



WORLD 5
ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE
HITS SCHOOL IN GAZA

MONEY 6
INDIA STEEL PRODUCTION
TO CROSS 300MT BY 2030

SPORT 8
DRAVID'S MESSAGE
TO GAMBHIR

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HOW MANY MORE?

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A Border Action Team (BAT), comprising battle-hardened terrorists and elite special forces personnel of the Pakistan Army, on Saturday violated the February 2021 ceasefire agreement by launching a deadly strike on one of the forward Indian posts. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of an Indian Army soldier and left four others injured along the Line of Control in the Kamakari sector of Machhal, located in North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The BAT strike came mere hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning, asserting that the Indian Army would crush all terror attempts with full force.

During the firefight, one of the foreign terrorists was also neutralised. Preliminary reports indicate that a two to three-member BAT team lobbed grenades and unleashed a barrage of indiscriminate gunfire on the Indian troops.

At least five soldiers were injured in the BAT action, with one soldier later succumbing to his injuries at the base hospital. The soldier who laid down his life in the line of duty has



File Photo

been identified as Rifleman Mohit Rathour. Since June 9, the day Modi took the oath of office for the third time, foreign terrorists have carried out at

least 10 terror attacks in the region. These attacks have resulted in the sacrifice of over a dozen soldiers and nine civilians in Jammu and

Kashmir. In the past week alone, three soldiers have lost their lives along the Line of Control in the Kupwara and Poonch districts. In a statement, a Srinagar-

based Defence Spokesman said, "Taking advantage of bad weather and poor visibility along Line of Control in Machhal Sector, a group of two to three armed

personnel crossed the LoC and fired on a forward Army post from a close range. Alert troops responded vigorously and in the ensuing exchange of fire,

one Pakistani intruder was killed along with the recovery of weapons, ammunition, and war-like stores. Identification and affiliation of this Pakistani national is being ascertained."

In the past, similar attempts by infiltrators, actively aided and abetted by the Pakistani Army, have sought to exploit the dense foliage and poor visibility conditions. However, these efforts have consistently, as they were today, been successfully thwarted and disrupted by the vigilant Indian forces.

The Indian Army is firm in its resolve and commitment to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control and defeat the nefarious and inimical designs of the Pakistan Army, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, to further step up security across the Jammu region, the Union Government has reportedly decided to rush over 2,000 BSF jawans to be deployed in the Samba sector to plug the routes of infiltration.

The decision to "immediately" move the two units from the anti-Naxal operations grid to Jammu was taken in the wake of the recent spate of terror attacks in the region.

A broader consensus emerged during recent high-level security review

meetings to bolster the anti-infiltration grid in the region. The Indian Army has already deployed more than 3,000 troops and 500 para commandos to flush out the foreign terrorists occupying 'Jammu Heights'.

In another related development, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of the three terrorists responsible for the recent killing of four soldiers, including a Captain in Doda district, and announced a cash reward of ₹15 lakh on their heads.

Doda in Jammu region has been rocked by several terror incidents since June, which is being seen by security agencies as an attempt by Pakistan-based terror handlers to revive terrorism in the hilly district.

Releasing the sketches of three terrorists, a police Spokesman in Doda said they are moving in the upper reaches of the district, especially in Dessa forest where an Army Captain and three soldiers were killed in a gunfight during an anti-terror operation on July 16.

J&K Police announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh on each of these three terrorists, the spokesperson said, appealing to the general public to provide information about them and assuring that the identity of the informer will be kept a secret.

Setback for Vijay Mallaya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has barred former liquor baron Vijay Mallaya from accessing the securities market for three years for routing funds to the Indian capital markets using his overseas bank accounts with UBS.

The regulator has also restrained Mallaya from associating with any listed company, directly or indirectly, for three years.

Sebi's investigation is based on the findings of Financial Conduct Authority, its counterpart in UK, for the period from January 1, 2006 to March 31, 2008.

It had suo-moto taken up the instant matter for further investigation based on the findings in the communication from the Financial Services Authority (now known as Financial Conduct Authority and hereinafter referred to as 'FSA/FCA') to ascertain whether there was any routing of funds to the Indian Securities Market by Mallaya,

Chairman of the UB Group and individual controlling shareholder of United Spirits Limited ('USL') during the relevant period, through his bank accounts



indirectly, or being associated with the securities market in any manner, for a period of three (3) years from the date of this order.

"The noticee is further restrained from associating himself with any listed company or proposed to be listed company, in any capacity, directly or indirectly, for a period of three (3) year from the date of this order. Further, during the period of restraint, the existing holding of securities including the holding of units of mutual funds of the Noticee shall remain frozen," it said.

The investigation, prima facie, revealed that the noticee had used a sub-account i.e. Matterhorn Ventures, a Foreign Institutional Investor (FII), as an investment vehicle to indirectly trade in scrips of his own group entities in India i.e. Herbertsons Limited ('Herbertsons') and USL. Thus, the investigation revealed that the amounts paid to Matterhorn Ventures were routed by the Noticee by opening various beneficiary accounts with UBS and routing these funds through these accounts, indirectly, to the Indian Securities Market.

with UBS AG, London ('UBS') in violation of the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as the 'PFUTP Regulations, 2003') and the rules and regulations framed thereunder during the period from January 01, 2006 to March 31, 2008. In its 37 pages order, the SEBI said the noticee (Vijay Mallaya) is hereby restrained from accessing the securities market and further prohibited from buying, selling or otherwise dealing in securities, directly or



Prime Minister Modi to visit Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Premier Narendra Modi is likely to visit Ukraine next month, marking his first trip to the war-torn country since the conflict with Russia began two years ago. Following his Ukraine visit, Modi is also slated to travel to Poland, making it the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in over 40 years.

India and Ukraine are exploring the possibility of Prime Minister Modi's visit on August 23-24, sources said on Saturday. The proposed visit comes amid renewed global efforts to bring peace to the eastern European nation, they added. Modi might visit Kyiv around Ukraine's National Day on August 24 and is expected to travel to Poland after concluding his trip to Ukraine, the sources said. Last month, the Prime

Minister held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy's Apulia. India and Ukraine are considering Modi's visit to Kyiv in the latter half of August, the sources said, noting that there is no final confirmation yet, as massive preparations in terms of logistics and related issues would be required.

During the meeting with Zelenskyy on June 14, Modi conveyed that India would continue to do everything within its means to support a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and emphasised that the path to peace is through "dialogue and diplomacy." Modi also told Zelenskyy that India believes in a "human-centric" approach to finding a solution to the conflict in Ukraine. At the meeting, the Ukrainian president invited the Prime Minister to visit Kyiv.

Mamata walks out, Nitish skips NITI Aayog meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The NITI Aayog meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, was marked by political fireworks rather than fostering the progression of the States. The meeting faced a boycott from States governed by INDIA Bloc parties, with the notable exception of West Bengal.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made headlines by walking out of the NITI Aayog meeting. Adding to the political drama was the conspicuous absence of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, whose party JD(U) is the second largest in Modi's NDA coalition at the Centre. Intriguingly, Kumar opted to stay in Patna, where he convened a meeting to discuss JD(U)'s prospects for the upcoming Assembly elections in neighbouring Jharkhand, in alliance with the BJP.

To begin with, Mamata claimed that she was unfairly stopped midway through her speech, despite being the sole representative of the Opposition. She said her microphone was switched off after five minutes, while other Chief Ministers were allowed to speak for longer duration.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with the media after walking out of a NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, on Saturday

"This is insulting. I will not attend any further meeting. I have come out boycotting the meeting. (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister) Chandrababu Naidu was given 20 minutes to speak. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Goa, Chhattisgarh spoke for 10-12 minutes. I was stopped from speaking after just five minutes," Mamata told reporters after coming out of the meeting. "This is unfair. I am the only one from the Opposition side. I attended this meeting because of the greater interest that cooperative federalism should be strengthened," she added.

However, PIB Factcheck, in a post on X, said it is "misleading" to say Mamata's microphone was switched off. "The clock only showed

that her speaking time was over," it said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rejected her claim that she was unfairly stopped midway in her speech. "CM Mamata attended the NITI Aayog meeting. We all heard her. Every CM was given the allotted time and that was displayed on the screen which was present before every table...She said in the media that her mic was put off. That is completely false. Every CM was given their due time to speak...It's unfortunate that the Mamata has claimed that her mic was switched off which is not true...She should speak the truth behind this rather than again build a narrative based on falsehood," the Finance Minister said.

Team India's Olympic outfits become talk of virtual world

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The official outfits for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024 were unveiled last week, sparking considerable buzz. Designed by the renowned Indian fashion designer Tarun Tahiliani in collaboration with Tasva, these outfits sought to blend traditional Indian attire with a contemporary twist.

However, the results were met with mixed reactions. Social media was ablaze with opinions following the opening ceremony late Saturday, as critics and supporters alike shared their thoughts on the distinctive attire. The men of Team India donned elegant kurta bundi sets, while the women graced the event in

matching saris, all meticulously designed in the vibrant colours of the Indian flag. The ensembles featured ikat-inspired prints and luxurious Banarasi brocade, intended to infuse a touch of elegance and sophistication. Tahiliani, a name synonymous with high fashion, said his goal was to honour India's rich cultural heritage while simultaneously appealing to an international audience at the Olympics.

