



of hardware, software, networks, and services that enable organizations in the creation, management and optimization of or access to information and business processes.

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

force, she added. The 'Digital Skills and Salary Primer for FY25' report is based on an analysis of 15,000 job roles from the 3 sectors, including GCCs, IT services and non-tech sectors. Currently, in GCCs, there are more opportunities for people with 0-10 years experience. The senior level has a wider salary gap for many of the functional areas, and the premium for niche skills is also higher.

The report further showed that there is a growing trend of setting up GCCs in tier-II cities like Kolkata, Ahmedabad, and Vadodara, which indicates a geographical diversification of tech opportunities across the country. Skills that are seeing an increasing demand in GCCs are PyTorch, AWS, DevOps, NLP, Kubernetes, Fabric, Hyperledger, Tableau, SQL, and ServiceNow, the report added.

In GCCs, the percentage of women tech professionals is expected to increase to 35 per cent from the current 25 per cent by 2027.

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 200 global players are likely to showcase cutting-edge battery and charging infra technologies at the Bharat Battery Show in January 2025. Industry body India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), in a statement, said it is organising the Bharat Battery Show at the second Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025.

According to the statement, the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 led by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to be held on January 17-22, 2025, across three major venues — Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi (IICC) Dwarka, and India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida. IESA, as a key industry partner, has been entrusted with the organisation of the Battery Tech Pavilion, Recycling Pavilion, and Charging Infra Pavilion under the umbrella of the Bharat Battery Show. Bharat Battery Show — part of the Bharat Mobility — will be organised at the central Delhi venue Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from 19 to 21 January 2025.

The Bharat Battery Show (an expo on batteries and charging) will feature cutting-edge technologies in battery storage, battery recycling, and charging infrastructure, reflecting IESAs commitment to driving the adoption of clean energy and sustainable mobility solutions in India. IESA said that it is expecting 200+ global players to showcase their cutting-edge battery and charging infra technologies during this event. Some of the key firms already confirmed include Amara Raja, Replus Engitech, Epsilon Advanced Materials, Advik Hitech, Amphenol FCL, Bry-Air (Asia), Elcom International, EMO Energy, HENN Indo Pacific, Maestrotech Systems, Neenjas Electric, Polyprotic Chemicals, Huge Hippo Energy, MNE components, Hioki, Glida, Ipower batteries, and Molsynth, among others.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 5 paise to close at 83.92 (provisional) against the American currency on Tuesday, on overnight jump in crude oil prices and a surge in commodity prices.

However, positive domestic markets and a soft US dollar cushioned the downside, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.91 and touched an intra-day low of 83.95 against the US dollar. The domestic currency finally settled at 83.92 (provisional), 5 paise lower from its previous close.

On Monday, the Indian rupee settled for the day 3 paise higher at 83.87 against the American currency.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on rise in global risk sentiments amid dovish Fed speak and



rising expectations of a rate cut by the Fed in September. "However, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and rising crude oil prices may cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from US consumer confidence data," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

Forex traders said the rupee is likely to remain within a narrow range as the Reserve Bank of India has been actively intervening in the market, consistently absorbing inflows.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent lower at 100.79.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.87 per cent to USD 80.72 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex rose 13.65 points, or 0.02 per cent, to close at 81,711.76 points. The Nifty closed 7.15 points, or 0.03 per cent, up at 25,017.75 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 483.36 crore, according to exchange data. Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the central bank is constantly working on policies, systems, and platforms to make the country's financial sector strong, nimble and customer centric.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Discussions for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and Oman are at an advanced stage and both sides hope to conclude the pact early, Indian Ambassador to Oman Amit Narang said on Tuesday.

The pact will give a significant push to bilateral trade and investment ties between the two countries, he said.

The pact, officially known as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), is expected to boost Indian exports to the west Asian country by eliminating duties, especially on petroleum products, textiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and iron and steel.

"Discussions for a bilateral CEPA with Oman are at an advanced stage. We hope to conclude these discussions early and once this is done, this will be a significant push



to bilateral, not just trade, but also bilateral investment ties," Narang said.

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

"Between 2021 and 2023 the

commodities globally," Narang said.

He pointed out that a large part of Indian exports to Oman come not directly but through the UAE and these are not reflected in the India-Oman bilateral trade but in India's trade with the UAE, adding that there is potential for enhancing direct shipping links.

"Currently, I understand that there are two shipping lines... There is therefore huge potential for direct shipping to reduce cost of bilateral trade and that will have a significant impact in further improving our bilateral trade figures," Narang said.

