

**OPINION 6**  
TERRORISM RESURGES  
AMID SHIFTS IN STRATEGY

**WORLD 8**  
DIPLOMACY INTENSIFIES TO  
HALT ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

**MONEY 10**  
SENSEX JUMPS TO  
TWO-WEEK HIGH

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SHOW IN MLC  
12 SPORTS



## Whither Gender Justice? Asks a Nation in Rage



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

SAUMYA SHUKLA n NEW DELHI

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

### CBI cracks the whip in Kolkata

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

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

RAJESH KUMAR/MOHIT KANDHARI n NEW DELHI/JAMMU

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



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

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

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

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

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



RAJESH KUMAR n NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



ARCHANA JYOTI n NEW DELHI

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

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

## INDIA REACHES FOR THE SKIES



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

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

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

## How many mounds? ASI seems helpless

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

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



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

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

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

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

T N RAGHUNATHA n MUMBAI

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

tually kick-started their joint campaign for the Assembly polls. Speaking at the joint rally, former chief minister and Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray — who is expected to play a crucial role in the Opposition's campaign for the State Assembly — made a strong case for the MVA putting up a united face in the polls. "Given that the seat-adjustments talks are currently on, let's settle the matters in a give-and-take manner... Even in the case of the chief ministerial candidate's choice, let's not make issues. Let the NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar announce their candidates, I will support their choice. But, let's not squabble over the sharing of seats," Uddhav said. "I don't think I am fighting



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

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

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

## INBRIEF

### GNU CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

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



### TCS HIRED 65 GNU STUDENTS

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

### NFR CELEBRATES 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

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



### CANARA BANK ORGANISES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

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



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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN n CHENNAI

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



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

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

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

T N RAGHUNATHA n MUMBAI

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA n KOLKATA

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

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

# Jeevan Jyoti Hospital celebrates Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava



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

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

# Centre asks for accountability...

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

# Jammu and Kashmir...

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

# Whither Gender Justice...

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

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

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

# How many mounds? ASI...

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

# Chhattisgarh ACB/EOW raids multiple places in four states

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Anti Corruption Bureau/Economic Offence Wing (ACB/EOW) on Friday launched raids on 24 premises in four states in connection with alleged disproportionate assets cases lodged against suspended IAS officers Ranu Sahu and Sameer Sahu and suspended Deputy Secretary Soumya Chaurasia.

The raids were conducted in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Karnataka, ACB/EOW Additional Superintendent of Police Chandresh Thakur told The Pioneer.

The raids covered one

place each in Bengaluru in Karnataka and Jamshepur in Jharkhand, two places in Rajasthan and 20 places in Chhattisgarh.

Among the places in Chhattisgarh, the ACB/EOW covered one place each in Korba and Gariaband, two places in Raigarh, three places in Mahasamund, five places in Raipur and eight places in Durg district.

The officials seized documents related to immovable properties including benami properties.

Also, documents related to vehicles and other electronic devices with information about properties were found.

On July 8, three fresh FIRs were filed against Ranu Sahu, Soumya Vishnoi and Soumya Chaurasia on charges of corruption.

As per the FIR, Sahu (2010 batch IAS) purchased immovable property worth Rs 4 crore in her own name and in the name of family members between 2015 and 2022 while her total salary since joining

the service till 2022 was said to be Rs 92 lakh.

Similarly, Chaurasia (2008 batch), who was a part of the illegal syndicate of coal scam while posted as Deputy Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, purchased 29 immovable properties worth Rs 9.20 crore in her and family's name between 2021 and 2022.

She received about Rs 85.50 lakh as salary and other allowances till October 2022.

Vishnoi (2009 batch IAS) bought immovable property worth 5 crores in the name of his wife. The three bureaucrats are in jail in connection with an alleged coal levy scam unearthed during the previous Congress government in the state.



# Cong stages Gau Satyagrah across C'garh



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Congress in Chhattisgarh on Friday resorted to Gau-Satyagrah at district and block headquarters across the state charging the BJP government with failing to control the

stray cattle menace. Congress leaders and workers left stray cattle at the Collectorates and SDM offices at the district and block headquarters respectively.

PCC chief Deepak Baj staged the protest in Raipur while former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel did so in his

constituency Patan. Leader of Opposition Charandas Mahant took to the streets Bilaspur.

Baj said in a statement that the problem of deaths of cattle in road accidents, accidents caused due to them and the grazing of crops have become a burning problem.

**Congress leaders and workers left stray cattle at the Collectorates and SDM offices at the district and block headquarters respectively.**

"The problem of stray cattle has worsened during BJP rule and the government is not paying attention," he said.

# Govt to train youths as per local demand

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Skill Development Minister Kedar Kashyap emphasised on Friday the need to provide skill development training to youths as per the demand of

local industries to connect them to employment. He said this while reviewing the works of the Chhattisgarh State Skill Development Authority and the State Project Livelihood College Society at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan in Nava

Raipur. He called for providing employment-oriented training to youths and women so that they become self-reliant. He sought training courses for youths in the Bastar region.

# Indian military weapons, battle skills to be on display in October



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

A display of weapons and the skill to use them will mark an event in Raipur in October. The event will be titled Know Your Army. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Friday shared this information on his social

media handle. He said that soldiers would showcase their skills by destroying an "enemy location". There will also be a display of martial arts. The armament display would include heavy and medium machine guns, rocket launchers, artillery guns, tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

# Govt committed for all-round development of C'garh: CM

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said his government was committed to all-round development of the state and was busy formulating new schemes.

"The state government is surging on the path marked for growth and development with a clear vision of Viksit Chhattisgarh," Sai said while addressing people at the police parade ground on the occasion of Independence Day on Thursday.

Sai unfurled the national flag and took salute at an impressive parade.

He said Chhattisgarh was playing an effective role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India a developed country by 2047.

The Chief Minister said independence from colonial rule came about due to the



hard struggle and sacrifices of "our ancestors". "Our ancestors fought a long struggle against British imperialism... Democratic forces have to be strengthened," he added.

Crediting Atal Bihari Vajpayee with Chhattisgarh's creation, it is his dream of seeing a developed seen should be achieved.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to security forces fighting Naxalites in the state. In the last eight months, 146 Maoists

have been killed and 29 new security camps were going to open. Sai said that they have formed the State Investigation Agency (SIA) so that the investigation and prosecution action can be done more effectively to deal with Naxalite incidents. Sai said that paddy had been bought from farmers at Rs 3,100 per quintal with a cap of 21 quintals per acre. Sai said a "record" 145 lakh tonnes of paddy were purchased in the state.

# Canara Bank provides scholarships to 518 students

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Canara Bank has provided scholarships to 518 meritorious students belonging to backward castes and tribes in Chhattisgarh as part of their Dr. Ambedkar Vidya Jyoti Scholarship Scheme. Under the Corporate Social Responsibility, the bank provided scholarships ranging from



Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 to children in government or government aided schools.

# Chhattisgarh mountaineer conquers Mount Kosciuszko



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh mountaineer Rahul Gupta has hoisted the Indian flag on Mount Kosciuszko, the highest peak in Australia. He conquered the mountain situated at 2,7310 feet above sea level on Independence Day on Thursday.

Gupta was among 11 other mountaineers from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh who participated in the climb led by Narendra Yadav of Haryana.

Gupta, from Ambikapur city, has scaled eight national and six international mountains. He is the first from Chhattisgarh to do a winter expedition at the national level.

Chhattisgarh mountaineer Rahul Gupta has hoisted the Indian flag on Mount Kosciuszko, the highest peak in Australia.

# Dantewada health centre now NQAS certified

STAFF REPORTER DANTEWADA

The Union government has bestowed a National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certificate on the Ayushman Arogya Mandir Gatam in

Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, an official communiqué said on Friday. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided the certificate on the basis of an evaluation of seven standards, whose score was 89.88 percent.



Doctors in Chhattisgarh organised a candle march from Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital to Marine Drive in Raipur on Friday in protest against the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata on August 9.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, MARWAHI DISTT.-GOURELA-PENDRA-MARWAHI (C.G.)

**CORRIGENDUM No. 1**

In NIT No. 04/SAC/2024-25 Dated 12-08-2024 System Tender Number 157398, 1 Call (Wrongly Published) Whose G-Number is 242501800 following amendments are made :-

S.No.	Particulars	Previous Published System Number	Amended System Number
1	System Number	157398	157388

Note: All other terms and conditions of NIT will remain unchanged

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION MARWAHI (C.G.)**

G-242501848/6

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION BALRAMPUR, DISTT. BALRAMPUR-RAMANUJGANJ (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Procurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> (THIRD-CALL)

NIT NO. 02/SAC/2024-25 DATED-14.08.2024

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to .02.09.2024 (17.30 hours IST).

Group No.	System Tender No	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	157626	CONSTRUCTION WORK OF JAMHATI TANK SCHEME.	Rs. 707.38 Lakhs
2	157628	CONSTRUCTION WORK OF PONDI DIVERSION SCHEME.	Rs. 785.92 Lakhs
3	157629	CONSTRUCTION WORK OF BHUMKA NALLA DIVERSION SCHEME.	Rs. 3368.93 Lakhs

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Govt. of Chhattisgarh integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 21.08.2024, at 17:31 hours (IST) onwards.

Note: All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/supplier registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION BALRAMPUR, BALRAMPUR-RAMANUJGANJ (C.G.)**

For Chief Engineer Hasdeo-Ganga Basin, W.R. Deptt. Ambikapur, Sarguja (C.G.)

G- 242501853/7

**Axis Bank Ltd.,** Asset Sale Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla Chambers, Opp New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur-492004

Appendix IV [See rule 8(1) Possession Notice (for immovable property)]

**WHEREAS :** The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AXIS BANK LTD.,** Under the Securitisation and 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, a demand notice, dated 07.06.2024 calling upon the borrowers and guarantors viz. **MRS. SANGEETA CHAWLA & MR. TARUN CHAWLA** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.14961876/- due under Loan A/c No.PHR013904431081 & Rs.5848026/- Under Loan A/c No.LTR013904431412, Total Aggregating Amount 20809902/-, due as on 04.06.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 04.06.2024), only, being the amount due on termination of the agreement together with further contractual rate of interest till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The borrowers and guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 14 August 2024.

The borrowers and guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AXIS BANK LTD.,** for an amount of **Rs. Rs.14961876/- due under Loan A/c No. PHR013904431081, as on 04.06.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 04.06.2024) & Rs. Rs.5848026 due under Loan A/c No. LTR013904431412, as on 04.06.2024 (this amount includes interest applied till 04.06.2024) total Aggregating Amount Rs. 20809902/- (In Words Two Crore Eight Lac Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Two ) being the amount due as on date together with further contractual rate of interest till the date of payment.**

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

**Description of the Immovable Property :**

**Property 1 - All That Part Of Piece And Parcel Of The Land Mauja Bhilai, Ward-02 Kosha Nagar, Plot-06, Block No.21, Tahsila And District Durg, Admeasuring 360 Sq.ft Mr. I.e. 3875.01 Sq.ft. Boundaries: North: Plot No.15 & 16 / South - Road // East -plot No.5// West -plot No.07. This Property Is In The Name Of Smt. Sangeeta Chawla And Tarun Chawla.**

DATE: 17/08/2024  
PLACE : DURG  
AUTHORISE OFFICER  
AXIS BANK LTD.