Despite his good intentions, the outfits did not receive universal praise. Many netizens felt that the designs fell short of truly capturing the essence of Indian culture. Critics on social media labelled the designs as a "disgrace" to the rich heritage and culture of the country, calling them "cheap



designs." Some netizens were particularly disappointed with Tahiliani, wondering if he was

perhaps too preoccupied with high-profile events to give the Olympic outfits the attention they

deserved. While the outfits were undoubtedly stylish, many argued that they failed to showcase the

rich diversity of Indian textiles and craftsmanship that make Indian fashion so unique. Many people felt that more iconic elements, like vibrant colours and intricate embroidery, which are often associated with traditional Indian attire, were overlooked. "These outfits are beautiful, but they feel like a missed opportunity to showcase the true depth of Indian culture on a global platform like the Olympics," one critic wrote. Others lamented the missed chance to highlight the rich artisanal value of India's textiles and sustainable practices that bind the country's diverse communities together. "It's sad that such a renowned designer couldn't create an outfit that represents India's vibrant culture. Sadly, this is such a failure." This whole situation

highlighted the tricky balance between innovation and cultural authenticity in fashion design, especially for an event as prestigious as the Olympics, where countries proudly present their unique identities. As Team India geared up to take the world stage, the discussion about their outfits served as a reminder of how important it is to thoughtfully represent culture. In today's world, where cultural authenticity is increasingly valued, choosing Olympic attire was not just about looking good, it was about what these outfits said about the athletes and the nation they represented. Whether you loved or hated them, the outfits certainly got people talking and that's what fashion is all about, isn't it?

Malwa canal to irrigate 2 lakh acres in southern Punjab, says CM Mann



PNS ■ SRI MUKTSAR SAHIB

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday said the 150-km long Malwa canal, which is under construction, will cater to the irrigational needs of nearly 2 lakh acres in the southern part of the state. He said this is the first ever canal which was being set up in the state in the post-Independence era. The state government had proposed the canal project in the state budget in March. Addressing a gathering after inspecting the work on the canal, Mann said the previous governments overlooked

the needs of the state, which led to the over exploitation of the groundwater and maximum blocks turning into dark zones. The new canal will usher in a new era of unprecedented progress and prosperity in the state especially in Malwa region, Mann asserted. The state government will spend around Rs 2,300 crore on the project, he said. Mann said this was for him a dream project, which he conceived even before he became the chief minister.

Attacking the previous Shiromani Akali Dal-led governments in the state, Mann said those who had always



sought votes in the name of 'panth' never bothered to take such a step. "Why were such projects not undertaken earlier?" He alleged the Akali leaders were more interested in supplying water to their farms rather than building such projects as those could have transformed the fate of the common man. It is because of such an "anti-people" stance, these leaders were rejected by voters, he said.

Taking a dig at SAD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal, the CM said she was shedding crocodile tears over royalty for the waters of the state. He said that since the 1970s her fami-

ly was at the helm of affairs of the state for a majority period, but it never raised this issue anywhere.

Now when the people of state have sent them to "political oblivion," the Badal family is raising these issues, he said. Referring to the Mohali-based luxury hotel, Sukhvilas project, Mann said, "I have papers of this project and I will tell you some good news about it in the coming days." The CM had in February this year alleged that the Badal family had taxes worth Rs 108 crore waived for Sukhvilas by way of a "tailor-made" eco-tourism policy during its rule.

Zero dropout in the field of education is the primary goal: Hry Education Minister

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Education Minister Seema Trikha, while addressing a district-level School Management Committee training and conference in Panipat on Saturday, stated that the government's goal is to make the state zero dropout in the field of education, and excellent work is being done in this regard. Presently, 25 lakh children are receiving education in 14,500 government schools, which is a result of parents' trust in the government. On this occasion, the Education Minister also reviewed an exhibition organized by the Education Department and honored the children and district-level School Management Committee members.

Trikha flagged off the 'Shiksha Rath' and mentioned that the government schools, where parents were hesitant to enroll their children earlier, are now producing students who secure admission in IITs and other prestigious institutions. This is a result of increased trust of parents in government schools. She stated that all the basic facilities provided in private schools are now available

in government schools. She highlighted that Haryana was the first state to provide tablets to teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, children in the state are securing their future with modern education. The state's easy policies have also ensured affordable healthcare for the people. She mentioned that she would cover 22 districts in 11 days to raise awareness among parents about education through these programs. She also sought suggestions from many parents on how to further improve the education sector.

During the event, Haryana Minister of State for Development and Panchayats, and Cooperation, Mahipal Dhanda stated that under the current government, there has been an increased inclination of parents towards government schools. He mentioned that it is a matter of pride that 80 out of 100 successful individuals have studied in government schools. The environment of schools has now transformed completely. He pointed out that earlier, the education budget was Rs. 8,398 crores, whereas now it exceeds Rs. 17,000 crores. The minister stated that

the current government has upgraded 10 schools in the district, benefiting children from poor and middle-class families. Furthermore, 27 schools in the district are being made high-tech. The Education Minister addressed the district-level School Management

Committee training and conference at Deen Bandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology located in Murthal, Sonapat as well. The Education Minister said that all the basic facilities provided in private schools are also being made available to children in government schools.

PGIMER's Trauma Care Workshop Highlights the Importance of Composure and Practical Skills

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Immediate Trauma Life Support (ITLS) Hands-on Workshop cum Continuing Medical Education (CME) program in PGIMER Chandigarh was inaugurated by Prof. Vivek Lal, Director on Saturday.

This event, organized under the aegis of the Society of Trauma Anaesthesia and Critical Support (STACC), marks a step in advancing trauma care education and practice and aims to enhance the skills and readiness of medical professionals in handling acute trauma cases.

In his inaugural address, Prof. Vivek Lal emphasized the unpredictable nature of trauma care, stating, "Trauma care comes uninvited and unannounced. When faced with a sudden emergency, you must gather yourself, maintain your

composure, and be ready to act swiftly and decisively. Your ability to stay composed and lead by example can make all the difference in saving lives during a trauma situation." He delved into the practical aspects of trauma care, highlighting the critical need for maintaining order amidst the chaos that typically accompanies acute trauma situations. "The first complication of acute trauma is chaos. Mitigating this chaos is crucial to providing effective care. Keep calm, direct your team, and ensure everyone knows their role," he advised.

Drawing from his extensive experience, the Director shared real-life incidents to underscore the importance of practical skills and hands-on experience. He remarked, "Practical skills and hands-on experience are vital. Remember, in trauma care, your

basics must be in place. Practicing your skills on patients is the key to being effective in real-life emergencies."

"In trauma care, your ability to stay composed and lead with confidence can save lives. This workshop is an opportunity to refine your skills and ensure you are prepared for any emergency that comes your way," he added.

Commending the progress made by the Advance Trauma Centre, Dr YK Batra, former head of the Department of Anaesthesia and intensive care on the occasion stated, "The ITLS Hands-on Workshop cum CME at PGIMER is a testament to the institute's commitment to advancing medical education and improving trauma care standards, ultimately aiming to save more lives in critical situations."

7 Deputy Commissioners among 15 IAS officers transferred in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, fifteen IAS officers, including seven deputy commissioners, in Haryana were issued new transfer and posting orders that will come into effect immediately. Two HCS officers were also given new posts.

IAS officer Sushil Sarwan, managing director, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. has been posted as deputy commissioner (DC), Kurukshetra. Parth Gupta, additional chief executive officer, Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority, has been posted as DC, Ambala.

Charkhi Dadri DC Mandeep Kaur has been posted as Fatehabad DC. Kurukshetra DC Shantanu Sharma has been posted as deputy commissioner of Sirsa, while Abhishek Meena has been posted as DC, Rewari. Rahul Narwal, who is DC, Fatehabad has been posted as DC, Charkhi Dadri, while Harish Kumar Vashishth, additional deputy commissioner-cum-district citizen resources information officer, Jind has

been posted as DC, Palwal. Vijayendra Kumar, principal secretary, youth empowerment and entrepreneurship department and Sainik and Ardh Sainik welfare department, has been given additional charge as principal secretary, human resources department, an official statement said.

D Suresh, resident commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi has been posted as principal secretary, higher education department. A Mona Sreenivas, additional resident commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Faridabad has been given an additional charge as chief executive officer, Faridabad Smart City Ltd., Faridabad.

Yash Garg, DC, Panchkula and chief administrator, Shri Mata Mansa Devi Shrine Board, Panchkula has been given additional charge as managing director, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd and Managing Director, Haryana Financial Corporation. Virender Kumar Dahiya, DC, Panipat has been given additional charge as director and special secretary of the state environment, forests and wildlife department. Rahul Hooda, DC, Rewari has been posted as director and special secretary of the state higher education department and director, technical education department.

Neha Singh, DC, Palwal has been posted as administrator, HSVP, Panchkula and additional director, Urban Estate, Panchkula. Haryana Civil Service (HCS) officers Mannat Rana and Vishwanatha also got new posting orders.