"In the past financial year, the bilateral trade has moderated a little bit, it has settled to USD 8 billion... Moderation is mainly on account of over dominance of hydrocarbons in the bilateral trade," Narang said.

"India imports a lot of oil and fertilisers from Oman and this decline in the value terms of the trade this year is a reflection of the decline in values of these two

commodities globally," Narang said.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Global property consultant JLL on Tuesday said that India's top real estate markets have entered into a 'transparent' zone for the first time, driven by institutionalisation of commercial assets and improvement in data access.

JLL has released its 'Global Real Estate Transparency Index, 2024', which showed that India's tier-I markets have entered into the 'transparent' zone for the first time with a composite score of 2.44. India ranks 31st in the list of 89 countries.

The consultant noted that "India has made a remarkable leap forward in JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2024, reaching the transparent tier for the first time." This progress is a result of institutionalisation in the commercial market and



improved access to diverse real estate data sets, it said.

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

the global list, followed by France, the United States, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Japan, Belgium and Singapore. Finland leads 22 countries that figure in the 'transparent' zone, followed by Hong Kong SAR, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Poland, Norway, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Hungary, Portugal, Chinese Taipei, South Korea, UAE-Dubai, South Africa, China-Tier 1, India-Tier 1, Thailand, Malaysia, Romania

and Slovakia. The remaining countries are in 'semi-transparent', Low transparency and opaque zones.

"India is the top global improver, with greater data coverage and quality across both core and niche property sectors — ranging from industrial to data centres - as institutionalisation in the market increases.

"A more proactive financial regulator, new climate risk disclosure guidelines, streamlined building regulations and digitised land records have also contributed to its leading cities entering the 'Transparent' tier," the report mentioned.

Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head-Research, India, JLL, said, "Increasing institutional participation, along with a push for transparency, has led to the adoption of best industry practices in India's commercial real estate

market." Notably, he said four existing listed REITs have driven growth in stabilised commercial assets, while standardised market valuation processes and REIT regulations have fostered market-based approaches.

"Regulatory enhancements such as RERA and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code have improved investor protection, while digital land registry records and strict monitoring by RBI and SEBI have created a robust regulatory landscape," Das said.

Karan Singh Sodi, Senior Managing Director (Mumbai MMR & Gujarat) and Head - Alternatives, India, JLL said, India's ascent to the transparent tier in JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index underscores the industry's cohesive efforts and governmental backing.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the festive season, several passenger and commercial vehicle manufacturers have agreed to offer discounts of 1.5-3 per cent on new vehicle purchase against scrapped old vehicles after a meeting with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The statement further said Mercedes Benz India has offered a flat discount of Rs 25,000, which will be over and above all existing discounts.

Union Road Transport and Highways (RT&H) Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday chaired a meeting with the SIAM delegation at Bharat Mandapam, where he addressed pressing issues in the automobile industry.

"During this interaction, responding positively to the advice of the minister RT&H



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

It said commercial vehicle manufacturers are willing to offer discounts for a limited period of two years and

passenger vehicle manufacturers are willing to offer discounts for a limited period of one year.

The statement noted that these discounts will further incentivise the scrapping of vehicles, thereby ensuring the plying of safer, cleaner and more efficient vehicles on roads.

As per the statement, passenger vehicle manufacturers namely Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hyundai Motor India, Kia Motors, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Honda Cars, JSW MG Motor, Renault India, Nissan India and Skoda Volkswagen India, will offer discount of 1.5 per cent of the ex-showroom price of new car or Rs 20,000, whichever is less, against the passenger vehicle scrapped by the owner in the last 6 months.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices climbed Rs 550 to Rs 74,350 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh demand from local jewellers.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,800 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday. Silver prices also rallied Rs 1,200 to Rs 88,200 per kilogram on Tuesday from Rs 87,000 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also jumped Rs 550 to Rs 74,000 per 10 grams.



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

"Gold declined marginally on Tuesday, weighed down by better than expected US macro data and an uptick in US Treasury yields," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

According to Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research, MOFSL, gold prices fell but remained in sight of record highs it hit last week as the prospect of lower US interest rates battered the US dollar and presented a brighter outlook for metal markets. Further, bullion surged to record highs last week, as market participants welcomed

dovish comments from the Federal Reserve. Some safe haven demand also buoyed gold as ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas yielded few results, while hostilities in the Middle East persisted, Modi added. Additionally, silver was quoted lower at USD 30.34 per ounce in the global markets.