**DCB BANK**

Registered Office : 6th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013

**E AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
(Under Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

**E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable Assets under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), co-borrowers and the guarantors in particular, by the Authorized Officer, that the under mentioned property is mortgaged to **DCB BANK LTD.,** The Authorized Officer of the Bank has taken the physical possession under the provision of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The properties will be sold by tender cum public E-auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and further interest, charges and cost etc. as per the below details. The properties will be sold "as is where is" and "as is what is" condition.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(S) and (Co-borrower(S))	Description of the Immovable Property	1) Reserve Price (Rs.) 2) EMD (Rs.) 3) Date of E-Auction 4) Type of Possession
1.	Mr. BHABANI SHANKAR CHOUDHURY, MRS. NEHA CHOUDHARY	All that piece and parcel of Flat number MIG 2/508, 5th floor, Block - 3, Kanchan Janga Complex, Kabir Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin - 492299	1) Rs. 17,00,000/- 2) Rs. 1,70,000/- 3) 23.09.2024 4) Physical Possession

Date and time of submission of EMD on or before 20-09-2024 up to 12:00 Noon with request letter of participation KYC, Pan Card, Proof of EMD at email id - [Rahul.tamrakar@dcbank.com](mailto:Rahul.tamrakar@dcbank.com), [suraj.ghosh@dcbank.com](mailto:suraj.ghosh@dcbank.com), [vilas.dhebe@dcbank.com](mailto:vilas.dhebe@dcbank.com) / [prashant.joshi@dcbank.com](mailto:prashant.joshi@dcbank.com) / [sagar.chavan@dcbank.com](mailto:sagar.chavan@dcbank.com)

The intending purchasers/bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through DD in the name of the beneficiary, DCB Bank LTD, RAIPUR, Chhattisgarh.

**Inspection Date and Time :- 02/09/2024 to 18/09/2024 Between 11:00 AM to 14:00 PM**  
**contact to Mr. Suraj Ghosh on Mob. No. 9302545045, Mr. Rahul Tamrakar on Mob. No. 909800225.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION**

- The auction sale shall be "online e-auction" bidding through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> on the dates as mentioned in the table above with Unlimited Extension of 5 Minutes. Bidders are advised to go through the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale, before submitting their bids and taking part in auction sale proceedings.
- The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider [M/s. E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger) Ahmadabad, Tel :- 079 - 6813 6837/80/90, M : 9265562821/9265562818] Contact Person : Mr. Chintan Bhatt, No. 9978591888, Email : [chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net](mailto:chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net), [support@auctiontiger.net](mailto:support@auctiontiger.net). Please note that, Prospective bidders may avail online training on e-auction from their registered mobile number only.
- Online E-auction participation is mandatory in the auction process by making application in prescribed format which is available alongwith the offer/tender document on the website.
- Bidders are advised to go through detailed terms and conditions of auction sale before submitting their bids by referring to the link <https://www.dcbank.com/cms/showpage/page/customer-corner> and for further details may directly contact to Mr. Rahul Tamrakar / Suraj Ghosh on 909800225/9302545045, Authorized Officer's of DCB Bank Ltd.

Date : 17.08.2024  
Place : Raipur  
For DCB Bank Limited Authorized Officer

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash.L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.)  
PH: 0771- 4222611, 4222612, E-mail: [recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com](mailto:recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com)

**(Publication in the Newspapers in case of return/failure of service of 60 day's Notice U/s.13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002).**

The Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda had issued 60 day's Notices to under mentioned borrowers / Guarantors U/s.13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 by Registered A/D/speed post. But these Notices were returned by the Postal authorities due to the reason of refusal to take delivery/wrong address/person left the place/city. These borrowers/guarantors have given their under mentioned movable/immovable assets by way of hypothecation / mortgage as security to secure the various credit limits granted by the Bank to the borrower(s). Due to non-payment of Bank's dues and non-fulfilment of terms and conditions of the loan, default has been committed by the borrower (s) / guarantor (s) in payment of bank loan and interest and the loan account has become NPA as per RBI guidelines. In view of the above, a 60 days Public Notice is given to the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to pay the bank dues as stated below alongwith interest till payment failing which the bank will be constrained to enforce its security interest without intervention of Court or Tribunal by taking recourse to one or more of the measures under Chapter - III of the Act. The borrower/guarantors are also directed by this Notice that in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act they shall not transfer by way of sale/lease or otherwise (other than in ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets charged to the bank without prior consent of the bank. The details of borrower/guarantors and secured assets is as follows, against whom the bank will start initiating action after 60 days in the event of non-payment of banks' dues by them.

Sl No. of the Bank Branch & Phone No.	Name of the Borrower & address	Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice	Details of Secured assets (NPA Date:01.07.2024) (Notice Date:29.07.2024)	
01	Ashwani Nagar Branch Raipur 9109993992	MD Safesal Thakkar Wala Baba, Gulab Nagar Ambedkar Ward, Gudhiyari, Raipur, C.G. - 492001	Rs. 26,80,048.00 + Unapplied interest + other charges	Equitable Mortgage of the residential Land & Building situated at KH No. - 285 and 286/2, Block Sheet No. 2, Plot No. - 123/2 Having an area 1200 sq.ft. RIC Chandra Shekhar Ward No. - 04, Gaji Nagar, Mouza Birgaon, Raipur C.G. Boundries: East: House of Dwarika Dewangan, West : Land of Ramshankar Dewangan, North: Road, South: Road.

Date:17.08.2024, Place:Raipur, Chhattisgarh  
Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

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# Hindenburg allegations: Dhankhar takes jibe at Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

# ISRO's successful launch of SSLV lauded

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s successful launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and described it as a matter of immense joy. "A remarkable milestone! Congratulations to our scientists and industry for this feat. It is a matter of immense joy that India now has a new launch vehicle. The cost-effective SSLV will play an important role in space missions and will also encourage private industry. My best wishes to @isro, @INSPACeIND, @NSIL\_India and the entire space industry," Modi said in a social media post. The ISRO successfully launched its third and final developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle here on Friday whose payloads can be used in applications like satellite-based surveillance, disaster and environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity among others. The flight-LV-D3- would also pave the way for the industry to collaborate with ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd for taking up launches using the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.



Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the ISRO saying this will enhance the sustainability of the earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. "Congratulations to @isro on the launch of SSLV-D3. This will enhance the sustainability of the Earth by facilitating environmental monitoring and disaster management. It is a testament to Bharat's commitment to humanity under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi ji," Shah said in a social media post.

# Naqvi bats for Uniform Civil Code

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Battling for a uniform civil code, former Minister for Minority Affairs and BJP Leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Friday said there is a need to remain "cautious" about the "conspiracy of communal confusion" on a 'secular civil code'. Naqvi said for the last 75 years, India has been waiting for the constitutional guidelines of uniform secular civil code to become a reality but every time this "inclusive reform has been a victim of communal castigation". Asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong pitch for a 'secular civil code', Naqvi said stalwart Leaders in the Constituent Assembly, including BR Ambedkar, were in favour of a uniform secular civil code but "communal confusion" by some people, with a "prejudiced mindset, hijacked the constitutional commitment" and the uniform civil code remained a part of the directive principles of state policy. Naqvi said the nation's mood is for making secular uniform civil code free from "communal confinement." The secular civil code is the need of the hour for betterment of 'mulk, mazhab and manavta' (country, religion and humanity)," he said. Asked about the row over Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's seat at the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, Naqvi said the Congress should come out of feudal arrogance and stop their "ruckus over row". "The Congress should avoid political commotion on national celebration," he said.

# 8 years after demonetisation, counterfeit notes have become rife again: Cong



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday claimed the counterfeit notes have become rife once again and termed as an "eye-wash" the Government's assertion that the overall number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen, what has demonetisation achieved, Ramesh asked. "This admission of increased counterfeiting comes shortly after the non-biological PM himself made a stunning admission of the widespread prevalence of black money during the election campaign, accusing his favourites A1 and A2 of bearing tempos and sacks full of black money," he said. If neither black money nor counterfeiting has been curbed, what has demonetisation achieved, Ramesh asked. The Congress Leader posted a screenshot of a Rajya Sabha question reply by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary which stated that measures have resulted in a decrease in the number of pieces of denomination-wise counterfeit notes detected / reported in the banking system from 3,17,384 in the year 2018-19 to 2,22,639 in the year 2023-24. Ramesh also posted a media report, which cited data submitted to Parliament by the Government to point out that the new series of the Rs 500 note and the Rs 2,000 note -- both introduced after demonetisation in 2016 - together account for just over 50 per cent of the number of counterfeit currency notes that have been detected.

number of counterfeit notes detected has fallen, this is an eyewash. Counterfeiting has just moved rapidly to higher-value notes, including those that were introduced specifically in the aftermath of demonetisation," Ramesh said in a social media post. "This admission of increased counterfeiting comes shortly after the non-biological PM himself made a stunning admission of the widespread prevalence of black money during the election campaign, accusing his favourites A1 and A2 of bearing tempos and sacks full of black money," he said. If neither black money nor counterfeiting has been curbed, what has demonetisation achieved, Ramesh asked. The Congress Leader posted a screenshot of a Rajya Sabha question reply by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary which stated that measures have resulted in a decrease in the number of pieces of denomination-wise counterfeit notes detected / reported in the banking system from 3,17,384 in the year 2018-19 to 2,22,639 in the year 2023-24. Ramesh also posted a media report, which cited data submitted to Parliament by the Government to point out that the new series of the Rs 500 note and the Rs 2,000 note -- both introduced after demonetisation in 2016 - together account for just over 50 per cent of the number of counterfeit currency notes that have been detected.



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

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

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

# President, PM pay tributes to Vajpayee on death anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister and BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary on Friday. They were joined by other dignitaries, including Union Ministers, and Leaders from different parties in paying homage to Vajpayee at his memorial 'Sadaiva Atal' here. In his tribute, on social media Modi said, "He is remembered by countless people for his unparalleled contribution to nation-building. He devoted his entire life towards ensuring



that our fellow citizens lead a better quality of life. We will keep working to fulfill his vision for India." A widely-respected politician acknowledged as among the finest orators, Vajpayee played a crucial role in drawing allies for his party in

the coalition era of the '90s and became the first Prime Minister from the BJP. His stewardship of the country between 1998-2004 is known for reforms and boost to infrastructure sectors. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 93 years.