Upliftment of weaker sections being accorded special priority: Himachal CM

Shimla: Himachal Government is committed to the welfare and upliftment of the weaker sections to create a just and equitable society where everyone has access to opportunities and resources and the present State Government has launched various schemes to benefit these sections so that they could lead a dignified life, Himachal Chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Saturday. In a statement, Sukhu said that the State Government is offering a grant of Rs. 1.50 lakh to SC, ST and OBC persons for the construction of houses under Swaran Jayanti Ashray Yojna whose income is less than Rs. 50,000 per annum. He said that Rs. 17.25 crore were spent under this scheme during the last financial year benefitting 1150 houseless persons. Sukhu said that State Government is also offering handholding scheme to make the weaker sections of the society to become self sufficient by imparting them training in professional courses and offering financial assistance for purchase of necessary equipments to start their ventures. He said that State Government is giving free of cost computer training to children of these weaker sections. The post graduate diploma and diploma training in Computer Application is being imparted in 97 centres across the State being run by NIELIT and C-DAC.

Doctors strike ends in Haryana, demands accepted

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Government doctors ended their indefinite strike on Saturday following assurances from the Haryana government that their demands would be accepted, the chief of the association leading the shutdown said. The doctors resumed their duties after the strike was called off.

The shutdown was lifted following a meeting between representatives of the protesting doctors and Amit Aggarwal -- additional principal secretary to the Haryana chief minister -- late on Friday, Haryana Civil Medical Services Association president Dr Rajesh Khyalia said. "We have called off the strike," he said.

The government has accepted the doctors' demands and assured to notify those before August 15, he added. The doctors are demanding a career progression scheme that ensures parity with their central government peers, reduction in the bond amount for admission to postgraduate courses from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh and the formation of a specialist cadre for them. Around 3,000 government doctors had gone on an indefinite strike on Thursday to press the state government to accept their demands. The strike hit medical services in state-run hospitals of Haryana. A series of meetings were held between the representatives of the association and the state government to end the stalemate. Among those who represented the government in these meetings were Rajesh Khullar, chief principal secretary to the chief minister, and Sudhir Rajpal -- the additional chief secretary (health).

The association called for a shutdown of health services in government hospitals as a mark of protest over non-fulfilment of their demands.

56 killed in rain-related incidents since onset of monsoon in Himachal

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Fifty-six people have died in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh and the state has suffered losses of Rs 410 crore since the onset of monsoon on June 27, the emergency operation centre said.

According to the data from the state centre, 21 died after falling from heights, 18 due to accidental drowning, eight each due to snake bites and electrocution while one died in a flash flood. No deaths were reported due to landslides or cloudburst, it said. About 100 houses were damaged, with the Public Works Department suffering the maximum loss of Rs 172 crore, followed by the Horticulture

Department with Rs Rs 139 crores, the centre added. The Shimla meteorological office issued a 'yellow' alert, warning for heavy rainfall at isolated places in eight districts of the state till July 31 and predicted a wet spell till August 2. The MeT cautioned about damage to plantations, standing crops, vulnerable structures and 'kutcha' houses due to strong winds, and waterlogging in low-lying areas. Intermittent rains continued to lash parts of the state with Dhaulakuan in Sirmour district receiving 123 mm of rain followed by 74.5 mm in Nahau, 40.2 mm in Kataula, 32 mm in Palampur, 31.2 mm in Poanta Sahib, 27.6 mm in Dharamshala, 26.8 mm in Sundernagar and 25 mm in Baijnath.

Congress will keep raising demand for Ahir regiment in Army: Hooda

PNS ■ REWARI / CHANDIGARH

Former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said on Saturday that the Congress will keep raising at every platform the demand for the creation of an Ahir regiment in the Indian Army.

He said if the Congress forms the government in Haryana after the upcoming assembly elections, a proposal will also be sent to the Centre in this regard. "The Ahir regiment is not just the demand of south Haryana but the entire country," the Congress leader said.

The Ahirwal belt (Rewari-Gurugram-Mahendragarh) is known for its contribution to the defence forces. Hooda was here to address the Congress workers' conference to thank them for their efforts during the Lok Sabha elections. He was

accompanied by Haryana Congress president Chaudhary Udaibhan, former MLA Ajay Singh Yadav, Congress leader Raj Babbar, MLA Chiranjiv Rao and many senior party leaders.

In his address, Hooda said south Haryana received many gifts like Rewari-Rohtak railway line and NH-71 during the previous Congress government. "The Congress had taken steps to make south Haryana a hub of education by establishing institutions like Central University Mahendragarh, Indira Gandhi University Mirpur and Sainik School," said the leader of opposition in the Haryana assembly. "During our government, the defence university was also approved here, but as soon as the BJP came to power, it shelved the project. Along with this, this government also destroyed the expansion of the education sec-

tor and infrastructure. The BJP has cheated the entire Haryana, including Ahirwal by taking votes," he alleged. "This is the reason why Haryana, which was the number one state in the country in per capita income, per capita investment, employment, sportspersons and welfare schemes till 2014, has been made number one by BJP in unemployment, crime, drug addiction and misery," he said.

He accused the BJP government of abolishing permanent jobs and implementing exploitative policies like Kaushal Nigam, in which there is no permanent job for the youth, no post, no promotion, no merit, transparency and reservation.

"Through such policies, the BJP is ending the reservation of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs)," he said.

Himachal to develop Rs 350-cr medical devices park with own resources returns central funding

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The Union government would have no stake in Rs 350-crore Medical Device Park coming up at Nalagarh in Solan district as the state government has decided to construct the park from its own resources and return Rs 30 crore received from the centre, according to a statement issued here.

The decision has been taken in the interest of the state, it said.

The project would come up in over 265 acres of land and in case Rs 30 crore received from the centre was not returned, the land would have been provided to industrialists at the rate of Re 1 per square meter, electricity at Rs 3 per unit and water,

maintenance and warehouse facilities, free of cost for ten years, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. The state government has so far spent Rs 74.95 crore for the project, a statement issued here on Saturday said.

Keeping the interests of the state and steering out of the bindings, the government has decided to build the Park by itself as the project when commissioned would accrue benefits amounting to Rs 500 crore from the sale of land and other resources in the next five to seven years, he added.

The state government will take a loan from SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) under the cluster development scheme for the con-

struction of the medical device park and with restructuring of the project, 25 per cent of the land will be allotted exclusively for medical device industries and 75 per cent for other strategic industries, he said.

The industrial park will be developed as a modern industrial hub which will become a perennial source of income for the state government along with economic development and better infrastructure in the coming years, he said. Earlier also the state government had decided not to take help from any private agency in the Bulk Drug Park being built at Haroli of Una district and the government will provide Rs 1,000 crore from its own resources, the statement added.

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Govt. of Haryana



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Israeli airstrike hits school in Gaza, killing at least 30

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli airstrikes hit a school and a hospital in central Gaza on Saturday as the country's negotiators prepared to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed cease-fire.

The evacuation order is in response to rocket fire that Israel said originated from the area. The military said it planned an operation against Hamas militants in the city, including parts of Muwasi, the crowded tent camp in an area where Israel has told thousands of Palestinians to seek refuge throughout the war.

The planned strike comes a day before officials from the US, Egypt, Qatar and Israel are scheduled to meet in Italy and discuss the ongoing hostage and cease-fire negotiations. CIA Director Bill Burns is expected to meet Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Abdul Rahman al-Thani, Mossad director David Barnea

and Egyptian spy chief Abbas Kamel on Sunday, according to officials from the US and Egypt who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to discuss the plans. It's the second evacuation order issued in a week that has included striking part of the humanitarian zone, a 60-square-kilometer (roughly 20-square-mile) blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities and have limited access to aid, United Nations and humanitarian groups say. Israel expanded the zone in May to take in people fleeing Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population at the time had crowded.

According to Israeli estimates, about 1.8 million Palestinians are currently sheltering there after being uprooted multiple times in search of safety during

Israel's punishing air and ground campaign. In November, the military said the area could still be struck and that it was "not a safe zone, but it is a safer place than any other" in Gaza.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said it was increasingly difficult to know how many people would be affected by the evacuation order because those sheltering under there were constantly being displaced.

"Referring to the orders as evacuation orders don't do any justice to what this means," said Juliette Touma, the agency's director of communications. "These are forced displacement orders. What happens is when people have these orders, they have very little time to move."

Israel's punishing air and ground campaign. In November, the military said the area could still be struck and that it was "not a safe zone, but it is a safer place than any other" in Gaza.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said it was increasingly difficult to know how many people would be affected by the evacuation order because those sheltering under there were constantly being displaced.

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Kamala Harris officially declares candidature for US presidency

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday officially signed her forms, declaring her candidacy for the post of President of the US and voiced confidence that she would win the high-stakes election on November 5.

"Today, I signed the forms officially declaring my candidacy for President of the United States. I will work hard to earn every vote," 59-year-old Harris, who is of Indian and African origin, said on X.

"In November, our people-powered campaign will win," the presumptive Democratic Party candidate said, referring to her electoral battle with former president and the Republican Party's nominee Donald Trump.

Harris launched her presiden-

tial campaign last Sunday, hours after President Joe Biden, 81, withdrew from the race for a second term. She is, however, yet to be officially declared as the presidential candidate by the Democrats.