"Traders will focus on the US consumer confidence data going to be released later on Tuesday which will provide more insights on the direction of the bullion prices," Navneet Damani, Group Senior VP of Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL), said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Coal India Ltd's contribution to the government's exchequer rose 2.06 per cent to Rs 20,071.96 crore in the April-July period of the ongoing fiscal year.

Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, paid Rs 19,666.04 crore to the government exchequer in the year-ago period, according to provisional figures of the coal ministry. Total levies paid to the government in July went up to Rs 4,992.48 crore from Rs 4,789.42 crore paid a year earlier.



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

maximum amount of Rs 4,417.12 crore was made to the state government of Jharkhand, followed by Rs 4,319.67 crore to the Odisha government, Rs 3,950.41 crore to Chhattisgarh, Rs 3,526.27 crore to Madhya Pradesh, and Rs 2,086.35 crore to Maharashtra, among others.

State governments are entitled to receiving 14 per cent of royalty on the sale price of coal and 30 per cent of the royalty as contribution towards the proposed district mineral foundations (DMFs) -- which are meant to support people affected by various projects -- and two per cent of

NMET from dry-fuel produced by the coal companies and also the private sector.

In case of captive, commercial mines, states are also entitled to receiving the revenue share offered by the auction holder in a transparent bidding process.

Apart from this, state governments also benefit from increased employment, land compensation, increased investment in allied infrastructure like railways, road and several other economic benefits. Coal India is aiming to produce 838 MT of coal in the ongoing financial year.

**PARALYMPICS**

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

PTI ■ PARIS

Beaten by life but not by its many challenges, an 84-strong contingent of Indian para-athletes, the largest ever in the country's history and a heady mix of youth and experience, would be eyeing an unparalleled gold rush when the Paralympic Games begin here on Wednesday.

India won a record 19 medals, including five gold, in the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021 for a 24th-place finish in the overall rankings. Three years on, the country's target is more than 25 medals with a double-digit haul in gold.

What has fuelled this ambition is the size of the contingent and the exceptional performances in the past one year.

India won a record 111 medals, including 29 gold, at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games last year.

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

Several medal winners in Hangzhou are in this Paralympics team, including top stars like world record-



holding javelin thrower Sumit Antil (F64) and rifle shooter Avani Lekhara (10m Air Rifle Standing SH1). Both of them would be defending their gold medals won in Tokyo.

The Games, as much a celebration of sporting skills as human endurance, club athletes with similar functional abilities in terms of movement, coordination and balance into various classifications. The "degree and nature of their eligible impairments" decide these groups.

For India, the para-athletics team has been a major medal giver in the past and this time too, it is expected to be the

biggest contributor with as many as 38 names in fray. Other top medal contenders include the likes of para-archer Sheetal Devi, who shoots with her legs as she was born without arms, landmine blast survivors Hokato Sema (shot putter) and Narayana Konganapalle (rower) and several other accident amputees.

India is competing in 12 sports this time, as against nine by a 54-member team in Tokyo. Shooter Manish Narwal and shuttler Krishna Nagar are also among those who would be looking to defend their gold medals won in Tokyo.

Antil, whose left leg was amputated owing to an accident when he was 17, had also won gold in the para world championships in May and he is hoping to cross the 75m mark in Paris at the same venue where his able-bodied counterpart Neeraj Chopra won an Olympic silver earlier this month.

Lekhara was the best performer in Tokyo with one gold and a bronze and one of the two athletes to win two medals, the other being Singhraj Adhana (silver and bronze). Adhana, however, could not make the current team.

Lekhara was the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold medal. She is now primed to join the club of three medal winners in the Paralympics.

Current Paralympics Committee of India (PCI) President Devendra Jhajharia, a javelin thrower, is the most decorated Indian Paralympian with two gold (2004 Athens and 2016 Rio) and a silver (2021 Tokyo).

Joginder Singh Bedi won three medals in the 1984 Paralympics (silver in shot put, a bronze each in javelin and discus throw).

Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20; intellectual disability), Rio Olympics gold-medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump - T63), whose right leg was disabled after being run over by a bus, and Yogesh Kathuniya (men's Discus Throw - F56), born with a neurological disorder that damaged his nervous system, would be also aiming to add to their existing Paralympic medal tally.

Shuttler Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6), who has overcome the disadvantage of his short height, is also looking good to defend his gold medal won in Tokyo, more so after winning the title in the World Para Badminton Championships in Thailand in

February. The other gold winner in Tokyo, Pramod Bhagat, is, however, serving suspension after whereabouts failure.