# Army Chief felicitates Army sportspersons for Olympics feat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday here felicitated Indian Army sportspersons for their remarkable accomplishments at the Paris Olympics 2024. The ceremony was held at South Block and was not just an occasion to celebrate the achievements but also to acknowledge the pivotal role the Indian Army has played in nurturing sporting talent in the nation. The Indian contingent clinched a total of six medals (one silver and five bronze) at the Paris Olympics, with Subedar Major Neeraj Chopra of the Indian Army winning the only silver medal in Javelin for India. This exemplary performance has



etched itself as one of the most remarkable displays of the Indian Army at the Olympic Games. Major highlights of the performance by Indian Army Personnel include Neeraj Chopra - Silver Medal, Subedar Bommandevara Dhiraj in Archery (Recurve)- 4th Position. As India

prepares to bid for the hosting of 2036 International Olympics, the Indian Army has been playing a pivotal role in fostering Olympic excellence. In a significant move, the Indian Army established its Mission Olympic Wing (MOW) in 2001, dedicated to identifying and nurturing

sporting talent. To further empower the youth and propel them towards global excellence, the Indian Army has set up two Girls Sports Companies and 18 Boys Sports Companies. These initiatives aim to provide a platform for young athletes to hone their skills, build their confidence, and compete at the highest level. Army Chief expressed profound pride in the incredible achievements of the Army's sportspersons. Their discipline, perseverance, and dedication symbolise the core values of the Indian Army. He expressed confidence that the Indian Army sportspersons would continue their quest for excellence and achieve greater heights in the coming days.

# Malayalam movie Aattam bags best feature film award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n NEW DELHI

Regional cinema dominated the National Film Awards announced on Friday with best feature film going to Malayalam movie "Aattam: The Play" and Rishabh Shetty bagging best actor for the Kannada hit "Kantara". The best actress prize was shared by Nithya Menen, for the Tamil film "Thiruchitrabalam", and Manasi Parekh for the Gujarati movie "Kutch Express". The lone Bollywood presence in the top categories for the 70th edition of the national awards was "Uunchai" with Sooraj R Barjatya named best director. The adventure film, centred on four aging friends readying to scale Mt Everest, also won Neena Gupta a best supporting actress prize. "It is yet to sink in. I've got two National Awards in the past and I'm getting another National award after many many years, it's a big thing for me," Gupta, who bagged awards for the non-feature "Bazar Sitaram" in 1993 and for "Woh Chokri" in 1994, told PTI. A big winner in the awards for 2022 was the Haryanvi film



"Fouja", which got Pavan Malhotra a best supporting actor and won two other awards -- best debut film of a director for Pramod Kumar and best lyrics to Naushad Sadar Khan. The awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the jury for the feature film segment, and Nila Madhab Panda, who headed the non-feature film category. "Aattam: The Play", directed by Anand Ekarshi, revolves around a theatre troupe and the changing dynamics after its only woman member



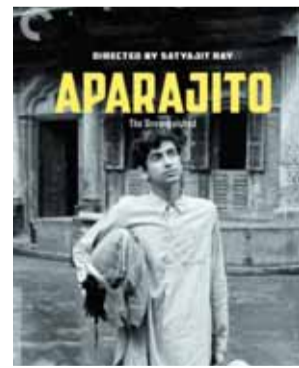
alleges she has been groped by one of the men. The Kannada blockbuster "Kantara", which explores the intricate connection between humanity and nature through its folklore-based storytelling, was also named in the category for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment. Best actor Shetty plays the dual roles of a father and son. Sharmila Tagore and Manoj Bajpayee starrer "Gulmohar", a family drama exploring the meaning of family and home, was judged best Hindi film



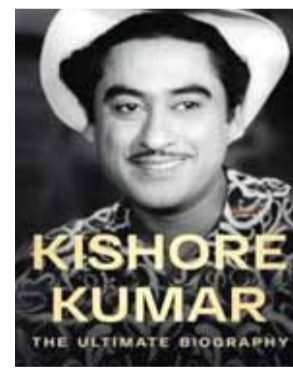
with its director Rahul V Chittela taking home the award for best dialogue writer



which was also named the best Tamil film. Pritam got the award for best music director



Padma Shri awardee Bombay Jayashri won the award for best female playback singer for the track "Chaayum Veyil" for "Saadi Vellaka CC 225/2009", which also won the best Malayalam film award. Besides the best actress honour for Menen, "Thiruchitrabalam", a comedy also starring Dhanush, earned the honour for best choreography for Jani Master and Sathish Krishnan. Niki Joshi won the trophy for best costume designer for "Kutch Express". Seasoned cinematographer Ravi Varman bagged the best



cinematography for Ratnam's "Ponniyin Selvan", which also took the honour for best sound design for Anand Krishnamoorthi. "Aattam" won two more awards -- best screenplay (original) for Anand Ekarshi and best editing for Mahesh Bhuvanend. The award for best animation direction (stunt choreography) went to Anbumani and Arivumani, jointly known as Anbariv. The best child artist award went to Sreepath for "Malikapurram" in Malayalam. From Bengali

cinema, "Aparajito" won the award for best make-up and best production design for Anand Adhya, while best Bengali film went to Kaushik Ganguly's "Kaberi Antardhan". The other regional films that won awards include "Kartikeya 2" (Telugu), "Baaghi Di Dhee" (Punjabi), "Daman" (Odia), "Vaalvi" (Marathi) and "KGF: Chapter 2" (Kannada). The best Tiwa film award was won by "Sikaisal". From the non-feature category, the top honour went to "Avena" by director Siddhant Sarin. Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj won the best music director for his short film "Fursat". "Just heard about the national award for Fursat. I am deeply happy to get my 9th national award. It's the biggest award of our country. The only one that truly matters. And winning this is the greatest validation of my work! Thank you jury for this. Now I need to strive for a double digit," the director, who had earlier won the same honour for short film "1232 KMS", said in a statement. The best film critic award went to Deepak Dua. Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Parthiv Dhar won the best book on cinema for "Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography".

## 70th National Film Awards

with Arpita Mukherjee. Bajpayee also got a special mention along with music director Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury for Malayalam title "Kadhikan". AR Rahman won the National Film Award for best music director (background music) for his work in Mani Ratnam's "Ponniyin Selvan-Part 1",

(songs) for "Brahmastra-Part 1". Arijit Singh was named the best male playback singer for the song "Kesariya" from Ayan Mukerji's "Brahmastra Part One: Shiva". The Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt starrer also bagged the award for best film in AVGC (animation, visual effects, gaming and comic) category.

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

PTI n BENGALURU

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



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

The BJP MP from Karnataka was referring to the scam in which a former Karnataka Minister B Nagendra was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate and is presently in jail.

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

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

PTI n SRIHARIKOTA (ANDHRA PRADESH)

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



Today's successful mission of LV allows industry to forge a partnership with ISRO for placing satellites into Low Earth Orbit.

expectations from ISRO and how to qualify for such missions," he said. From the interactions held with the industry it emerged there was a huge amount of interest for them to learn about space, he added.

# Tension in Maha cities during protest over anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh

PTI n MUMBAI

Tension erupted in Jalgaon and Nashik cities in north Maharashtra on Friday during a bandh called by a Hindu organisation to condemn the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, officials said.

Mumbai. The police resorted to a mild lathi charge after two groups clashed during a bike rally of the Hindu outfit in Nashik, an official said.

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

PTI n HYDERABAD

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



concluded Lok Sabha polls. Bharat Rashtira Samithi (then Telangana Rashtira Samithi) had won nine seats and secured a vote share of 41.71 per cent in the 2019 Parliamentary elections.

of this is important for us to learn from other political parties," he further said. To a query on the Congress Party's allegation that BRS has a "tacit" understanding with BJP, Rao dismissed them saying they are baseless.



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

PTI n JAIPUR

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

# Parole of Asaram Bapu: Rape victim's family seeks more security

PTI n SHAHJAHANPUR (UP)

The family members of Asaram Bapu's rape victim have demanded an increase in their security after the self-styled godman was granted a seven-day parole.



2015, and another witness was also shot dead in Muzaffarnagar." The victim's father said that "Four years ago, Asaram's followers had put up a banner of Asaram in Shahjahanpur jail and distributed blankets and a threat letter was also sent to my house."

# Renukaswamy murder case: Final report will be submitted to court soon, says top cop

PTI n BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Friday said the final report in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case in which Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and others are accused will be submitted to the court by the police at the earliest after getting remaining forensic reports.

The evidence gathered has been sent to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Bengaluru, and some electronic devices were sent to Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Hyderabad," Dayananda said.

pending," he added. A court here on Wednesday had extended till August 28 the judicial custody of Darshan and all other accused.

# Sad it happened in State where a woman is CM: U'khand Speaker

PTI n DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri on Friday condemned the rape and murder of a trainee doctor in West Bengal and said it is "even sadder" that the incident happened in a state governed by a woman chief minister.

allegedly raped and murdered while on duty at a state-run medical college and hospital in Kolkata on August 9. While a civic volunteer was arrested in connection with the crime the next day, the Calcutta High Court ordered the immediate transfer of the probe into the crime to the CBI from the Kolkata Police.

"We ask girls many questions, like where do you keep roaming around? Why do you speak so loudly? Why do you laugh so much? Boys are not asked such questions."

"For this, the family and society will have to change their thinking. If a boy talks to his mother loudly or pushes his sister and abuses her, he will have to be stopped," she said.

Underlining the need for population control, which she claimed would solve many things, Khanduri said, "Population control will be not only for Muslims but for the whole country and it will benefit everyone."

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

## KOLKATA RAPE-MURDER





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## PM roots for women safety

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

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in response to the national outrage, has unequivocally condemned the horrific crime. In his address to the nation on Independence Day, he emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring the safety of women in the country. Modi reiterated his stance that there must be zero tolerance for crimes against women, and perpetrators should face the most stringent punishment under the law. But it is not that we do not have strict laws for crime against women but the problem is their execution. The new amendments to criminal laws have additional features to expedite such cases. The new provisions include the death penalty for rape, video recording of crime scenes, and a witness protection program, etc. All of which could prove to help resolve such cases. However, only time will reveal how effectively these measures will be implemented on the ground and the guilty punished speedily. Women's safety has been a recurring concern in India, and incidents like this continue to raise questions about the effectiveness of existing laws and preventive measures. The Prime Minister's call for the strictest punishment has been widely welcomed, but it remains to be seen how these words will translate into concrete legal reforms. However, having laws is one thing and reforming the society is quite another. The attitude of society towards women must change. Most cases go unreported as the victims are often blamed by society; questions like 'why were you there?', 'what were you wearing?' and so on are posed to her to hold her responsible. The process becomes punishment and the victim has to live with the stigma for the rest of her life. The nation now awaits justice—not just for one young doctor, but for all the women who have suffered in silence.