If elected on November 5 to succeed President Biden, Harris - the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother - would not only be the first woman, but the first Indian-American, the first Asian, the first Black woman and the first person of Jamaican descent to ascend to the office.

Meanwhile, no other Democrats have announced their candidacy for the presidential race. Harris has secured endorsements from more than 40 state delegations, surpassing the number of delegates she will need to win the nomination and if that support holds,



Democrats will officially nominate her for president during a virtual roll call vote early next month.

Under new rules adopted by the Democratic National Committee on Wednesday, the nominee will be selected as soon as August 1, and the candidate has until August 7 to

select a running mate. The party will meet for its convention in Chicago starting August 19.

Harris, who was a senator from California before she was elected vice president, quickly hit the campaign trail with events in Wisconsin, Indiana and Texas. Her campaign said it raked in more than USD 130 million since she officially joined the White House race.

The endorsement comes as 'Harris for President' kicks off a 'Weekend of Action' marking 100 days until Election Day (on November 5).

With over 1,70,000 volunteers and 2,300 events across the battleground states, Team Harris is making its case to the voters who will decide this election about the fundamental choice they will face this November at the ballot box.

Orban warns of EU's demise, backs Trump in anti-Western speech

AP ■ BAILE TUSNAD (ROMANIA)

Hungary's nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday that the European Union was sliding toward oblivion in a rambling anti-Western speech in which he warned of a new, Asia-oriented "world order" while throwing his support for Donald Trump's US presidential bid.

"Europe has given up defending its own interests," Orban said in Baile Tusnad, a majority-ethnic Hungarian town in central Romania. "All Europe is doing today is following the US's pro-Democrat foreign policy unconditionally... even at the cost of self-destruction."

"A change is coming that has not been seen for 500 years. What we are facing is in fact a world order change," he added, citing China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia as becoming the "dominant centre" of the world. Orban also alleged that the US was behind the 2022 explosions that damaged the Nord Stream gas pipelines built to carry gas from Russia to Germany, calling it "an act of terrorism carried out at the obvious direction of the Americans". He didn't offer any evidence to back up the claim.

The far-right leader's remarks come amid growing criticism from his European partners after he embarked on rogue "peace mission" trips to Moscow and Beijing earlier this month aimed at brokering an end to Russia's war in

Ukraine. Orban is widely considered to have the warmest relations with the Kremlin among all EU leaders.

On Ukraine, Orban cast doubt on the war-torn country becoming either a member of NATO or the EU. "We Europeans do not have the money for it. Ukraine will revert to the position of a buffer state," he said, adding that international security guarantees "will be enshrined in an agreement between the US and Russia".

Throughout Russia's full-scale war in Ukraine, Orban has broken with other EU leaders by refusing to provide Kyiv with weapons to defend against Russian forces and has routinely delayed, watered down, or blocked efforts to send financial aid to Kyiv and impose sanctions on Moscow.

Orban typically uses the annual Tusvanyos Summer University platform in Romania to indicate the ideological direction of his national government and to deride the standards of the EU bloc, which Hungary joined in 2004. Hungary currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, during which Orban has made a Trumpian vow to "Make Europe Great Again" and has openly endorsed Trump's candidacy in this year's US presidential election. Orban visited Trump twice this year at the former president's beachside compound in Mar-a-Lago.

Orban said on Saturday that Trump's bid for re-election aims "to pull the American people back from a post-

nationalist liberal state to a nation-state" and reshaped a slew of conservative tropes that Trump is being penalised unfairly to prevent his electoral bid. "That is why they want to put him in prison. That's why they want to take away his assets. And if that doesn't work, that's why they want to kill him," Orban said, referring to an assassination attempt on Trump at a Pennsylvania rally this month.

Orban's remarks on Saturday aren't the first time he's used the festival in Transylvania to stir controversy. In 2014, Orban declared for the first time his intentions of building an "illiberal state" in Hungary, and in 2022, he sparked international outrage after he railed against Europe becoming a "mixed race" society. He doubled down on his long-held anti-immigration stance on Saturday, saying it is not an answer to his country's aging population.

"There can be no question of a shrinking population supplemented by migration," he said in his Saturday address. "The Western experience is that if there are more guests than owners, then home is no longer home. This is a risk that should not be taken."

The EU's longest-serving leader, Orban has become an icon to some conservative populists for his firm opposition to immigration and LGBTQ+ rights. He has also cracked down on the press and judiciary in Hungary and been accused by the EU of violating rule-of-law and democracy standards.

Jamaat-e-Islami's protest against power price, tax hike continues

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Saturday vowed to continue its protest in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as the party's sit-in entered the second day to press the government to reduce electricity price and taxes on the salaried class. The party for the second day on Saturday held the protest to hold a rally at the D-Chowk in Islamabad.

The JI drive was, however, stopped by police. The party later changed its plan and announced holding a sit-in at three places, including Murree Road and Chungi No 22 in Rawalpindi and H-8 Bridge Islamabad.

JI chief Hafiz Naem addressed the participants camping on the Murree Road, the main artery of the garrison city connecting it with Islamabad, and vowed to continue the sit-in till the demands were accepted.

"Our demands are simple and we want the government to give relief to the masses," he said, adding that the party was aware of difficulties but was sure that the issue of power tariffs could be addressed. He said the protest would continue until its key demands were met, elaborating that negotiations be held with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), a group of power companies considered the main cause of the exorbitant rise in the electricity bills.

Naem also expressed willingness to talk with the government if the latter showed seriousness in addressing the issues highlighted by the JI.

Trump continues to target Harris

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris will be the "most extreme radical liberal president in American history" if she is elected, Donald Trump has said, as he intensified his attacks on his Democratic rival in the presidential polls in November.

Vice President Harris, 59, is the new presidential candidate of the Democratic party after incumbent President Joe Biden, 81, withdrew from the race. Trump, a former US president and the 2024 Republican presidential candidate, painted Harris as an overly liberal on immigration and abortion and called her a "bum" in a speech to a gathering of religious conservatives.

"She was a bum three weeks ago. She was a bum. A failed vice president and a failed

administration with millions of people crossing, and she was the border czar," Trump said in a speech at Turning Point USA's "The Believers Summit" in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The 78-year-old former president called her the most incompetent, unpopular, and far-left vice president in American history.

"If Kamala Harris gets in, she will be the most extreme radical liberal president in American history... As a Senator, Harris was ranked number one most far-left Democrat in the entire Senate, and that includes Bernie Sanders," Trump said, Harris will appoint hundreds of extreme far-left judges to "forcibly impose crazy San Francisco liberal values" on Americans nationwide, he alleged, invoking the spectre of

San Francisco — a liberal city long used as shorthand by conservatives eager to denigrate Democrats.

"Our task is to defeat socialism, to defeat Marxism, communism, to defeat the cartels and the criminals and the human traffickers, trafficking women. That means defeating Kamala Harris in a landslide. We want a landslide this November. We want something too big to rig," he said.

Trump said Harris supports free government healthcare for illegal aliens, abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, decriminalising illegal immigration and mass amnesty for illegals, he said, adding she wants to outlaw private health insurance and defund the police.

"Border Czar Harris will let murderers, child predators,

and bloodthirsty rapists and drug dealers charge across our borders by the tens of thousands a day. I will throw the killers, criminals, and illegal aliens and gang members the hell out of our country," he said.

In a statement later, Harris for President spokesperson James Singer said in his speech Trump couldn't pronounce words, insulted the faith of Jewish and Catholic Americans, and lied about the election (again). He plans to fill a second Trump term with more criminals like himself, Singer said.

"America can do better than the bitter, bizarre, and backward-looking delusions of criminal Donald Trump. Vice President Kamala Harris offers a vision for America's future focused on freedom, opportunity, and security," he said.

Morari Bapu to recite Ram Katha at United Nations

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian spiritual leader Morari Bapu will recite Ram Katha for the first time at the UN headquarters in New York to spread the timeless relevance of the Ramcharitmanas, one of the most revered Hindu scriptures.

The Ramcharitmanas carries a global message, transcending religious and cultural boundaries, Morari Bapu, who has been reciting Ram Kathas for over sixty-five years drawing from Vedic Sanatana Dharma, said.

"It speaks to the universal values that are needed in today's world—truth, love, and compassion," he told PTI in an interview.

"Recitation of Ram Katha at the UN is a divine grace and a step towards global harmony," he said on the eve of the start of the nine-day recitation of Ram Katha at the Delegates Dining Room at the UN Headquarters in New York.

This is the first time that Ram Katha is being organised at the United Nations headquarters in New York, said Morari Bapu, noting that this is a dream come true.

Morari Bapu, 77, so far has conducted Ram Kathas in numerous cities and pilgrimage sites across the world, including Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil, Australia, Israel, and Japan.

Mexican kingpin's arrest likely to set off violent power struggle

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

A new era is coming for Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel in the wake of the capture by US authorities of Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, the last of the grand old Mexican drug traffickers.

Experts believe his arrest will usher in a new wave of violence in Mexico even as Zambada could potentially provide loads of information for US prosecutors.

Zambada, who had eluded authorities for decades and had never set foot in prison, was known for being an astute

operator, skilled at corrupting officials and having an ability to negotiate with everyone, including rivals.