Suhas Yathiraj (Men's Singles SL4 and Mixed Doubles SL3-SU5), who won a silver in Tokyo, will again be a medal contender. In para-archery, Sheetal and Harvinder Singh will be among the medal contenders. Harvinder had won a bronze in Tokyo in men's individual recurve open.

Sheetal, the first and the only international para archery champion without upper limbs, bagged two gold medals in a stunning performance in the Asian Para Games in women's individual compound and mixed doubles, and a silver in the women's doubles compound event.

In table tennis, after winning a silver in class 4 event in Tokyo, Bhavinaben Patel will hope to better the colour of the medal.

The wheelchair-bound player is competing in women's singles S4 and women's doubles D10 events.

Antil and shot putter Bhagyashri Jadhav, who won a silver in the F34 event in Asian Para Games, will be the joint flag bearers at Wednesday's Opening Ceremony to be held outside a stadium for the first time in the history of Paralympic Games.



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

AP ■ NEW YORK

Iva Jovic, a 16-year-old from California, became the youngest American to win a women's main-draw match at the U.S. Open since 2000, eliminating 2023 Australian Open semifinalist Magda Linette of Poland 6-4, 6-3.

"Surprised, but not surprised," Jovic said on Monday about the result against someone who's been ranked in the top 20.

"I just had a plan about what I was going to do before we started, and there weren't that many needs for crazy adjustments, because it was going well," Jovic said.

"So just kind of sticking to that."

Just keep working. I'm on a good path, but there's a lot more to do."

She earned a wild-card entry for the main bracket at the year's last Grand Slam tournament by winning the U.S. Tennis Association Girls' 18s national championship. She also paired with Tyra Grant there to take the doubles title, which gave them a wild card for women's doubles at Flushing Meadows; the USTA granted Jovic and another American teen, Kaylan Bigun, a spot in the mixed doubles field, too.

Jovic and Grant teamed up to win junior doubles titles at the Australian Open in January and Wimbledon in July; they also were the runners-up at the French Open in June.

Jovic's favorite players are 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic - he's Serbian, and so are her roots; after the English portion of her news conference concluded Monday, she answered questions in Serbian - and Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic.

Why?

"Djokovic, I mean, do I need to say? We all know how great he is," Jovic responded.

"And then Belinda, she just takes the ball so early and her footwork is very cutting the angle, so she just makes her opponents feel kind of suffocated. That's what I would like to try to do."

Jovic would love the chance to have a conversation with Djokovic, but their lone interaction so far was when she asked if he would mind posing for a photo.

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



PTI ■ SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Grandmaster D Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw yet again, signing peace with top seed and local favourite Fabiano Caruana, while Frenchman Alireza Firouzja stretched his lead by a full point after the seventh round of Sinquefeld Cup, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

The other Indian in fray, R Praggnanandhaa, drew his seventh game on the trot to remain on a fifty per cent score. Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia was happy with a quick draw as Praggnanandhaa decided to save his energy.

With just two rounds to come, Firouzja, who put it across world champion Ding Liren of China, has five points in his kitty and Caruana continues to trail him a full point behind.

As many as five players -- Wesley So of United States, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa -- share the third spot on 3.5 points each.

A half point behind are Liren and Nepomniachtchi while Dutchman Anish Giri is still at the bottom of

the table on 2.5 points.

Besides Firouzja's victory, Abdusattorov halted So's party with a clinical performance. In the other game of the day, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave drew with Giri.

Gukesh continued with his uncompromising play but found Caruana adequately prepared in an Italian opening game.

The Indian was much worse in the ensuing endgame but Caruana missed out on his 39th turn when he could have gotten a real advantage.

Exchanges at regular intervals thereafter ensured the draw for the Indian.

Praggnanandhaa got nothing as white against Nepomniachtchi's Petroff defense and the Chennai-based player had to be content with repetition of moves very early in the middle game. The game lasted a mere 19 moves.

The day belonged to Firouzja, who came up with fine resources in a complicated middle game against Liren.

The Italian opening has been doing well for the Frenchman and he knocked down a couple of pawns when Liren erred in the middle game allowing the white to invade his camp. The rest was easy.

Results round 7: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 5) beat Ding Liren (Chn, 3); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid, 2.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 3.5) beat Wesley So (Usa, 3.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 4) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 3.5).