PICTALK



Artists perform at Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Independence Day in Jaipur

# Terrorism resurges amid shifts in strategy



SUDHIR HINDWAN

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

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

Firstly, terrorists want to send a message that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's commendable efforts, the situation in J&K remains unstable. Secondly, Jammu's vast forest areas provide an ideal base for militants to launch guerrilla attacks and evade security forces. Thirdly, the improved law and order situation in Kashmir has led to a shift in insurgent focus toward Jammu. Lastly, while terrorism in the region had been suppressed for a time, it has not been eradicated, and militants are now re-emerging with increased vigor. J&K has long been a target of insurgents. Over the years, numerous terrorist attacks in areas like Sopore, Budgam, and Dooru Shahbad have raised serious concerns for security agencies. What is particularly alarming about the recent upsurge is the shift in strategy. Terrorists are no longer just targeting the military and police but are also attacking civilians, indicating their desperation to gain attention. Additionally, there has been no respite between these attacks, as militants seem relentless in their mission of destruction. Unlike in the past, Jammu has now become the epicenter of this terror onslaught due to its proximity to the border. Religion has once again resurfaced as a significant motivating factor for terrorists. The primary goal of these terrorists is to destabilize the region and create a vulnerable atmosphere. The involvement of a neighboring country with a hidden agen-



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

Despite efforts by the central government to address the issue through dialogues with Pakistan and engaging with separatists, insurgent activities continue unabated. Policymakers must recognize that terrorism directly impacts the nation's well-being. Anti-terrorism policies must be flexible and responsive to changing threats, utilizing the latest recommendations and technologies to ensure security. Today's terrorists are far more organized and professional than those from a decade ago. Although new security measures have been implemented, the threat remains unpredictable. The region's geography provides an ideal base for guerrilla activities, and the militants have become more sophisticated in their strategies, acquiring advanced weapons from across the border. Their use of automatic weapons, grenades, and low-intensity bombs demonstrates meticulous planning and execution. This modern breed of terrorists no longer hides in the

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

In his famous work, "Why Men Rebel," Ted Robert Gurr argues that people driven by intense motivation toward a goal often resort to violence. This is evident in modern terrorism, where militants see their acts as justified sacrifices for a cause. William Hennery also noted that some politically motivated acts of terrorism are so deeply rooted in commitment that no sanctions can deter them. International experts like Professor Yonah Alexander have analyzed the evolution of terrorism. Modern terrorists differ from their predecessors in their use of technology and tactics. Small, sophisticated groups now employ increasingly violent methods to create a psychological impact, aiming to instill fear in the public and force governments to react.

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

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



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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TUNGABHADRA DAM BREACHED

Madam — Tungabhadra dam crest gate has swept away in the water after its chain link snapped. The ancient name of the river Tungabhadra was Pampa. In the epic Ramayana also, this river was called by name Pampa. Construction of the dam started in 1949 and completed in 1953 is said to be irrigating 12 lakh acres of land. It is more than 70 years since the dam was dedicated to the nation. The fall of 19th crest gate has led to the release of over 1 lakh cusecs of water into the river. By the time the new gate is fixed, much more water will be lost to the river. It is said that the water level has to be brought down to 60 cmft for installing new gate. This incident must open the eyes of all the riparian states to inspect the dams which have been built decades ago. It goes without saying that like any other national asset, the dams have also their own life. Dams always face water pressure and it would be too high during the rainy season when the rivers carry unprecedented quantity of water. Any laxity shown in the proper maintenance of dams reduces the life of dams. It is said that the crest gate swept away during midnight. Had it happened during day time, there would have been the possibility of people and animals falling victims to the sudden gushing of water. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has blamed the state government for ignoring the recommendations of the dam committee that came from centre. If it is true that the state government has not taken seriously the recommendations of the committee, the state government must accept the blame.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

### DISAPPOINTING VERDICT

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

## Independence Day pledge



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

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

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

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

After winning three bouts against top athletes from Ukraine, Japan, and Cuba, Phogat's weight increased slightly after taking refreshments to recover. Despite her efforts to reduce her weight through exercise and even trimming her hair, she missed the limit by just 100 grams.

According to Rule 11 of the United World Wrestling (UWW), athletes must weigh in daily, and failure to meet the weight results in disqualification and forfeiture of previous wins. This rule, however, contradicts the Olympic Charter, which encourages the support of women athletes (Bylaws 2.8 and 2.10) and promotes their health and well-being (Bylaw 2.18). The back-to-back scheduling of bouts, without adequate recovery time, led to Phogat's physical exhaustion, violating these principles.

If the UWW rule were consistent with the Olympic Charter, her disqualification would not have occurred. Phogat's plea to be recognized as a joint silver medalist is justified, given her previous

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

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

### RESPECT THE NATIONAL FLAG

Madam — On August 15, all Indians celebrate by singing patriotic songs, posting quotations on social media, and staging emotional plays to instill patriotism in young minds. However, the enthusiasm often wanes the next day. Selling flags made of paper and plastic, only to have them treated disrespectfully, is wrong. This disrespect must cease. Our focus should shift to the country's needs beyond just one-day celebrations and songs. Though an individual can't change the entire system, collective efforts can. After so many sacrifices by our great leaders, we must question if we're truly an independent nation or only in name.

Md Imadullah | Muzaaffarpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## How to make disaster relief truly effective

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ASHA IYER KUMAR



## FIRST COLUMN

## THE DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD OF ARROGANCE

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



RAVI VALLURI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

## Afghanistan's struggle after the US withdrawal



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Afghanistan but was ousted in 1978 by leftist leaders Noor Mohammad Taraki, Babrak Karmal, and Hafizullah Amin, following the assassination of Mir Akbar Khyber. Taraki's presidency and Amin's prime ministership attempted significant social reforms, but their rapid implementation in a culturally resistant society led to widespread protests. The political struggle culminated in a coup by Amin, who ousted Taraki, later reported as dying of an "unknown illness" but suffocated by guards. Key figures in pre-Taliban Afghan politics included Mohammad Zahir Shah, Mohammad Dawood Khan, Mir Akbar Khyber, Noor Mohammad Taraki, and Hafizullah Amin. Mohammad Zahir Shah, king of Afghanistan from 1933 to 1973, oversaw significant social reforms and modernisation efforts. Educated in Kabul and France, Zahir Shah returned to Afghanistan at age 19 and took on various roles within the monarchy. By the early 1960s, he was a respected ruler who embraced democratic principles and established a new parliament, working to modernise Afghanistan and improve living standards. Many nostalgic images of pre-Taliban Afghanistan reflect the successes of his administration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



RAHUL KAMBLE

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

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

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



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

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

medical profession are especially vulnerable—not only to sexual assault but also to intimidation and violence from patients, hospital staff, colleagues, and even senior faculty. In many government hospitals, security is virtually nonexistent in certain sections, leaving female staff, including doctors and nurses, at the mercy of anyone who wishes them harm. There is a pressing need for the government to regulate security protocols in medical institutions across the country. Promises on paper are insufficient; action must follow. Hospitals must invest in safe lodging for female doctors, and legislation protecting doctors from violence must be passed without delay. The Supreme Court of India, in May 2023,

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

# Parliament elects Thaksin's daughter as Thailand PM

AP n BANGKOK

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



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

Her public entry into politics came in 2021 when the Pheu Thai party announced she would lead an inclusion advisory committee. She was appointed as leader of Pheu Thai last year, after she was named one of its three prime ministerial candidates ahead of the polls. When Paetongtarn was on the campaign trail for Pheu Thai, she

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

# Diplomacy intensifies to halt Israel-Hamas war

AP n JERUSALEM

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

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

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

# Hurricane Ernesto targets Bermuda after hitting Puerto Rico

AP n SAN JUAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Trump refuses to tone down personal attacks on Harris

PTI n WASHINGTON

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



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

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

# China alarmed by US missile system deployed to its North

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

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

AP n HARARE

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

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

# Pakistan reports 3 Mpox cases

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI n NEW YORK

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



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

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

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

AP n WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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



# B'desh caretaker govt promises action

PTI n DHAKA

Bangladesh's newly-appointed Home Affairs Minister adviser has vowed to take swift legal action against those who attack or abuse minorities, stressing that there is no place for violence, conflict, or hatred in the country.

Brigadier General (ret'd) M Sakawat Hussain's assurance came during a meeting with a delegation from the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Bangladesh at his office in the Secretariat on Thursday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

Bangladesh saw a spike in violence against members of Hindu communities following the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina, who resigned and fled to India on August 5 following massive protests against her government over a controversial quota system in jobs.

Hussain emphasised that Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony, where people of all religions have grown up together without any divisions. He said that no one would be spared if they attacked or abused minorities, and swift

# Yunus inducts four more advisers

Dhaka (PTI): The interim government in Bangladesh led by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus was expanded on Friday with four more advisers joining his team of civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders. The new advisers are Wahiduddin Mahmud, an economist, Ali Imam Majumdar, former cabinet secretary, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, former power secretary, and Lt Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

With these four, the strength of the members — all equivalent to ministers — in the interim government's advisory council rose to 21.

Nobel Laureate Yunus and 13 other advisers were sworn in

on August 8, four days after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government last week amid an uprising over government job quota reforms. Two advisers were sworn in on August 11 and one a day after.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oaths to the four new advisers at Bangabhaban, the seat of the government, a presidential palace spokesman told PTI.

They were sworn in a simple ceremony joined by the council of advisers and officials concerned, he said and added, Yunus is expected to allot their portfolios later.

Wahiduddin Mahmud, former professor of premier Dhaka University, was an adviser to the 1996 caretaker govern-



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

Bangladesh. Hasina had resigned and secretly left for India on August 5 in the face of the massive mass upsurge originating from a students' movement over the quota system for government jobs, marking the end of her Awami League regime since December 2008.

Most of the advisers are civil society figures, academics, NGOs and rights group leaders. Globally recognised as 'The Father of Microfinance', Yunus, 84, was declared as the head of the interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin after dissolving Parliament, a decision prompted by a demand by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

legal action would be taken. He said that there is no place for violence, conflict, or hatred and that the country believes in peace.

During the meeting, Satyranjan Baroi, president of ISKCON Bangladesh, requested the adviser to take priority measures for the safety of minorities and presented eight

proposals for ensuring their safety, including enacting laws, establishing monitoring cells, forming a Minority Commission and providing continuous state security for temples. The adviser assured his full support for these matters. The Bangladesh National Hindu Grand Alliance said that the minority community faced

attacks and threats in 278 locations across 48 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 and termed it as an "assault on the Hindu religion."

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus who is heading the interim government on Tuesday reached out to the distressed Hindu commu-

unity and urged them to "exercise patience" and assured them that his government would punish those who attacked the minority members.

On Monday, Hossain's ministry set up a hotline asking people to provide information about attacks on temples, churches or any other religious institutions.



Participants prepare a kite during Denpasar international kite festival in Sanur, Bali, Indonesia on Friday

AP/PTI

# Palau's president says China is weaponising lucrative tourism

AP n WELLINGTON

Beijing weaponised tourism to the Pacific archipelago of Palau over its allegiance to Taiwan and its accusations that China was behind a major cyberattack there, President Surangel Whipps Jr said.