Removing him from the criminal landscape could set off an internal war for control of the cartel that has a global reach — as has occurred with the arrest or killings of other kingpins — and open the door to the more violent inclinations of a younger generation of Sinaloa traffickers, experts say.

With that in mind, the Mexican government deployed 200 members of its special forces Friday to Culiacan, Sinaloa state's capital.

There is "significant potential for high escalation of violence across Mexico," said Vanda Felbab-Brown, a senior fellow in the Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy and Technology at the Brookings Institution. That "is bad for Mexico, it's bad for the United States, as well as the possibility that the even more vicious (Jalisco New Generation cartel) will rise to even greater importance."

For that reason, Zambada's arrest could be considered a "great tactical success", but strategically problematic, Felbab-Brown said.

US, China air global differences

AP ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)

The United States and China on Saturday renewed their mutual grievances as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Chinese counterpart held their sixth meeting since last year amid an uncertain political situation in the US and growing concerns about China's increasing assertiveness in Asia and elsewhere.

Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met for roughly an hour and 20 minutes on the sidelines of an annual Southeast Asian regional security forum in Vientiane, Laos, at which tensions between China and US ally Philippines over disputes in the South China Sea were a prime focus of discussion.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Blinken and Wang had had "an open and productive" discussion but had not reached any significant agreements on the issues that divide them most in the Indo-Pacific, Europe and the Americas.

"The United States will continue to take necessary actions to safeguard our interests and values, and those of our allies and partners, including on human rights," Blinken told Wang, according to Miller.

Blinken "made clear that the United States, together with our allies and partners, will advance our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said, highlighting recently aggressive Chinese actions toward Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing claims as part of the mainland and has vowed to



reunify by force if necessary.

The top US diplomat also scolded China for "destabilizing actions in the South China Sea" and "affirmed the United States' support for freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of disputes, consistent with international law," Miller said.

However, Blinken also praised China and the Philippines for concluding an agreement earlier this week that allowed the Philippines on Saturday to make a supply trip to the disputed area without having to confront Beijing's forces, the first such trip since the deal was concluded.

"We are pleased to take note of the successful resupply today at the Second Thomas Shoal," Blinken told Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers before his meeting with Wang. "We applaud

that and hope and expect to see that it continues going forward."

Prior to the deal, tensions between the Philippines and China escalated for months, with China's coast guard and other forces using powerful water cannons and dangerous blocking maneuvers to prevent food and other supplies from reaching Filipino navy personnel.

Still, Blinken, who will be in Manila next week as part of his current six-country tour of Asia, also deplored China's "escalatory and unlawful actions taken against the Philippines in the South China Sea over the last few months."

In his meeting with Wang, Blinken also re-raised deep US and European concerns about China's support of Russia's defense industrial sector that Washington and capi-

ties in Europe believe Russia is using to ramp up the production of weapons for use in its war against Ukraine.

Blinken "made clear that if (China) does not act to address this threat to European security, the United States will continue to take appropriate measures to do so," Miller said. Since that warning was first issued more than a year ago, the US and others have imposed sanctions on more than 300 Russian and Chinese firms engaged in the trade.

Asked whether the Chinese had responded to those sanctions in the way the US and its allies would like, a senior State Department official replied: "Not enough. Not enough that our concerns have been put to rest." The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss the private diplomatic meeting.

Blinken's Asia trip was announced just hours after President Joe Biden said he would step down as a candidate in November's election in favor of Vice President Kamala Harris. Although the senior official said the shake-up had not come up in Saturday's meetings, he said Blinken had pointed out to Wang that Harris had experience with China and had met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Bangkok in 2022.

The official said Blinken referred to the Biden-Harris administration's desire to keep relations with China on a positive track and noted that while "he has mentioned her before, obviously there's a different context now."

TikTok collected US user views on issues like abortion, gun control

AP ■ WASHINGTON

In a fresh broadside against one of the world's most popular technology companies, the Justice Department late Friday accused TikTok of harnessing the capability to gather bulk information on users based on views on divisive social issues like gun control, abortion and religion.

Government lawyers wrote in a brief filed to the federal appeals court in Washington that TikTok and its Beijing-based parent company ByteDance used an internal website system called Lark to enable TikTok employees to speak directly with ByteDance engineers in China. TikTok employees used Lark to send sensitive data about US users, infor-

mation that has wound up being stored on Chinese servers and accessible to ByteDance employees in China, federal officials said.

One of Lark's internal search tools, the filing states, permits ByteDance and TikTok employees in the US and China to gather information on users' content or expressions, including views on sensitive topics, such as abortion or religion. Last year, the Wall Street Journal reported TikTok had tracked users who watched LGBTQ+ content through a dashboard the company said it had since deleted.

The new court documents represent the government's first major defense in a consequential legal battle over the future of the popular social media platform, which is used by

more than 170 million Americans. Under a law signed by President Joe Biden in April, the company could face a ban in a few months if it doesn't break ties with ByteDance.

The measure was passed with bipartisan support after lawmakers and administration officials expressed concerns that Chinese authorities could force ByteDance to hand over US user data or sway public opinion towards Beijing's interests by manipulating the algorithm that populates users' feeds. The Justice Department warned, in stark terms, of the potential for what it called "covert content manipulation" by the Chinese government, saying the algorithm could be designed to shape content that users receive.

"By directing ByteDance or TikTok

to covertly manipulate that algorithm; China could for example further its existing malign influence operations and amplify its efforts to undermine trust in our democracy and exacerbate social divisions," the brief states.

The concern, they said, is more than theoretical, alleging that TikTok and ByteDance employees are known to engage in a practice called "heating" in which certain videos are promoted in order to receive a certain number of views. While this capability enables TikTok to curate popular content and disseminate it more widely, US officials posit it can also be used for nefarious purposes.

Justice Department officials are asking the court to allow a classified version of its legal brief, which won't be

accessible to the two companies. Nothing in the redacted brief "changes the fact that the Constitution is on our side," TikTok spokesperson Alex Haurek said in a statement. "The TikTok ban would silence 170 million Americans' voices, violating the 1st Amendment," Haurek said. "As we've said before, the government has never put forth proof of its claims, including when Congress passed this unconstitutional law. Today, once again, the government is taking this unprecedented step while hiding behind secret information. We remain confident we will prevail in court."

In the redacted version of the court documents, the Justice Department said another tool triggered the suppression of content based on the use

of certain words. Certain policies of the tool applied to ByteDance users in China, where the company operates a similar app called Douyin that follows Beijing's strict censorship rules. But Justice Department officials said other policies may have been applied to TikTok users outside of China. TikTok was investigating the existence of these policies and whether they had ever been used in the US in, or around, 2022, officials said.

The government points to the Lark data transfers to explain why federal officials do not believe that Project Texas, TikTok's USD 1.5 billion mitigation plan to store US user data on servers owned and maintained by the tech giant Oracle, is sufficient to guard against national security concerns.

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Govt to decide on sugar MSP hike in coming days: Food Secy

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The government is likely to take a decision on increasing the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar within the next few days, Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said on Saturday. Speaking on the sidelines of a conference organised by All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA), Chopra said, "We are discussing the MSP (proposal). In the coming days, we will hopefully take a call." MSP of sugar has remained unchanged at Rs 31 per kg since 2019, despite annual hikes in the fair and remunerative price (FRP) paid to sugarcane farmers. Industry bodies, including National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCFSF), have urged the government to raise the MSP to at least Rs 42 per kg to help mills sustain operations amid rising production costs. Chopra noted that sugar production for the 2024-25 season (October-September)



looks promising, with the area sown to sugarcane increasing to 58 lakh hectare so far from 57 lakh hectare during the same period last year. For the 2023-24 season, sugar production is estimated at 32 million tonne, lower than 32.8 million tonne in the previous season, but sufficient to meet the domestic demand of 27 million tonne. Earlier, addressing the event, the food secretary also mentioned that the agriculture ministry is conducting research to

increasing the minimum selling price of sugar in line with cane prices, among other demands. "I totally agree that we need a long-term predictability and consistency of the policy. Otherwise, it will be difficult for the sector," Kant said at a conference organized by All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA). Highlighting the sector's importance, Kant noted that sugar contributes 1.1 per cent to the country's GDP and plays a pivotal role in reducing crude import bills, energy transition, promoting circular economy, and achieving net zero emissions. "The sugar industry will be a major driver to make India a developed economy by 2047," he added. Kant urged the industry to explore diversification beyond ethanol and invest in research for developing high-yielding, low water-consuming cane varieties, given India's limited water resources compared to the top producer Brazil.

India steel production to cross 300MT by 2030: Official

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Expressing optimism in steel demand amid headwinds, a senior central government official said on Saturday that the domestic production is likely to cross 300 million tonnes by 2030. The ministry also does not foresee any hurdles in capacity addition due to decarbonisation efforts in the steel sector and will soon release a draft roadmap seeking public opinion to reduce the carbon footprint in the steel sector, which accounts for 12 per cent of total emissions, Steel Secretary Nagaendra Nath Sinha said. "The current steel demand remains strong with infrastructure push from the government and expecting a growth of about 10 per cent. The GDP is also growing robustly, and with continued emphasis on infrastructure from both government and private sectors, steel demand will continue to stay strong," Sinha said, while addressing members of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC).