## Coco begins her US Open title defense with an easy win after a two-match losing streak

AP ■ NEW YORK

The chant rang out in cavernous Arthur Ashe Stadium at the U.S. Open before Coco Gauff's first service game of her first match of her first Grand Slam tournament as a defending champion: "Here we go, Coco! Here we go!"

Coming to Flushing Meadows off a series of early exits at other events, Gauff already was down 1-0 to Varvara Gracheva on Monday, having dropped the match's initial game at love by making four groundstroke errors. What followed was a tough, tight game, featuring 14 points across eight minutes and three break chances for Gracheva.

The important part, of course, was that Gauff saved all of those break points, claimed that game, and suddenly was in complete control on the way to a 6-2, 6-0 victory that not only



put the 20-year-old American in the second round but also told her - and everyone else - that her game is in better shape than it appeared lately.

"The last couple of weeks were tough, and I was like, I have to do this and do that, but I don't have to prove anything to anyone except myself. So ... (these) two weeks are just about proving all the

expectations that I have on myself," the No. 3-seeded Gauff said. "I have many more years coming back here and I'm not going to win every year. Just that perspective and just having the belief that I can - but not the expectation that I should."

Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament went about as well as possible for Gauff

and another young American featured in Ashe, 13th-seeded Ben Shelton, a semifinalist a year ago who beat 2020 champion Dominic Thiem 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. It was the last U.S. Open match for Thiem, who turns 31 next week and is retiring after this season.

"Obviously she plays with a lot of passion," Shelton, 21, said about Gauff. "You could tell that she cares out there. She's into it every time that she's on the court. I think that's something that the people love."

Gauff was not the only past U.S. Open champ on Monday's schedule: The night session in Ashe began with 2017 winner Sloane Stephens blowing a huge lead against Clara Burel and losing 0-6, 7-5, 7-5 after taking the first nine games, followed by Novak Djokovic - whose collection of 24 Slam titles includes last year's in New York - against Radu Albot.

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

PTI ■ DUBAI

India will take on West Indies and South Africa in their two Women's T20 World Cup warm-up fixtures in Dubai, the International Cricket Council announced on Tuesday.

India will take on West Indies on September 29 while Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. Are slated to play South Africa on October 1.

All 10 teams that have qualified for the Women's T20 World Cup will participate in the practice games, with every side playing two warm-up games each. The warm-up fixtures will start on September 28 with Pakistan taking on Scotland and Sri Lanka facing Bangladesh.

Defending champion Australia will face arch-rival England on September 29, followed by West Indies on October 1 in Dubai.

The warm-up fixtures will be 20 overs per side and will not have international T20 status, allowing teams to field all members of their 15-player squad.

No two sides who belong to the same group will take on each other in the warm-up round.

India has been clubbed in group A alongside Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka while group B comprises England, South Africa, West Indies, Scotland and Bangladesh.

The competition, starting October 3, was moved to the

UAE by the ICC following the ongoing political unrest in Bangladesh, the original host.

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

## Nigeria hires German coach Bruno in bid to get World Cup qualifying back on track

PTI ■ LAGOS (NIGERIA)

Nigeria hired German coach Bruno Labbadia on Tuesday to lead the men's national soccer team in a bid to get its flagging World Cup qualifying campaign back on track.

"The appointment is with immediate effect" said Mohammed Sanusi, the general secretary of the Nigeria Football Federation.

The 58-year-old Labbadia has been out of work since April 2023 when he was fired by Stuttgart after failing to arrest its slide to the bottom of the Bundesliga.

Nigeria is second from bottom in its 2026 World Cup qualifying group after failing to win any of its opening four

games. The Super Eagles drew 1-1 with both Lesotho and Zimbabwe in November last year before Portuguese coach Jose Peseiro led the team to the final of the Africa Cup of Nations. Nigeria lost the final to the host nation Ivory Coast in February.

The NFF promoted Peseiro's assistant, Finidi George, to the top position in April after the Portuguese departed. But, the former right winger was unable to improve the team's fortunes in World Cup qualifying.

George oversaw a 1-1 draw with South Africa followed by a 2-1 defeat in Benin in June. George then reportedly resigned after not being told of the NFF's plans to appoint a

technical advisor to oversee his work. The NFF did not publicly acknowledge the resignation.

Labbadia only oversaw two wins from his 12 games in charge of Stuttgart during his second stint at the club - one each in the league and German Cup.

His successor, Sebastian Hoeneß, ultimately saved Stuttgart from relegation and led the team to a club-record points total last season.