Palau, along with Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, is one three Pacific nations to recognise Taiwan as an independent democracy — viewed as a snub by Beijing, which asserts it is part of China. Taipei's allies in the Pacific have dwindled from six countries in 2019; Nauru abandoned its ties in January.

Whipps told the AP in an interview late Thursday that, in 2020 while he was running for his current post, the Chinese ambassador to a neighboring country pledged to flood his tourism-dependent nation of 20,000 people with a million visitors if he capitulated to the country's stance. "That continues to be the overtone," he said by phone Thursday. "They say, why are you torturing yourselves? Just join us and the sky's the limit."

Whipps refused. "We don't need a million tourists," he added. "It's not always about how much money we get." His stance is vanishingly rare amid Pacific island nations — some struggling to sustain themselves and feeling overlooked by Western powers while their backyards are increasingly the settings for some of the world's most potent contests for influence. Amid

intensifying conflict over ocean territory, resources and political sway, Beijing's pressure on the three hold-out countries was increasing, analysts said.

"As the number of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Pacific dwindles, the obstacles to China's regional diplomacy diminish," said Mihai Sora, Director of the Pacific Islands Program at the Lowy Institute. China's penalties for Palau's intransigence are not new, but they have escalated in the months leading up to November's election in which Whipps will seek another term as leader, he said.

In May, he blamed China for a major cyberattack on Palau in which 20,000 government documents were stolen. The claim was unproven, Whipps said, but no other motive or actor had emerged.

Earlier that month, Palau tourism industry representatives were denied visas to enter Macau for a lucrative international industry conference.

Then reports appeared in China's state media and on an official WeChat channel in June, warning tourists of an increase in safety issues for Chinese visitors to Palau. The remarks, seen by the AP, urged citizens to be cautious when traveling there.

Whipps rejected the reports of security problems but said the claims had stuck — visitor numbers from China halved in 2024, now down to 30% of its tourists. Once, 70% of Palau's visitors came from China, but

the country tried to diversify its market after Beijing unofficially blocked its citizens from visiting in 2017.

"Palau has found itself in a position where it relies on Chinese tourists for income," Sora said. "This is a tap China can quite easily turn on and off — and it does."

Support comes from other quarters, however. Unlike most Pacific nations, Palau, a republic that has been independent since 1994, holds close ties to the United States in a free association agreement. Washington provides aid and defense support to Palau and its citizens can live and work in the US.

But many analysts say Washington was too slow to recognize China's campaign of influence in the Pacific and took for granted relationships with the leaders of tiny island nations who struggled to address growing economic and climate woes.

Meanwhile, Whipps said, Beijing offered incentives and wooed with red carpets and fanfare some leaders who had never met an American president before a Pacific summit at the White House first held in 2022. Western nations had at times seen Pacific island countries as "dots on a map," Whipps added. Things were changing, he said — this week, Palau hosted New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, who is also the Foreign Minister, in the highest-profile visit Whipps had received from that country.

# Ukrainian officials urge civilians to evacuate eastern town of Pokrovsk

AP n KYIV

Military authorities in the eastern Ukrainian town of Pokrovsk on Friday urged civilians to speed up their evacuation because the Russian army is quickly closing in on what has for months been one of Moscow's key targets in the war.

The call for people to get out as soon as possible came as Kyiv's forces are trying to divert the Kremlin's military focus to Russian soil by launching a bold incursion across the border into the Kursk region. The urgency also underscored the high-stakes gamble Ukraine is making by taking the war into Russia with its ongoing assault that started August 6.

The attack was a daring attempt to change the dynamics of the 2½-year conflict, but

it could leave Ukraine's short-handed defense at the mercy of Russia's push.

The Kremlin's forces had battlefield momentum and superior forces in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region since the spring.

Evacuations in the Donetsk region around Pokrovsk have become increasingly urgent in recent weeks.

Pokrovsk officials said in a Telegram post Friday that Russian troops are "advancing at a fast pace. With every passing day there is less and less time to collect personal belongings and leave for safer regions."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned on Thursday that Pokrovsk and other nearby towns in the Donetsk region were "facing the most intense Russian assaults."

# Pak govt admits tinkering with internet: Report

PTI n ISLAMABAD

For the first time, the Pakistani government has confirmed that it was upgrading its "web management system" to cope with cyber security threats amid speculation about the installation of a so-called 'firewall' that could be leading to internet disruptions in the country, according to a media report on Friday.

Millions of people across Pakistan have been facing trouble accessing internet services for some time now due to limited connectivity, particularly while using mobile data in some regions.

So far, official stakeholders in Pakistan have either been feigning ignorance in response to public outcry and media queries, or claiming that the problems were because of telecom and internet service providers, or even Meta. While talking to reporters after the

Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Tele-communication meeting on Thursday, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the government had sought a report from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and other institutions over the internet disruption.

"The internet should never be slow. We have even been talking about bringing 5G technology to Pakistan. There is no doubt about that, and conversations about higher internet speed are underway," the Dawn newspaper quoted Khawaja as saying. When the minister was asked about the 'firewall' — a blanket term used by the public to describe the causes of internet disruption in the absence of any official explanation — she said the issue had been "blown out of proportion."

"The government has been operating a web-management system. The system is now being upgraded." She also called the process "a routine exercise" across the globe to enhance internet security, without giving any detail to substantiate her claims about which other countries have deployed this system.

"It is the right of the government to take measures to protect its interests given the cyber security attacks that Pakistan is facing." This was the first time an acknowledged government's actions, which have been blamed for everything from slow browsing speeds, the arbitrary blocking of social media platforms and WhatsApp connectivity issues on mobile data, the paper said.

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

Tokyo (AP): Flights and trains in the Tokyo area were cancelled Friday, and people were warned of strong winds, heavy rains and potential flooding and mudslides as a typhoon swerved near Japan on its way further north in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoon Ampil was forecast to reach the waters near Tokyo in the evening then continue north, bringing stormy conditions to the northern Kanto and Tohoku regions early Saturday. It had sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph) with higher gusts Friday morning and was moving north at 20 kph (12 mph), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Ampil was not expected to make landfall and would weaken to a tropical storm by Sunday.

The Shinkansen bullet trains running between Tokyo and Nagoya were halted for the entire day, according to Central Japan Railway, a common response to typhoons here. Bullet trains serving northeastern Japan and some local Tokyo trains were suspended temporarily or switched to a slower schedule. Dozens of departing and arriving flights were cancelled at Tokyo's two airports, Haneda and Narita, as well as at Kansai, Osaka and Chubu airports. The flight cancellations affect some 90,000 people, according to Japanese media reports. Several highways may also partly close to traffic.

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

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# Wickremesinghe backed by grand alliance in SL presidential poll

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

**verka**  
Verka Co. Ltd.

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812, 66  
Notice Inviting e Tender [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)

e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty	
	Khanna	GKB
<b>For Cattle Feed Plant, Khanna &amp; Ghaina - Ke - Bangar</b>		
1. MFP Molecule	25 MT	23 MT
2. Formaldehyde Solution (with drum) 37-40%	45 MT	12 MT
3. Ferrous Sulphate/ Iron Sulphate 30% min	3 MT	1.2 MT
4. Zinc Sulphate zn33% min	10 MT	7.5 MT
5. Manganese Sulphate 32% min.	2 MT	2.3 MT
6. Calcium Chloride a) Assay 90-95% b) pH200g/l = 7	15 MT	12.3 MT
7. Sodium Thiosulphate,	4 MT	4.3 MT
8. Copper Sulphate cu: 24% min,	3 MT	1.6 MT
9. Magnesium Chloride a) Assay not less than 98% b) pH 5% solution: 4.5-7.0	5 MT	4 MT
10. Sodium Butyrate (Assay: 98.0%(min), Lead: 20 ppm (max), Arsenic: 2 ppm (max)	1 MT	1.1 MT
11. Chocolate Feed Flavour with Sweetener, Cattle Feed Grade Free Flowing Powder	5 MT	9 MT
12. HMTBa based chelates	17 MT	18 MT
13. Live Yeast (saccharohyces careverial)	20 MT	14.00 MT
14. Potassium Iodide	-	0.105 MT
15. Potassium Carbonate	-	15.00 MT
16. Choline	-	.600 MT
17. By pass fat (rate contract for three months)	150 MT	35 MT

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

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

**GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR**

**NOTICE**

Applications forms for allotment of hostel Shops/Vehicle Stands from session 2024-25 (Extendable upto 30-06-2029) of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur, Regional Campus, Jalandhar & University College, Jalandhar are invited till 28.08.2024. The details, terms & conditions and forms can be downloaded from the university website link:- <https://online.gndu.ac.in/tenders-notice.aspx>

Dean Student's Welfare

NA/12/24801/2023/36732 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

**verka**  
Verka Co. Ltd.

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.  
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812, 66  
Notice Inviting Tender [www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	<b>For Verka Head office, Chandigarh</b>	
a)	Day Fruits	06 Months/ 700 kg
i.	Badam	7850 kg
ii.	Kaju 4 Pc	670 kg
iii.	Kashmish	525 kg
iv.	Peeta	1000 kg
v.	Chaich	
b)	Augmentation & Re-strengthening of existing 4 No's foundations (60 kl to 100 kl milk silos) of liquid milk plant at Verka Mohali Dairy.	Two Months
2.	<b>For Verka Chandigarh Dairy</b>	
Auction Notice for Vehicles:-		
i.	Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2105, Model-2008, Diesel.	01 No.
ii.	Innova Vehicle No. CH01-G1-2821, Model-2009, Diesel.	01 No.
iii.	Tata 407 Vehicle No.PB85-E-6730, Model-2007, Diesel.	01 No.
iv.	Hero Honda Motor Cycle No.CH04J-2719, Model-2009	01 No.
v.	Hero Honda Motor Cycle No.CH04J-1841, Model-2009	01 No.
3.	<b>For Verka Mohali Dairy</b>	
a)	Annual rate contract for used Polylin/Polylin scraps assorted used curd/ wheer cupsmic bottles scrap, assorted used matka scrap, misc used Cans (Capacity 10 to 15 Lt.) Scrap, Misc used Cans (Cap.above 20 to 50 lt.) scrap and half yearly rate contract for disposal of other unseviceable items lying at Verka Mohali Dairy	
4.	<b>For Verka Bathinda Dairy</b>	
a)	Hiring of Road Milk Tankers for transportation of Milk within/outside Punjab at Verka Bathinda Dairy. (Capacity 10 Tons & Capacity 15 Tons and above).	03 No.'s, each
5.	<b>For Verka Patiala Dairy</b>	
a)	Shrink Sleeves	Annual
b)	Hiring of insulated S.S road milk tankers for milk transportation within Punjab & other states Cap:- 15000 to 30,000 lr	Annual/05 Tankers
c)	Hiring of insulated vehicle for transportation of Fresh Milk and Fresh Milk products for:-	Annual
i.	Route no 2 (Habba)	4MT
ii.	Route no 4 (Bhadurgarh, Urban Estate & Curbakshi colony, Patiala)	3 MT
iii.	Route no 5 (Tharur, Falegarh road, Patiala & surrounding area)	4 MT
iv.	Route no 7 (Sirhind, Fatehgarh Sahib, Bhardson Amloh)	3 MT
v.	Route no 9 (Ambala, Mulana and Sahi)	3 MT
6.	<b>For Verka Lughana Dairy</b>	
a)	Job Contract for operation and maintenance of pouch filling machines and tray washer including coding on pouches.	Annual
7.	<b>For Verka Amritsar Dairy</b>	
a)	Hiring of insulated Single portion Road Milk Tankers for Transportation of Milk from BMC/MCC (cap.10,000 Lt.)	Annual 12 No's
b)	Supply of Indonesian Steam Coal	200MT
8.	<b>For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy</b>	
a)	Hiring of Vehicles for transportation of Milk from MPC(S/Farms to MCC and Milk Plant. Tata 407, Mahindra Max, Mahindra Pick, Bolero Pick, Tata Ace.	17 Routes
b)	Pest Control Services	-
9.	<b>For Verka Jalandhar Dairy</b>	
a)	Supply of Aluminium foil for 450g/500g, 1kg, 5 kg & 15 kg Matka.	Annual
b)	Hiring of Refrigerated Vehicles for supply of frozen and Ambient Dairy products in Verka Jalandhar Dairy Milkshed area.	Annual
10.	<b>For Verka Ferozpur Dairy</b>	
a)	Hiring of car (Bolero) swift/ Toyota Etios or its equivalent.	01 No.
b)	Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of ammonia based cold room with puff panel & its accessories, with civil structure complete.	01 Complete Job
11.	<b>For Verka CFP, Bhatian (Khanna)</b>	
a)	Transportation of Molasses from The Budhwah and The morinda co-operative sugary Mills Ltd. to Verka Cattle feed plant, bhatian (Khanna).	Annual
12.	<b>For Verka CFP, Ghanna Ka Bangas</b>	
a)	Disposal of old bardana jute gunny bags above 50 kgs/ Katta upto 50 kgs and Plastic kattes.	Annual / Approx. 13-14 Lakh bags