Finished steel output during 2023-24 was 138.5 million tonnes, up 12.4 per cent year-on-year. To achieve 300 million tonnes of installed capacity, a CAGR of 12 per cent would be required. From January to April 2024, steel production was 49.5 million tonnes, a jump of 8.5 per cent, BCC president N G Khaitan said. Sinha also stated that some steel makers were not reporting production and sales data accurately, and the ministry feels there are gaps. He urged companies to report correctly to support policy framing.

Directorate General of Trade Remedies, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has taken up. Speaking about the decarbonisation roadmap, Sinha said the government had set up 14 task forces on this and, after inter-ministerial discussions, the report will be released for public feedback soon. The roadmap focuses on increased hydrogen use in the steel industry and carbon capture, among others. The short-term target for the government aims at about a 20 per cent reduction in carbon intensity. Currently, the average carbon intensity is 2.5 tonnes per tonne of steel production. A consortium has been planned with labs, IITs, primary and secondary steel makers, and equipment makers to develop indigenous green technology. Sinha stated that the steel ministry has written to the Finance Ministry to support keeping Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd as a "going concern" during times of crisis so it does not lose its valuation.

About 151 GW renewable capacity under implementation in India: Minister Pralhad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Renewable energy projects of about 151 GW capacity are under various stages of implementation in the country, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has said. The Minister for New and Renewable Energy further said that around 76.42 GW of renewable energy capacity will be operationalized in next 3-4 years. "The government is taking several initiatives to prioritise renewable energy. Nearly 151 GW of renewable projects are being implemented, and 76.42 GW will be operationalized in 3-4 years," he said addressing a session at 'Mercom India Renewables Summit 2024' in the national capital on Friday. The tendering process for 76.42 GW capacity of projects has already been completed, the minister said. The renewable energy capacity has increased over



2.5 times from 76 GW in 2014 to more than 195 GW as of June 2024, Joshi said. The solar power capacity witnessed a steep jump from just 3 GW in 2014 to more than 85 GW now while wind power capacity increased from 21 GW to more than 46 GW, the minister added. "The recent bidding trajectory has been a great initiative. If government agencies continue to exceed their targets and start

Himachal to develop ₹350-cr medical devices park with own resources

PTI ■ SHIMLA

The Union government would have no stake in Rs 350-crore Medical Device Park coming up at Nalagarh in Solan district as the state government has decided to construct the park from its own resources and return Rs 30 crore received from the centre, according to a release. The decision has been taken in the interest of the state. The project would come up in over 265 acres of land and in case Rs 30 crore received from the centre was not returned, the land would have been provided to industrialists at the rate of Re 1 per square meter, electricity at Rs 3 per unit and water, maintenance and warehouse facilities, free of cost for ten years, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. The state government has so far spent Rs 74.95 crore for the project, a statement issued here on Saturday said. Keeping the interests of the state and steering out of the



bindings, the government has decided to build the Park by itself as the project when commissioned would accrue benefits amounting to Rs 500 crore from the sale of land and other resources in the next five to seven years, he added. The state government will take a loan from SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) under the cluster development scheme for the construction of the medical device park and with restructuring of the project, 25 per cent of the land will be allotted exclusively for medical device industries and

GMDC Q1 profit falls 16% to ₹184 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) has reported 15.8 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 184.05 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2024. The company had logged a profit of Rs 218.70 crore in the year-ago period, GMDC said in a filing. However, income during April-June FY25 increased to Rs 877.90 crore from Rs 826.77 crore in the year-ago period. The total lignite production during the quarter increased to 22.96 lakh tonne from 18.27 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. Revenue from thermal projects increased to Rs 28 crore as against Rs 17 crore in March quarter FY24. Revenue from wind



projects rose 67 per cent to Rs 40 crore in Q1FY25 compared to Rs 24 crore in Q4FY24. In a statement, GMDC Managing Director Roopwant Singh said April-June proved to be a pivotal quarter for the company whose strategic initiatives paid off with a remarkable revenue from operations. GMDC is the country's second-largest lignite-producing company and the top merchant seller of lignite.

PNB records its highest ever quarterly profit of ₹3,252 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly standalone profit at Rs 3,252 crore in April-June FY25 helped by decline in bad loans and improvement in interest income. The state-owned bank had posted a net profit of Rs 1,255 crore in June quarter FY24. This is the highest ever quarterly profit recorded by the bank on account of improvement in various parameters, including net interest income, recovery and CASA, Managing Director Atul Kumar Goel said. Total income in the quarter rose to Rs 32,166 crore from Rs 28,579 crore in the same period a year ago. The lender's interest income also increased to Rs 28,556 crore from Rs 25,145 crore in the same quarter a year ago, as per a regulatory filing. Net Interest Income (NII) increased to Rs 10,476 crore in Q1 FY25 from Rs 9,504 crore earlier, showing an improvement of 10.23 per cent. Gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) declined to 4.98 per cent of gross advances by June 2024 from 7.73 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs declined to 0.60 per cent from 1.98 per cent. As a result, provisions for bad loans came down drastically to Rs 792 crore in April-June FY25 as against Rs 4,374



crore in the year-ago period. Provision Coverage Ratio improved to 95.9 per cent as of June 2024 from 89.83 per cent a year ago. On a consolidated basis, the bank reported a net profit of Rs 3,976 crore in the quarter under review as against Rs 1,342 crore a year ago. The consolidated financial result of the bank comprises five subsidiaries and 15 associates. The capital adequacy ratio of the bank improved to 15.79 per cent at the end of June 2024 compared to 15.54 per cent in the year-ago period. With improvement in capital position, Goel said, the bank has decided to cut the proposed share sale size through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to Rs 5,000 crore from an earlier estimate of Rs 7,500 crore. Asked when the capital will be raised, he said the bank is evaluating the opportune time for that. Besides, he said, the board has given approval to raise Rs 7,000 crore from Tier I bonds and Rs 3,000 crore from Tier II bonds to fund business growth.

PepsiCo India revenue in April-December 2023 at ₹5,954 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PepsiCo India Holdings' consolidated revenue from operations during April-December 2023 was at Rs 5,954.16 crore and profit was Rs 217.26 crore, according to financial data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler. Total income, which also includes other income, was at Rs 6,094.70 crore in the nine-month period. The company has changed its financial year from April-March to January-December, hence it has come out with three quarters results of 2023. It follows the calendar year as financial year from January 2024. During the nine months, its



revenue from sales in the domestic market was at Rs 5,533.63 crore. Exports contributed Rs 266.19 crore to the total revenue of the company, which is not a publicly listed entity. Revenue from the snacks business in which it operates with brands including Kurkure, Lays, Doritos and Quaker was at Rs 4,763.29 crore. PepsiCo India's revenue from

the beverages business in which it operates with fizzy-based drinks and juices with brands such as Pepsico, 7up, slice, Tropicana, and Gatorade was at Rs 1,036.53 crore for the nine months. Advertising promotional expenses in April-December 2023 were at Rs 694.52 crore. On the results, a PepsiCo India Spokesperson said: "In this 9-month period compared to the earlier 12-

month period, PepsiCo India delivered resilient topline performance amid a challenging external environment." "Demand for our brands remained robust backed by strong marketing campaigns, marketplace execution, and consistent focus on end-to-end productivity. "We remain committed to our growth in India and continue to invest behind our brands and marketplace infrastructure to build scale while maintaining margins in what will remain a high-demand market for many years." For financial year 2022-23, which was of 12 months, PepsiCo India's revenue from operations was at Rs 8,203.19

crore and its total profit was at Rs 267.43 crore. Total income was Rs 8,302.34 crore. Earlier this month, during an investors' call, PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta said India is a "high demand market", where it is investing to scale up the infrastructure. The company is investing in the brands to build up scale to capture the growth opportunity, he had said. "We continue to see a lot of growth in many parts of the AMESA (Africa, Middle East & South Asia) region, in particular India is a big growth space for us and it's an investment area for sure," Laguarta had said. In the second quarter (April-

Budget important step towards building new India: MoS Pankaj

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary on Saturday said that this year's budget is an important step towards building a new India, and is dedicated to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chaudhary, who was in Gorakhpur on Saturday, in a post on X in Hindi, said, "Addressed the media friends in a specially organized press conference on Budget-2024 in Gorakhpur. This budget is an important step towards building a new India. It is dedicated to the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji and building a new India."



Speaking with reporters at the Circuit House, Chaudhary emphasized that this year's budget has been crafted by keeping the interests of the citizens in mind. "GST has been reduced, and

significant relief has been provided in the tax slabs," he said. The 2024-25 budget aims to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, focusing on four key areas: women, the poor, farmers, and youth. "This budget is entirely dedicated to employment and business. It is designed to boost GDP growth and create job opportunities, while also further developing the education sector. This year's budget is inclusive of all regions and sections of society," he said. On the comparison between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary criticized the opposition for not highlighting the positive aspects. "The overall budget has been increased, including the Railway Budget. The opposition should acknowledge these improvements," he said. He assured that Uttar Pradesh

has received a significant budget allocation when analysed department-wise. The Union minister reiterated that the budget has been increased across various sectors, including agriculture, education, and the military, reinforcing the government's commitment to comprehensive development. Seven-time MP Pankaj Chaudhary, who took oath as minister of state for the second time in the new BJP-led NDA government, started his political career as a corporator of the Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation in Uttar Pradesh. Pankaj Chaudhary currently represents Maharajanji constituency in the Lok Sabha.