Labbadia previously coached Hertha Berlin, Wolfsburg, Hamburger SV, Bayer Leverkusen and Darmstadt. As a goal-scoring forward, he helped Bayern Munich and Kaiserslautern win Bundesliga titles in the 1990s.

# Duleep Trophy: Indisposed Siraj ruled out, Jadeja allowed more rest

PTI ■ MUMBAI, AUG 27 (PTI)

Seamer Mohammed Siraj will miss the Duleep Trophy's first round games due to illness while veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been allowed an extended period of rest by the BCCI's national selection committee, which announced a few changes to the participating squads on Tuesday.

The first round of the Duleep Trophy, comprising two matches, will be held from

September 5-8 with India A taking on India B at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru and India C facing off against India D at the Rural Development Trust Stadium A in Ananthapur.

Siraj, who was a part of India's last away assignment in Sri Lanka, along with Umran Malik have both been ruled out of the first round games and have been replaced by Navdeep Saini and Gaurav Yadav respectively.

"Both Siraj and Malik are



suffering from an illness and are not expected to be fit in time for their Duleep Trophy fixtures," the BCCI informed in a release. "All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has also been released from the Team B squad," the board added.

Jadeja was last seen in action in the T20 World Cup final in June against South Africa and was rested from the ODI series in Sri Lanka.

The 32-year-old Yadav, who hails from Madhya Pradesh, took 41 wickets in seven

matches for Pondicherry in the last season of Ranji Trophy to finish as the second highest wicket-taker in the country's premier domestic competition.

**REVISED SQUADS:**  
**India A:** Shubman Gill (c), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel (wk), KL Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidwath

Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat.  
**India B:** Abhimanyu Easwaran (c), Yashvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy\*, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (wk).  
**India C:** Rituraj Gaikwad (c), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, B Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen,

Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khambhoj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (wk), Sandeep Warrier.  
**India D:** Shreyas Iyer (c), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Tushar Deshpande, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (wk), Saurabh Kumar.

# HOPEFULLY, WE WILL BREAK FINAL BARRIER IN T20 WC: HARMANPREET

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**S**kipper Harmanpreet Kaur remained optimistic that India can grab their maiden global title in the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, and said conditions in the UAE could work to their advantage.

The International Cricket Council has recently shifted the showpiece, to be held between October 3 and 20, to the UAE from Bangladesh owing to the political unrest in the latter nation.

"Whenever we play on this kind of stage (World Cup), we always want to do well. We have always done well in the past as well, and hopefully, this time we will break that final barrier and go all the way," Harmanpreet told PTI videos.

Harmanpreet was on Tuesday appointed as the captain of the Indian team for the T20 World Cup.

The 35-year-old did not read too much into the venue shift, and said the conditions in the UAE are quite similar to India.

"We have not played much cricket in the UAE. But the conditions in the UAE are going to be similar to Indian conditions."



"We will see how the conditions play out (there) and try to adjust ourselves to the conditions as soon as possible," said Harmanpreet, who led India to the final of the 2020 T20 World Cup.

Irrespective of the playing conditions, she wanted the team to dish out a "positive" game in the World Cup.

"As a team, we learn from our defeats and break those barriers that are pushing us back. Hopefully this time we can express ourselves in a more positive way in the World Cup," she said.

Harmanpreet also backed the Indian bowlers, who floundered in the recent Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka, to deliver in the World Cup.

"The bowlers are working really hard as a team and, hopefully, in this World Cup we tick all the boxes."

Harmanpreet, who led Mumbai Indians to WPL victory last year, said the key to winning the World Cup will be to keep themselves in the present.

"It is always important for us to play good cricket, keeping ourselves in the present. Whatever the situation is in front of us...we go there and evaluate (it) as soon as possible," she signed off.



## Jeev, Jyoti among Indian stars to compete in country's inaugural Legends Tour

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"Now, you can play golf as a career till 60."

Indian golfing greats Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa will be among 64 international players vying for top honours in the inaugural HSBC India Legends Championships to be played at Jaypee Greens course at Greater Noida from August 30 to September 1.

The first Legends Tour tournament in the country, which will have USD 0.5 million as prize purse, will also see 2005 US Open champion Michael Campbell of New Zealand in action.

The winner of the HSBC India Legends Championship is set to take home USD 74,250, while the runner-up will receive USD 49,000. The third-place finisher will pocket USD 32,700.

The event will be played over 54 holes and it will be preceded by a star-studded Pro-Am event on August 28 and 29, which will see top golfers play alongside amateurs.