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

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

**PPGCL**  
PRAYAGRAH POWER GENERATION COMPANY LTD.

Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhaban, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301  
Plant Address: PO-Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagrah (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107  
Phone: +91-120-6102008/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

**NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Prayagrah Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for Hiring of Ambulance (ALS & BLS Type) of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagrah Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagrah, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL:- <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.**

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website- [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
Mobile No.96461-22067

**E-Tender Enq. No. 554/P-1/EMP/P-12775 dated 14-08-24**

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024\_POWER\_125574\_1 to conduct Energy Audit of GGSSTP Units III to VI having capacities of 4x210MW. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14.08.2024/ 5.00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RTP-91/24

76155/12/3308/2023/36725 Dated CHD :- 8/16/2024

**JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED**

CIN NO. : L60231CT2008PLC016434

Registered Office: A-11(7), Udaya Society, Sector-3, Tatiana, Raipur-492099, Dharsiwa, Chattisgarh, India  
Website: [www.jitfinfra.com](http://www.jitfinfra.com), E-mail: [contacts@jitfinfra.com](mailto:contacts@jitfinfra.com)

**NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY**

For transfer of unclaimed amount of Fraction Shares to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Account (As per Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013).

In terms of requirements of Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules"), as amended, the Company is required to transfer the unclaimed amount of fraction shares which remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years, to the IEPF Account established by the Central Government.

A separate communication has been sent to all the Shareholders, who have not claimed the unclaimed amount of fraction shares at their registered email or communication address with the Company.

A list of such shareholders who have not claimed the amount of fraction shares during the period of seven consecutive years and the amount of which are therefore liable for transfer to the IEPF Account is available on the website of the Company at [www.jitfinfra.com](http://www.jitfinfra.com).

Shareholders are requested to forward the requisite documents, as per the above-mentioned communication to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA), to claim the unclaimed amount. Notice is hereby given that in the absence of receipt of a valid claim by the Shareholders, the Company would be transferring the said amount to IEPF Account without further notice in accordance with the requirement of the said Rules.

Please note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed amount transferred to IEPF pursuant to the said Rules. Please note that after such transfer, Shareholders/Claimants can claim the transferred amount from the IEPF Authority, for which details are available at [www.iepf.gov.in](http://www.iepf.gov.in).

For any information/clarifications on this matter, the concerned Shareholders/Claimants may write to the Company at [contacts@jitfinfra.com](mailto:contacts@jitfinfra.com) or to the RTA of the Company M/s RCMC SHARE REGISTRY PRIVATE LIMITED, B-25/1, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - 2, New Delhi - 110020 Phone: 011-26387320, 26387321, E-mail ID: [investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com](mailto:investor.services@rcmcdelhi.com).

**For JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED**  
Sd/-  
**ALOK KUMAR**  
COMPANY SECRETARY  
M.NO.: A 19819

Date: 16.08.2024  
Place: Raipur

# Sensex jumps to two-week high

PTI n MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex spurted by 1,330 points to close at a two-week high while Nifty jumped 397 points to settle above the 24,500 level on Friday as easing fears of a recession in the US triggered buying in IT shares amid a sharp global stocks rally.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,330.96 points or 1.68 per cent to settle at 80,436.84, marking its best single-day gains in more than two months. During the day, it zoomed 1,412.33 points or 1.78 per cent to 80,518.21.

The NSE Nifty surged 397.40 points or 1.65 per cent to close at a two-week high of 24,541.15. As many as 47 Nifty shares closed in green while three closed in red.

From Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, ICICI Bank and Tata Steel were the biggest gainers.

Sun Pharma emerged as the only laggard. "The stability of the Japanese Yen has been instrumental in driving a global market recovery. Besides that, the strong US retail sales and a decline in weekly jobless claims have helped alleviate fears of a US recession. "Further, the market sentiment has improved due to a decrease in US CPI inflation. On the backdrop of these, the Indian IT firms exhibited strong buying interest," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled significantly higher. European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US markets ended with sharp gains on Thursday. "The Indian frontline indices traded signif-



icantly higher today, mirroring the positive global market sentiment. The gains in the market were broad-based as the midcap and smallcap indices also moved higher. This upbeat market mood was primarily driven by reduced volatility, which stemmed from increased expectations of a US rate cut in September," Avdhut Bagkar, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, StoxBox, said. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.80 per cent and smallcap index climbed 1.70 per cent. All indices ended higher. IT index soared 2.72 per cent and realty jumped 2.45 per cent. Teck (2.23 per cent), auto (1.90 per cent), commodities (1.89 per cent), power (1.80 per cent), financial services (1.77 per

cent) and consumer discretionary (1.74 per cent) also closed higher. A total of 2,462 stocks advanced while 1,467 declined and 107 remained unchanged on the BSE. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 730.93 points or 0.91 per cent, the Nifty climbed 173.65 points or 0.71 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,595.27 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were buyers as they bought equities worth Rs 2,236.21 crore, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.22 per cent to USD 80.05 a barrel. Indian stock markets were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day.

# FDI in food processing sector down 30% to ` 5,037 cr in 2023-24

PTI n NEW DELHI

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's food processing sector declined 30 per cent in the last fiscal to Rs 5,037.06 crore, according to official data.

The FDI in the food processing sector stood at Rs 7,194.13 crore in 2022-23. According to the data presented by the Food Processing Industries Ministry in Lok Sabha, the FDI in food processing sector stood at Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2934.12 crore in 2020-21.

FDI was Rs 6,414.67 crore in 2019-20; Rs 4430.44 crore in 2018-19; Rs 5,835.62 crore in 2017-18; Rs 4,865.85 crore in 2016-17; and Rs 3,312 crore in 2015-16 in the food processing sector. In order to enhance foreign investment in the food processing sector, the ministry has taken various measures, including 100 per cent FDI permitted through automatic route for the food processing sector subject to sectoral regulations. It has allowed 100 per cent FDI, under the government-approval route, for trading including through e-



commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India. The government has exempted all processed food items from the purview of licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. There is a lower GST for raw and processed products. More than 71.7 per cent of food products under various chapter heads/sub-heads are covered in lower tax slabs of 0 per cent and 5 per cent. The export of processed foods declined 17 per cent to USD 10,881.81 million in 2023-24 from USD 13,078.3 million in the preceding fiscal. For the development of this sector, the ministry is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA

Yojana (PMKSY) and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) schemes. All these three schemes are demand-driven and implemented across the country. These schemes are aimed at creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, and to help in providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, reducing wastage, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of processed foods.

# SBI hikes lending rate by 10 bps across tenors, raising EMIs for borrowers

PTI n NEW DELHI

State Bank of India, the country's biggest lender, has raised the Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points (0.1 percentage point), across tenors, making most of the consumer loans costlier.

This is the third time in a row that the bank has increased MCLR. The benchmark one-year tenor MCLR, which is used to price most consumer loans such as auto and personal, is now pegged higher at 8.95 per cent against the earlier rate of 8.85 per cent, according to the information posted on its website. The three-year MCLR is 9.10 per cent, while the two-year is now 9.05 per cent, up 10 basis points. Among others, the rates of one-month, three-month and six-month tenors are in the range of 8.45-8.85 per cent. The MCLR on overnight tenor will be 8.20 per cent against 8.10 per cent.

The new rates are effective from August 15, 2024, it said. The rate hike has come days after RBI kept its benchmark lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth consecutive time earlier this month.

# Rupee settles flat at 83.94 against US dollar

PTI n MUMBAI

The rupee stayed in a narrow range and settled flat at 83.94 (provisional) against the American currency on Friday, as the support from a rally in domestic equities and weak greenback was negated by foreign fund outflows amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.93 and touched the intraday low of 83.96 against the greenback during the session. The local unit finally settled flat at 83.94 (provisional) against the dollar. On Wednesday, the rupee settled 3 paise higher at 83.94 against the US dollar. Forex markets were closed on Thursday on account of Independence Day. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the positive tone in the domestic markets



supported the rupee at lower levels. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on...Geopolitical tension in the Middle East between Israel and Iran. "Traders may take cues from US consumer confidence and housing data today. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.75 to Rs 84.25," he added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.14 per cent at 102.66. Analysts said the dollar

weakened as market participants were awaiting the US consumer confidence index and housing data to be released later in the day. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.20 per cent to USD 80.07 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex surged 1,330.96 points, or 1.68 per cent, to settle at 80,436.84 points. The broader Nifty also soared 397.40 points, or 1.65 per cent, to 24,541.15 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,595.27 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, wholesale inflation fell to a 3-month low of 2.04 per cent in July on the decline in prices of food items, especially vegetables, government data released on Wednesday showed.

# India's forex reserves drop USD 4.8 bn to USD 670.11 bn

PTI n MUMBAI

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.8 billion to USD 670.11 billion for the week ended August 9, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty jumped by USD 7.53 billion to an all-time high of USD 674.919 billion. For the week ended August 9, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 4.079 billion to USD 587.96 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves declined by



USD 860 million to USD 59.239 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 121 million to USD 18.282 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 18 million to USD 4.638 billion in the reporting week, the central bank data showed.