IFB Industries Q1 revenue up 16.9%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IFB Industries Ltd on Saturday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 37.54 crore for the first quarter ended in June 2024, helped by the engineering and home appliances business. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 0.62 crore in the April-June quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from IFB Industries. Its revenue from operations was up 16.87 per cent during the quarter under review. It was Rs 1,085.91 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses of IFB Industries in the June quarter were up 12.24 per cent to Rs 1,222.14 crore.

MANU SETS SIGHTS ON OLYMPICS GLORY, STORMS INTO 10M AIR PISTOL FINALS



PTI ■ CHATEAUXROUX/PARIS

Manu Bhaker made a statement of intent by storming into the 10m air pistol finals on a day when most of her compatriots endured a forgettable outing at the shooting range before shuttler Lakshya Sen and paddler Harmeet Desai dazzled on debut in India's sedate start at the Olympic Games on Saturday. Bhaker, who is competing in her second Olympics, seemed determined to wipe off the memories of her tearful past outing as she qualified third for the 10m air pistol women's final which will be held on Sunday afternoon at the Chateauxroux Shooting Centre. The shooters have drawn a blank at every Olympics after 2012 and the apprehensions began to set in early for this one too before Bhaker decided to take control. The 22-year-old, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, shot 580 in the qualifications in which Hungarian ace Veronika Major claimed the top spot with a score of 582. The other Indian in the field, Rhythm Sangwan, ended 15th with an underwhelming 573. Bhaker, who was in control for the major part of the one hour 15 minute session, will have to maintain the same composure in the all-important final. India has not won an Olympic medal in shooting since 2012 and Bhaker is well placed to end that lean run. Standing at a distance, Bhaker's personal coach Jaspal Rana could not stop his tears before saying that the job was only

half done. "What happened today doesn't matter anymore. Tomorrow is when it counts. We start afresh," he told PTI before pointing out the heat factor at the range with the air conditioning not being the most effective. "She needed to take time and drink a lot of water as it was hot," he added. At the other end of the spectrum was Sarabjot Singh, who felt the pressure on his Games debut to narrowly miss out on a final berth in the men's 10m air pistol. Both he and Arjuna Singh Cheema showed promise before finishing ninth and 18th with scores of 577 and 544 respectively. Germany's Robin Walter, who also shot 577, grabbed the last qualifying spot after managing to shoot one inner 10 (X) more than Sarabjot's 16, leaving the Indian heartbroken. Coach Samresh Jung tried to console him but Sarabjot knew he had missed the opportunity of a lifetime. As many as 17 out of the 21 Indian shooters here are competing in the Olympics for the first time and are bound to feel pressure despite the best possible preparation. "There are only two types of people who don't feel pressure. One are the dead and others are fools. He is neither dead nor a fool," said Jung who expects Sarabjot to bounce back in the mixed team event. At the rifle range, Indians were eliminated from the 10m mixed team qualifications. Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta finished sixth with a

total score of 628.7, while Elavenil Valarivan and Sandeep Singh ended 12th with an aggregate score of 626.3. SEN AND DESAI ADD SHEEN IN EVENING: Sen, who worked on his front-court alertness and closing stage composure, in the build-up to the Games, gave a demonstration of the improvements in the match against Cordon. The Indian was unnerved despite conceding a big lead in the second game and staved off four match points before sealing the deal against the reigning Pan American champion in 42 minutes. The gold-medallist from the 2022 Commonwealth Games will face Julien Carraggi of Belgium on Monday in his second group match. In table tennis, Desai had no trouble in getting the better of his opponent, ranked 538th in the world, in a one-sided preliminary round match that lasted exactly 30 minutes. The 31-year-old from Surat, who was part of the side that clinched the team gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and 2022, is an established name in the Indian TT circuit. He has been toiling for many years in his quest to compete at the Olympics, having played in all other top global competitions. PANWAR MOVES TO REPECHAGE IN ROWING: India's lone rower at Games, Balraj Panwar moved to the repechage after finishing fourth in heat 1 of the men's singles scull competition.



Katie starts Olympic swimming with fastest time in 400 free prelims, just ahead of Titmus

AP ■ NANTERRE (FRANCE)

Katie Ledecky fired the first salvo in her duel with Ariarne Titmus, posting the fastest time in the preliminaries of the women's 400-meter freestyle Saturday as the swimming competition began at the Paris Olympics. In one of the most highly anticipated events of the Games, Ledecky claimed the prime No. 4 lane for the evening final with a time of four minutes, 21.19 seconds. Titmus, the Australian star known as "The Terminator" got off to a fast start but couldn't hold off the hard-charging Ledecky on the final lap. Titmus posted the second-fastest time of the heats in 4:02.46, setting up a side-by-side showdown with the American in the evening final. Titmus is the reigning Olympic champion in the 400 free, knocking off Ledecky at the Tokyo Games three years ago. The Aussie also holds the world record of 3:55.38 - a sign that she's got a lot left to give in the final. Also, keep an eye on Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh, who should be in the medal mix after going 4:02.65 in the prelims for the fourth-fastest time. She was just behind New Zealand's Erika Fairweather (4:02.55). Tokyo bronze medalist Li Bingjie and Chinese teammate Liu Yaxin finished ninth and 10th, respectively, and failed to advance to the final.

China wins first diving gold

AP ■ SAINT-DENIS (FRANCE)

One down. Seven to go. China won its first gold medal in diving on Saturday on the first full day of competition in the Paris Olympics, a perfect start for the team of Chang Yani and Chen Yiwen. China has ruled diving for decades, and three years ago in Tokyo, it won seven of eight gold medals. But, it's never pulled off the elusive gold sweep. That's the goal this time. The Chinese were first on Saturday in the women's synchronized 3-meter springboard with 337.68 points on five dives. They were followed by Sarah Bacon and Cassidy Cook of the United States with 314.64 points and the British team of Yasmin Harper and Scarlett Mew Jensen with bronze and 302.28 points. The same Chinese duo also

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jillella Chinnammulu legally mother of No. 15334495P Rank HAV Name Jillella Ashok Kumar Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Muddhana Street, Patha Bobbili, VTC : Bobbili, PO : Bobbili R.S. Distt. Vizianagaram, State Andhra Pradesh-535558 have changed my name from J Chinnammulu to Jillella Chinnammulu and DOB from 01.07.1966 to 07.06.1968

I, Jillella Lakshmana Rao legally father of No. 15334495P Rank HAV Name Jillella Ashok Kumar Unit 4 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO Bathinda Cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Muddhana Street, Patha Bobbili, VTC : Bobbili, PO : Bobbili R.S. Distt. Vizianagaram, State Andhra Pradesh-535558 have changed my name from J Lakshmana Rao to Jillella Lakshmana Rao and DOB from 01.07.1959 to 01.12.1961

I, Jadede Ranjanba Karansinh legally mother of No. 16116457H Rank NK Name Jadede Lavjitsinh Karansinh Unit 15 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt (Punjab) permanent resident of Pipardi, Rajkot, Distt. Jamkandoma, State Gujarat-360405 have changed my name from Ranjan BA to Jadede Ranjanba Karansinh and DOB from 01.07.1969 to 01.01.1965

I, Arshdeep S/o Harminder Singh R/O H.No. 225/15, Committee Quarter, Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Arshdeep to Arshdeep Singh.

I, Babita W/o Shambhu Nath R/O H.No. 655/9, Lucky Colony, G.T. Road, Shahabad Markanda, District Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Babita to Babita Rani.

I, Suman Debi Jamatia Spouse of JC-251117L Nb/Ris Binay Jamatia R/O 46 Armd Regt C/o 56 APO have changed my name to Suman Devi Jamatia Vide Affidavit No.IN-PB27166471571452W Dt.20.06.2024 Before Notary Public Amritsar

I Vidya Sagar S/o Bawa Mal Resident of 322, Lane No. 1, Green Field, Majitha Road, Amritsar. I have changed my name from Vidya Sagar to Vidya Sagar Tuli

I Surinder Singh Chohan S/O Baldev Singh R/O 153 Near Post office, Via Rajasansi, Bhitte Wadh District Amritsar have changed my name from Surinder Singh Chohan to Surinder Singh

I Sukhdeep Kaur D/O Dilbag Singh R/O H.No.26 Dileet No.12 Plah Sahib Road Guru Amardass Avenue Amritsar Declare That In My Class X And Class XII Certificates Bearing Unique Id No.7657988, My Father's Name Is Wrongly Written As Dilbag Singh Which Is Incorrect. That Correct Name Of My Father Is Dilbag Singh As Per Family Record, Aadhaar Card And Other Documents. All Concerned Please Note.