The Legends Tour is a professional golf tour for male golfers aged 50 and over, run by the PGA European Tour. It began as European Senior Tour in 1992 and was rechristened as Legends Tour in 2020.

Jeev is the host of the tournament, co-sanctioned by the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). The event will see a participation from 17 countries.

Randhawa qualified after winning the Legends Tour's tough and challenging Qualifying School finals in Turkey.

"Since I am the host, I will ensure that I don't win the tournament this weekend," the 52-year-old Jeev joked at the press conference to launch the tournament.

"It's great for the country's golfers and for world golf in general. Golfing career is over when you are 40 or 45. But with the Legends Tour, you can have a second innings after reaching 50 years."

Randhawa, also 52, said not only the money, a golfer can also maintain the competitive spirit by continuing to play in the Legends Tour.

"It's good for the budding Indian golfers and amateurs. They will now know that a golfer can play another 10 years after retirement," he said.

"By playing in the Legends Tour, you are keeping your golfing passion and competitive spirit intact as well as keeping yourself fit."

Jeev (twice Asia No. 1 in 2006 and 2008) and Randhawa (once Asia No. 1 in 2002) are well-known names around the world with numerous appearances in Majors too.

Jeev has won four times each on the European and Japan Tours, one on the Korean Tour besides six times on the Asian Tour. Randhawa has won eight times on the Asian Tour and once in Japan.

Jeev, who has played all four Majors, was the first Indian to tee up at the Masters at the Augusta National in 2007. He was a former captain of Asia in EurAsia Cup (Europe vs Asia team event). He has five top 10 finishes on the Legends Tour since 2022.

Besides Jeev and Randhawa, there are other seven Indians in the fray. They are Mukesh Kumar, Digvijay Singh, Harmeet Kahlon, Vijay Kumar, all past winners on the Asian Tour, Amandeep Johl, Vishal Singh and Sanjay Kumar.

The 55-year-old Campbell, who has also won 15 other tournaments around the world, said, "I started playing golf when I was 10. My grandmother told me that time when I achieve success, I should remember I have two hands, one for receiving and another for giving back," he said.

"Legends Tour is great in that way. You keep playing after retirement and inspire youngsters to take up the game. We have to give back to the game."

## US OPEN

# Djokovic starts his bid for record 25th Grand Slam title with straight-set win

AP ■ NEW YORK

**N**ovak Djokovic began his bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title and tied Roger Federer with his 89th match win at the U.S. Open by defeating qualifier Radu Albot of Moldova 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

The second-seeded Djokovic, again wearing a gray sleeve over his surgically repaired right knee, was competing for the first time since claiming an Olympic gold medal three weeks ago at the Paris Games, the last significant achievement that was missing from his resume.

"It's always challenging to start, particularly when you haven't played on this surface for five, six months,

and coming off an Olympic gold and playing on clay. I haven't had any official matches before the U.S. Open. So I'm expecting to be probably challenged a little bit more in the opening rounds," he said.

"Hopefully, I can play better each day." He said his knee, which was operated on in early June, feels fine.

Djokovic, a 37-year-old from Serbia, improved to 18-0 in first-round matches at Flushing Meadows and is now 89-13 overall at the hard-court tournament, which he's won four times, including a year ago. He's never lost earlier than the third round at the U.S. Open; Albot never has been past the third round in 30 appearances at majors.



The retired Federer went 89-14 in New York, with five consecutive championships from 2004 to 2008.

He's the most recent man to win the U.S. Open at least twice in a row. Among men, only Jimmy Connors, who went 98-17, won more matches than Djokovic and Federer at the event.

Djokovic never has lost a Grand Slam match to someone ranked as low as No. 138 Albot. And Albot is now 0-12 against opponents ranked in the top 10.

Next up for Djokovic is a countryman, familiar opponent and friend, Laslo Djere, who advanced with a 6-7 (7), 6-1, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 victory over Jan-Lennard Struff. A year ago, Djokovic

met Djere in the third round at the U.S. Open; Djere took the first two sets before Djokovic came through in five.

"It's a guaranteed third round for one of the Serbian guys. Hopefully it's going to be me. But Djere is a guy that really likes playing on a big stage.

I think he also loves the conditions here. It's a bit quicker. Ball stays low. He has a very flat backhand particularly and very good serve, great return. He's physically as fit as anybody," Djokovic said.

"I remember very well our match. It was a very tough match. I'm going to try to analyze that and hopefully do some things even better than I did last year."