# NITI Aayog calls for guidelines, E-KYC to check background of PMMY loan applicants

PTI n NEW DELHI

The government think tank NITI Aayog has pitched for a set of guidelines for assessing the creditworthiness and background verification for those availing loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY). The Aayog in a report titled 'Impact Assessment of PMMY' suggested encouraging E-KYC authentication for loan underwriting. This will enhance the effectiveness of assessment checks. "A set of guidelines for assessing the creditworthiness and background verification must be enlisted to provide a security net to the banks, considering the loans are collateral free and a proper risk check and assessment has a critical role to play in the sustainability of results and success of the scheme," it said in the report posted on its website.



The majority of borrowers under PMMY are small entrepreneurs who have very limited documents and this makes it difficult for the banks to run verification checks as it requires more staffing and employees. The Aayog also suggested that a proper reward mechanism is needed for different banks based on their scale of operation and performance. It noted that a portal enabling real-time upload of beneficiary data will help streamline the beneficiary data collection PMMY, since its inception in 2015 has provided credit support of Rs 18.39 lakh crore to 34.93 crore accounts. According to the report, compared to the pre-

pandemic, the credit disbursements to MSMEs have doubled across segments indicating support for the increasing credit demand by the industry, while the number of NPA accounts and the amount have been increasing year after year with a CAGR of 22.51 per cent and 36.61 per cent respectively from FY 2017. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector plays a defining role for entrepreneurs and is a key driver of socio-economic development in India. The sector contributes about 33 per cent (FY 2015 to FY 2019) of the country's total manufacturing gross value of output. It accounts for more than 40 per cent of exports and contributes over 28 per cent of gross value added in India's GDP while creating employment for about 11.10 crore people.

# Govt to impose stricter safety standards on electric construction equipment vehicles

PTI n NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed new stricter safety standards for electric powertrain construction equipment vehicles including dumpers and excavators from October 1, 2024. The ministry in a draft notification has proposed an amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 with an aim to push electric vehicles (EV) across various sectors. "On and after (1st October 2024), construction

equipment vehicles fitted with electric power train shall meet requirements as specified in AIS-174, till the corresponding BIS specifications are notified under the Bureau of Indian Standard Act, 2016," the draft rule said. Electric and hybrid powertrain are being used in construction equipment vehicles. According to the notification, the objections or suggestions which may be received from any person in respect of the said draft rules before the expiry of the aforesaid period will be considered by the central government.

# Gold plunges ` 400; silver rallies ` 800

PTI n NEW DELHI

Gold prices plunged Rs 400 to Rs 72,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had closed at Rs 73,150 per 10 grams in the previous session. The commodity markets were closed on Thursday on the occasion of Independence Day. Silver prices rallied Rs 800 to Rs 84,000 per kilogram from Rs 83,200 per kg in the previous close. Meanwhile, gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 400 to Rs 72,400 per 10 grams. In



the previous session, it ended at Rs 72,800 per 10 grams. On the global front, Comex gold is trading at USD 2,500.90 per ounce, up by USD 8.50 per ounce. "Gold rose slightly on Friday as geopolitical uncertainty continued to provide support

for precious metals. "However, stronger US retail sales and jobless claim data released on Thursday suggest robust consumer spending, reducing concerns about recession risk in the US and dampening aggressive interest rate-cut expectations, potentially limiting further gains in precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. However, silver was quoting lower at USD 28.66 per ounce in the international markets. "Comex gold closed 0.5 per cent higher at USD 2,492.4 per ounce on Thursday, as mixed US data with easing Consumer Price Index inflation and stronger retail sales did not provide any fresh insights on the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy path," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

# Finance Ministry permits 15 securities firms to undertake Aadhaar verification of clients

PTI n NEW DELHI

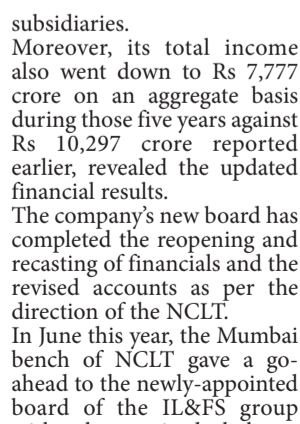
The Finance Ministry has permitted 15 securities firms, including SBICAP Securities, IIFL Securities, and Angel One, to conduct Aadhaar authentication of their customers. The Revenue Department under the finance ministry has issued a notification under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act allowing the 15 reporting entities to conduct Aadhaar-based KYC (know your

customer) process. The 15 entities also include JM Financial Services, Arihant Capital Market, SMC Global Securities, Aditya Birla Money, R.K. Stock Holding, Monarch Network Capital, RKS Securities, Comfort Securities, and OPG Securities Pvt Ltd.

# IFIN reports cumulative loss of ` 5,654 cr in FY14-18: Revised balance sheet

PTI n NEW DELHI

IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), a group company of debt-ridden IL&FS Ltd, has incurred a cumulative loss of Rs 5,654 crore for the five-consecutive fiscals — from FY14 to FY18, according to the revised balance sheet of the firm undergoing resolution process. However, as per the original balance sheet, the company had earned a total profit of Rs 1,015 crore during the five-year period. Following the recast, the company is exploring the option of seeking a refund of income tax paid from the Income Tax for these years. In June this year, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) asked the newly-appointed board of the IL&FS group to file a revised balance sheet, along with its two other subsidiaries. Moreover, its total income also went down to Rs 7,777 crore on an aggregate basis during those five years against Rs 10,297 crore reported earlier, revealed the updated financial results. The company's new board has completed the reopening and recasting of financials and the revised accounts as per the direction of the NCLT. In June this year, the Mumbai bench of NCLT gave a go-ahead to the newly-appointed board of the IL&FS group with the revised balance sheet, along with its two other subsidiaries — IL&FS Transportation and IL&FS Financial Services. The restated account reflected that the company had actually reported a loss of Rs 3,322 crore in the financial year ended March 2018. However, the previous management



had reported a profit of Rs 100 crore in the said financial year. Similarly, it had booked a loss of Rs 1,315 crore during FY17 against a profit of Rs 209 crore recorded originally. On January 1, 2019, the NCLT passed an order permitting reopening and recasting of the financial

accounts of three IL&FS group companies — IL&FS Transportation, IL&FS Financial Services and IL&FS Engineering. The order was passed on the application moved by the central government, which had suspended the board of debt-ridden Infrastructure

Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) and appointed a six-member panel. IL&FS is settling its over Rs 90,000-crore debt through asset resolution. So far, IL&FS has discharged a total debt of Rs 35,650 crore as on September 30, 2023, and maintains an overall debt resolution target of Rs 61,000 crore. It is resolving debts through monetisation and termination/settlement of payments by its group entities from concessioning authorities and counter-party to the relevant contract. On October 1, 2018, NCLAT superseded the existing board of IL&FS on the recommendation of the Centre after the mega-crisis in IL&FS, which shook the finance industry. A new board for IL&FS,

which had a debt burden of Rs 94,000 crore, was appointed to take charge of the affairs and NCLAT conceived a framework for resolution of the crisis-hit group. It had also granted protection to the IL&FS companies against recovery of the further dues and provided immunity to the newly-appointed directors of IL&FS against any proceedings for the past actions of suspended directors or any of the officers thereof. At the same time, the Centre vide order dated September 30, 2018, directed that the affairs of the company to be investigated by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). SFIO commenced an investigation of affairs of IL&FS and its subsidiaries under the Companies Act.

# INBRIEF

**STUDENTS TAUGHT HOW TO BUILD PAYLOADS**  
NEW DELHI: About 26 students underwent rigorous training by Space Kidz India for over 9 months before this launch. Students were taught everything about space, gravity in space, role of space stations specially unmanned space stations, satellites, building payloads, role of satellites in the future, coding of satellites, space research etc. They were also given hands on experience in building a payload. Earlier to this SRM Public School signed a MoU earlier in June 2023 with Space Kidz India for the same.

**OLYMPIC QUIZ ORGANISED**  
NEW DELHI: Contributing to the Olympic fervour, and testing the Olympic quotient of employees and their family members, NTPC organised a grand Olympic Quiz at the Power Management Institute, Noida on 13th August, 2024.

**TATA POWER TO DEVELOP HYDRO STORAGE PLANTS**  
NEW DELHI: On August 12, Tata Power, India's largest integrated power company signed an MoU with the Government of Maharashtra's Water Resources Department to develop 2,800 MW of Pumped Hydro Storage Plants. The ceremony was organised in presence of Devendra Fadnavis.



# WINGS OF COURAGE

## UNVEILING THE IAF'S UNTOLD KARGIL SAGA



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

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

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



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

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

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

# A Fashion Show that Celebrates Inclusion and the Human Spirit

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



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



dignitaries. The fashion show was not just about showcasing clothes, it was about creating a world where everyone is celebrated for who they are. The event opened with a soul-stirring performance by Diwakar Sharma, whose melodious voice set the tone for an evening filled with emotion and inspiration. The highlight of the evening was the participation of Tamana herself and the students of the Tamana Foundation. Their inclusion walk, accompanied by designers and educators from various prominent schools, was a moment of pure joy and pride. Each student, dressed in their finest,

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

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

Photos: Pankaj Kumar



# The Call of the Mirror: Reflecting on Reality

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

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



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

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

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

PTI n NEW DELHI

Her shooting hand bruised by repeated pistol recoils during unrelenting training, Manu Bhaker will take a well deserved three month break. But it will be no vacation. The double Olympic medallist will continue her other routines including yoga and waking up at 6 am — which she hates. And oh yes. She also plans to catch up on her hobbies — horse riding, skating, Bharatnatyam and violin practice to name a few.



The 22-year-old, who won bronze medals in the 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team (partnering Sarabjot Singh), was at PTI headquarters on Friday along with her coach and shooting great Jaspal Rana for a freewheeling interaction with its editors.

can take time off for my hobbies, and I have many, many hobbies. Horse riding... Personally, I love horse riding, skating, I can still manage on the roads, then fitness, I really enjoy working out. "Then, I have dance (as a hobby) also, I am learning Bharatnatyam. I love the dance forms. I was training in France, I wasn't able to get time, not able to cope up with the (Bharatnatyam) classes," said Bhaker, whose trainer is from Tamil Nadu.

combinations in Indian sports right now. "I have been learning horse riding for sometime now," she retorted immediately, asserting that she would be responsible if anything goes haywire. "I was waiting that after the Olympic, I will do horse riding. And so many other things I want to do like skydiving, scuba diving. I've waited for so long," she said, inviting another shake of the head from Rana. On his part, Rana was clear that the break was to ensure that the youngster's shooting hand gets back to full fitness. "This (pointing to her injured hand) is the reason we are

making her rest for three months. Because this (injury) has been for the last eight months and it has not healed till now," Rana said. "So rest is mandatory for the hand, and we had decided much before the World Cup (Final was awarded to New Delhi)... Our decision to stop for three months was before that," he added. "It will not be very easy but this break is required. It's not something we'll enjoy. It's only the shooting part which will not be there but her mental (training) waking up in the morning for yoga, everything will be as per what we were doing. Because that's the lifestyle she has to follow." Bhaker will not compete in the the season-ending prestigious ISSF World Cup Final for elite shooters from across the world in October in Delhi, and also likely skip the national championships and the camps that will follow to tend to her injured hand.

Bhaker had done a rendition of the national anthem on a violin, gifted to her by her brother, and a video of it went viral after her Paris performance. "Yes, I was able to manage something on the violin, but I'm only on the basics," said the champion shooter. "Indian classical is my preference, but I'm only like beginning to learn it, so I'm not at the advanced level. I'm just one month into it... Just the basics."

### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051  
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400059  
Branch Office: Sky Park, Ground Floor, Unit No. 1, Near Canal Road Raipur - 492001

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited 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 upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Satish Gupta (Borrower), Saraswati Gupta (Co-Borrower), NHRD00001261797.	Plot No. 21/86 Block 36 Ward B Sa Colony Paneka Bakal Road Paneka Gram Panchayat Rajnandgaon-491441. (Ref. Lan No. NHRD00001261797) Bounded By- North: Dongargaon Road, South: Nisatari/ Sardar House, East: Plot A4+7, West: Plot B1 + 10/ Date of Possession- 14-Aug-2024	25-03-2022 Rs. 6,49,355/-	Raipur-B
2.	Satish Gupta (Borrower), Saraswati Gupta (Co-Borrower), NHRD00001271956.	Plot No. 21/86 Block 36 Ward B Sa Colony Paneka Bakal Road Paneka Gram Panchayat Rajnandgaon-491441. (Ref. Lan No. NHRD00001271956) Bounded By- North: Dongargaon Road, South: Nisatari/ Sardar House, East: Plot A4+7, West: Plot B1 + 10/ Date of Possession-14-Aug-2024	25-03-2022 Rs. 17,01,313/-	Raipur-B
3.	Satish Gupta (Borrower), Saraswati Gupta (Co-Borrower), NHRD00001261798.	Plot No. 21/86 Block 36 Ward B Sa Colony Paneka Bakal Road Paneka Gram Panchayat Rajnandgaon-491441. (Ref. Lan No. NHRD00001261798) Bounded By- North: Dongargaon Road, South: Nisatari/ Sardar House, East: Plot A4+7, West: Plot B1 + 10. Date of Possession- 14-Aug-2024	25-03-2022 Rs. 5,21,291/-	Raipur-B

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : August 17, 2024. Place: Rajnandgaon  
Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

### DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (acting in capacity as Trustee for the below mentioned Trusts) (hereinafter referred to as "ARCIL") is incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 and registered as an Asset Reconstruction Company with the Reserve Bank of India of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the SARFAESI Act") and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MUTHOOT HOUSING FINANCE COMPANY LTD, the Original Lenders and whereas ARCIL has acquired the financial assets relating to the loan accounts mentioned herein below and whereas ARCIL being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons.

LANo. / Name of Original Lender / Demand Notice Date/ Name of the Trust	Borrower / Co-Borrower Name	Total Outstanding in INR as per Demand Notice Date
LAN: 18600076308 Original Lender: MUTHOOT HOUSING FINANCE COMPANY LTD Date of Demand Notice: 25-07-2024 Name of the Trust: Arcil-Retail Loan Portfolio-086-A-TRUST("Arcil")	Niraj Nagendra Singh, MINTA NIRAJ SINGH	Rs. 10,27,575.11/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Five and Paise Eleven Only) As on 18-07-2024

Description of Property - All that piece and parcel of FLAT L.I.G. 22, 2ND FLOOR, C.G.H.B COLONY, PHASE-2, KABIR NAGAR, TEHSIL & DISTRICT RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH - 429009, AREA ADMEASURING 385 SQUARE FEET BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS :- EAST : OPEN AREA WEST ; FLAT NO - 23 NORTH : FLAT NO - 21 SOUTH : OPEN AREA

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, ARCIL shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by Arcil at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S- 13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date - 17-08-2024, Place - Raipur Sd/-, Authorized officer, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited

### ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.

Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts  
Arcil office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West) Mumbai-400 028.  
Branch Office: Room No. 318, 3rd Floor, Orbit Tower, Sunder Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Pin Code- 492013. Website: www.arcil.co.in; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884.



## Smith eyes IPL comeback after stellar show in MLC

PTI n SYDNEY

Bolstered by his strong show at the Major League Cricket, veteran Australian batter Steve Smith is hopeful of making a return in the Indian Premier League next year. The 35-year-old, who was ignored for the T20 World Cup and the upcoming tour of Scotland and England, guided the Washington Freedom to their maiden MLC title, finishing the T20 tournament as the franchise's equal leading run-scorer with 336 runs at a strike rate of 148.67.

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

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

PTI n KOCHI

Indian hockey's goalkeeping stalwart P R Sreejesh, who was given a grand welcome on his arrival at the international airport here, said he will be spending the next 2-3 months to mentally prepare himself to transition from a player to a coach. With regard to the enthusiastic welcome given to him, including a roadshow from the airport to Palarivattom here, he said it was like the "cherry on top of the cake".

"Working hard for the country, sacrificing a lot and then winning a medal, it is not just for me, but for the country. So, to be a part of this happiness, the welcome organised by everyone, is like the cherry on top of the cake. The pleasure is doubled," he said, speaking to reporters outside the airport. Regarding the next step of his career, Sreejesh said that he knows what he has to do as a player. "But, as a coach, what all I should do or the transition from a player to a coach, I have to mentally prepare for that. So, I will spend the next 2-3 months on that," he said. A big crowd, including several MLAs, welcomed Sreejesh at the airport. People holding up placards with his photo cheered him on as he came out of the airport. Thereafter, the hockey player held a roadshow from the airport in an open-top jeep. Along the route of his roadshow, people waved and cheered him on, some handed him flowers and bouquets and others walked up to his vehicle to shake his hand and congratulate him, according to visuals shown on TV channels. Sreejesh bid adieu to the game following his starring role in the country's second consecutive Olympic bronze at the just-con-

### IDFC First Bank Limited

(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 7th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031. Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

#### APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 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), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i). For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement ID	(iii) Name of Borrower(s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 17825238.53/- Demand Notice dated : 11-Feb-2020	13633561 & 13914676	XTREME AGRO FARMS PVT LTD, Krish Capital Pvt Ltd, Krish Trade Link Pvt Ltd, Mr. Kunal Jaiswal & Mr. Vijay Kumar Jaiswal	Property : 1 All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of Shop No. 201, area 14.80 Sq. Mtrs., 202, area 14.80 Sq. Mtrs., 203, area 14.80 Sq. Mtrs., 204, area 14.80 Sq. Mtrs., first floor, Chouhan Tower Bhilai Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491001 Shop No. 204, Bounded as:- North: Way, East: Shop No. - 203 & West: Shop No. - 205 Shop No. 203, Bounded as:-North: Way, East: Shop No. - 202 & West: Shop No. - 204 Shop No. 202, Bounded as:- North: Way, South: Way, East: Shop No. - 201 & West: Shop No. 201, Bounded as:-North: Way, South: Way, East: Way & West: Shop No. - 202 Property : 2 All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of Shop No. 143, area 232.90 Sq. Ft., 144, area 170.20 Sq. Ft., 145, area 154.371 Sq. Ft., Ground Floor Shashtri Nagar Camp 01, Chouhan Plaza Vyavsayik Panar Bhilai, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491001 Bounded:- North: Shop No. 142, South: G. I. Road, East: Empty Land & West: Corridor	INR 7962500.00/-	INR 7962500.00/-	19-Sep-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	18-Sep-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	11-Sep-2024 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Name - Vinay Soni Contact Number - 8319378592 Name-Sandesh Jain To Contact Number- 8839140796

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date : 17.08.2024

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited  
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

### INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)  
CIN : L74899DL1999GOH01707

Open E-Tender No. 2024/IRCTC/CO/Executive Lounge for Construction, Refurbishing, Operation, Maintenance & Transfer Back of Executive Lounge at Various Railway Station. Last date of submission 29.08.2024 upto 15:00 hrs. and the same shall be opened on 29.08.2024 at 15:15 hrs.

For details visit www.irctc.com and www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC. Document downloading and participation can only be done on www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on www.irctc.com and www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.

Office Address: GGMPAT, 11th Floor, Statesman House, B-148, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001; E-mail: mobilecatg.tend@irctc.com; Tel: 911-2331126364

### SCHEDULE-I FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)  
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF SARVODAY REALTIES PRIVATE LIMITED

1. Name of Corporate Person	SARVODAY REALTIES PRIVATE LIMITED
2. Date of Incorporation of Corporate Person	24.05.2011
3. Authority Under Which Corporate Person is Incorporated	Registrar of Companies, Chhattisgarh
4. Corporate Identity Number	U70100CT2011PTC022489
5. Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (If Any) Of Corporate Person	Saravaj House Jawahar Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India, 492001
6. Liquidation Commencement Date of Corporate Person	16.08.2024
7. Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone Number and the Registration Number of the Liquidator	Name : Mr. Deepak Kumar Jain Registration No : IBB/PA-001/IP-P02284/2020-2021/13507 Address : Purnima, D-356/5 Tagore Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001 E-mail : deepak1700@yahoo.com Mob. +91 9826250720
8. Last Date for Submission of Claims	15.09.2024

Notice is hereby given that SARVODAY REALTIES PRIVATE LIMITED has commenced voluntary liquidation on w.e.f. 16.08.2024. The stakeholders of the SARVODAY REALTIES PRIVATE LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 15.09.2024, to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item no. 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date : 16.08.2024  
Place : Raipur  
Sd/-  
Deepak Kumar Jain  
INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONAL  
IBBI REGN. NO.:IBBI/PA-001/IP-P02284/2020-2021/13507

# DIVYA KALA MELA

Unique Fair for Promoting Craftsmanship & Products of more than 50 Divyang Entrepreneurs

16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024  
11.00 AM to 9.00 PM  
B.T.I. Ground, Shankar Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492007

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Exhibition & Sale of Swadeshi Products of the Divyang Artists & Craftsmen from Various States
- Divya Kala Shakti- A Traditional Cultural Programme by Divyang Artists on 22.08.2024 (05.00 PM onwards)
- Assessment and Distribution of Assistive Devices to Divyangjan
- Divyangjan Rozgar Mela- Hiring Persons with Disabilities (As per Eligibility)

“The perseverance and vibrancy of persons with disabilities is an inspiration for all. In the last 10 years, continuous and comprehensive steps have been taken to bring a positive change in the lives of our divyang sisters and brothers.”

ENTRY FREE

SASHAKT DIVYANG, SAMARTH BHARAT