# New Champions League format promises more

AP ■ GENEVA

**T**he new Champions League format this season will see more teams playing more games for more prize money. On Thursday, the Union of European Football Associations makes the draw in Monaco for the match schedule of the new single-standings league phase that replaces the traditional group stage.

The first new Champions League format since 2003 promises more of almost everything that Europe's wealthiest and most influential clubs wanted from UEFA.

There are four more places in a 36-team lineup; at least eight games each instead of six; Champions League games scheduled in January for the first time; a prize money rise of at least 25% to a minimum of 2.5 billion euros (USD 2.8 billion).

There also was more evidence, at UEFA's European Championship this summer, that constant expansion of international competitions is leaving players tired and unable to perform at their best year-round. The new league phase in European club soccer's marquee event will have 144 total games compared to 96 in the group stage last season. The "key aims," UEFA said, is to "improve competitive balance

and sporting interest and in the process increase the number of meaningful matches - matches with something at stake for both sides - throughout the competition."

In the eighth and final round, all 36 teams play on the same January 29 evening to finalize the standings which will decide which eight teams advance directly to the pre-quarterfinals - and with what seedings in a tennis-like knockout bracket - as well as which 16 go into a new knockout playoff round in February, and which 12 are eliminated.

"We simulated that qualification should be possible with an average of 7.6 points, which means two victories and two draws," said UEFA's head of competitions strategy, Stéphane Anselmo.

**Why change such a successful competition?**

Money, mostly, though that's not the only reason. The Champions League in Europe has for the past 32 years showcased the highest quality play in world soccer. It let UEFA steer billions of euros (dollars) of prize money to clubs that pay the highest transfer fees and salaries.

Still, influential officials at the European Club Association (ECA) got bored of the group



stage, saying it was too repetitive and lacked drama. They wanted more games against stronger opponents that would be more valued by broadcasters, viewers and new fans worldwide. Their leverage over UEFA was potentially launching their breakaway competition.

The road to agreeing on the format was rocky. A controversial first proposal in 2019, favoring storied clubs, was stopped by a backlash from mid-ranked clubs and domestic leagues. There was intense turmoil sparked by the failed Super League launch in April 2021 by most of the same club officials who negotiated Champions League reform with UEFA. Final format approval came in May 2022 - when Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus were exiled from the talks and still pursued UEFA in court - and it was broadly what the rebel Super League clubs had negotiated.

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**What is the new format?**

Out goes the group-stage format played for 21 seasons where 32 teams were put into eight groups of four teams from a seeded draw. The top two in each group advanced to the pre-quarterfinals. Groups gave each team six games from September into December, playing each rival once at home and once away.

In comes a single-standings league - 36 teams each playing eight

games against eight different opponents through January.

The top eight in the standings go directly to the pre-quarterfinals in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into the knockout playoffs in February. The bottom 12 teams are eliminated.

In the playoffs, teams ranked Nos. 9-16 are seeded in the draw to play second legs at home against unseeded teams Nos. 17-24.

**Who gets the four extra places?**

Two for countries whose teams collectively had the best record in UEFA club competitions in the previous season. That was Italy and Germany so the fifth-placed teams in Serie A and the Bundesliga qualified: Bologna and Borussia Dortmund.

An extra place goes to the qualifying rounds path for national champions from lower-ranked countries. They now play for five total qualifying places instead of four last season.

**How will the draw be done?**

The 36 teams come out of four seeding pots graded by each team's "UEFA club coefficient" - its ranking by results in five years of

European competitions. The top-seeded pot contains recent Champions League winners and beaten finalists, plus Leipzig and Barcelona.

When a team's ball is drawn, its slate of eight opponents - two from each seeding pot, one to play at home and one away - will be allocated by a software program and displayed within seconds.

Match dates will be confirmed Saturday, to avoid city clashes with Europa League and Conference League games being drawn Friday in Monaco. Those lower-tier competitions also are a 36-team single-standings league. Conference League teams play just six games.

**Billion-dollar prize money fund**

Winning the Champions League title in 2023 earned Manchester City 135 million euros (USD 151 million) from UEFA. This season's winner can reach 150 million euros (USD 168 million), with total competition revenue boosted by selling 189 total games instead of 125.

Commercial strategy is managed by a UEFA-ECA joint venture, and new sponsors for the Champions League include a cryptocurrency trading platform and a betting site. Each of the 36 teams gets a basic 18.6 million euros (USD 20.8 million), then 2.1 million euros (USD 2.4 million).