I, Manga Masih s/o Mohana r/o Vpo shahura, teh Ajnala, Amritsar. I have changed my name from Manga masih to Manga

I, Michal S/O Manga R/o Vpo shahura Teh Ajnala Distt Amritsar. have changed my name from Michal to Michael sandhu

I, Jagjit Singh S/o Jaswant Singh R/o Village Dyalbharang Near Adda PO Chamyari Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar have changed my minor son Navalraj Singh name Navalrajit is his Given name and Singh is his Surname

I, Surinder Singh Sheinh S/O Lakhbir Singh R/O 318, Sultanwind Road, Near Miri Piri Gurdwara Kot Atma Ram District Amritsar have changed my name from Surinder Singh Sheinh to Surinder Singh

I, Madan Gopal S/O Om Parkash R/O H.No.52/732 Ward No. 9, Kahnuan Road Bhatha Inderjit Batala District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Madan Gopal To Madan Lal

I Daljit Singh Dhanju S/O Arjun Singh R/O V.Nabipur Po Fatehgarh Shukarchak Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Daljit Singh

I Omveer Singh Father of No 14942494H Nk Vikas Kumar R/O Mirapur Khurd Miranpur Muzaffarnagar Jansath Uttar pradesh 251315 Now at 15 mech INF C/o 56 apo have changed my name to Omveer and Date of birth 07-05-1965 to 01-01-1969 vide affidavit no IN-PB40086532461264W dated 27-07-2024 before Notary Public Amritsar

I Bhopinder Singh Dhanju S/O Daljit Singh R/O V.Nabipur Po Fatehgarh Shukarchak Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Bhopinder Singh

I, Sukhraj Singh S/o Tarlochan Singh R/O VPO Fatehgarh Shukarchak, Amritsar have changed my minor son Harjap Singh name Harjap is my Surname and Singh is my Surname

I, Jatinder Mehta S/o Gurdass Ram R/O H.No.F9/1408, Street No.2, Shally Photo Studio, Tandon Nagar, Amritsar have changed my name from Jatinder Mehta to Jatinder

I, Gulwinder Singh Sahota S/O Harbans Singh R/O Near Bus Stand Village Thara Po Mour Thara District Faridkot Have Changed My Name From Gulwinder Singh Sahota To Gulwinder Singh

I, Kavita Thakur Alias Indra Anjali W/O Surinder Kumar Thakur R/O Kothi No. 29- C Near Kapoor Car Care Old Jail Road Ranjit Avenue Amritsar Have Change Of My Name Is Kavita Thakur

I, Harpreet Kaur W/O Jugvirinder Singh Sethi R/O H No. 203, B-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Harpreet Kaur to Harpreet Kaur Sethi

I, Jugvarinder Singh Sethi S/O Amrik Singh R/O H No. 203, B-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Jugvarinder Singh Sethi to Jugvirinder Singh Sethi.

I, Rita Kumari W/O Satish Kumar, R/O House No. 221, Sector-9C, Chandigarh, declare that I have changed my name Reeta to Rita Kumari.

I Sonia Gulati W/O Rajkumar Chawla R/O H No.14, Prem Nagar, Airport Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Sonia Chawla After Marriage All Concerned Note.

I Harpal Singh S/o Jagir Singh, R/O Vill Padda, Po Shahpur Jajan, Teh Dera Baba Nanak, Distt Gurdaspur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Harpal Singh To Singh Harpal, My Given Name Is Harpal And Surname Is Singh Please Noted All Concern

I, Ravinder Singh S/o Harpal Singh, R/O Vill Padda, Po Shahpur Jajan, Teh Dera Baba Nanak, Distt Gurdaspur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Ravinder Singh To Singh Ravinder, My Given Name Is Ravinder And Surname Is Singh Please Noted All Concern

I, Harmanpreet Kaur W/o Ravinder Singh, R/O Vill Padda, Po Shahpur Jajan, Teh Dera Baba Nanak, Distt Gurdaspur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Harmanpreet Kaur To Kaur Harmanpreet, My Given Name Is Harmanpreet And Surname Is Kaur Please Noted All Concern

I, Parmjit Kaur W/o Harpal Singh, R/O Vill Padda, Po Shahpur Jajan, Teh Dera Baba Nanak, Distt Gurdaspur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Parmjit Kaur To Kaur Parmjit, My Given Name Is Parmjit And Surname Is Kaur Please Noted All Concern

I Prabh Deep Singh S/o Puran Singh, R/O Ward Number. 6, Vpo Dera Baba Nanak, Teh Dera Baba Nanak, Distt Gurdaspur Punjab Have Changed My Name From Prabh Deep Singh To Singh Prabhdeep Singh, My Given Name Is Prabhdeep And Surname Is Singh Please Noted All Concern

I, Heena D/o Arun Parkash Gill resident of H.No.09, Gali No 07, Shaheed Udham Singh Colony O/s Gate Hakima, Amritsar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Heena to Heena Gill. Both are the same person.

I, Vandana Sharma W/o Vivek Sheel, # 46 Purana Gurudwara, Nangal, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar), have changed my name to Vandana Vasudev.

I, Munish S/o Chander Mohan, 873 Sector 25 Panchkula, have changed name to Munish Chauhan.

I, Anil Kumar S/o Dilbag R/O village Budha khera Teh. Safidon Distt. Jind have changed my name from Anil Kumar S/o Dilbag to Anil S/o Dilbag.

I, Mohit Mittal S/o Sh. Suresh Kumar Mittal R/O House No. 32-33, Yati Nagar, Hansi, District Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Mohit to Mohit Mittal for all future purpose.

I, Mrs. Neesha Mittal W/o Mr. Mohit Mittal R/O House No. 32-33, Yati Nagar, Hansi, District Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Neesha Arya to Neesha Mittal for all future purpose.

I, Sony Oberoi W/o Mandeep Kumar R/O Badala Road Near Railway Station Kharar (SAS Nagar, Mohali) have changed my name to Sony.

I, Shamsheer S/o Sh. Sadhu Ram R/O V.P.O. Juglan (66), Teh. & Distt. Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Samsheer to Shamsheer for all future purposes.

I, Mahender Singh S/o Narayan Dass Vill.Mohanpur, Karah Sahib, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed My Name Mahinder Singh.

I, Darshan Lal S/o Rati Ram Vill.Jal Behra, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have changed my Given name Darshan Surname Lal

I, Jawahar Lal S/o Gyan Chand Vill.Gumthala Garhu, Pehowa, Kurukshetra have Changed My Name Jawahar Lal

I, Anima K K is legally Wife of Service No. 16113320L Rank: L/HAV. Name: Rijn Paraprath residing at Village Paduvilayi Post Pathriyad, Taluk Thalassery, Distt. Kannur (State) Kerala, Pin - 670741 have changed my name from Anima KK to Anima K K.

I, Reba Das is Legally mother of Army No. 14673319W Rank: Nk. Name: Sumanta Das, Resident of VPO. Gopal Nagar, District North 24 Parganas West Bengal Pin- 743262 have changed my DOB from 01-07-1964 to my correct DOB 22-10-1963.

I, Kanu Kumar Das is Legally Father of Army No.14673319W Rank: Nk. Name: Sumanta Das, Resident of VPO. Gopal Nagar, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal Pin-743262 have changed my name from Kanu Das to my correct name Kanu Kumar Das and Changed my DOB from 01-07-1954 to my correct DOB 06-06-1953

I, Jaspal Kaur W/o Army No. 9085428P Rank: Ex- Hav. Late Balraj Singh R/O H.No B-3/324, I New Basti Badunger Patiala, Punjab-147001, New Address: H.No. 238/A, Jai Jawan Colony, Patiala, Punjab 147001 declare that in my husband's PPO record my name and DOB are mentioned as Jaspal Kaur & 1977, but my correct name and DOB are Jaspal Kaur & 10-03-1977.

I, Army No. 15334125P Rank: HAV Name: Dyananna Abbigeri Unit: 1 AER C/O 56 APO, resident of Village Kerur, Post Kerur, Taluk Badami, Distt. Bagalkot, State Karnataka, Pin- 587206 have changed my Son's name from Abhilash to Abhilash Dyananna Abbigeri.

I, Anuj Jain S/o Nem Chand Jain R/O V.P.O. Sadhaura, Teh. Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar declares that in my Daughter Aanchal Jain 10th Certificates my name is written as Anuj. Anuj Jain Aliyas Anuj both are one & same person.

I, Sapna Jain W/o Anuj Jain R/O V.P.O. Sadhaura, Teh. Bilaspur, Distt Yamunanagar declares that in my Daughter Aanchal Jain 10th Certificates my name is written as Sapna. Sapna Jain Aliyas Sapna both are one & same person.

I, Rajeev Sharma S/o Jai Parkash Kaushik R/O # 255, Chopra garden, Block-B, Yamunanagar have changed my name from Rajiv Sharma to Rajeev Sharma.

I Rajinder S/O Sh Suraj Bhan R/O Vill Kheri Naru Tehsil & Distt Karnal I Declare That I Have Changed My Son (Minor) Name From Munish To Manish Sharma.

I, Bohati W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o Bal Jattan, Bal Jattan (11) Shera, Panipat, Haryana have changed my name to Bohati.

I, Atul Goyal S/o Vinod Kumar R/O 106, Near Rohit Park, E Block, Sinsa-125055, Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name From Vaanya Goyal To Vaanya.

I Ajit Singh S/o Sh. Dai Ram R/O Village Raipur Jattan, Tehsil Gharaunda, Distt. Karnal declare that Ajit Singh & Jeet Singh Alias Jeeta all names are mine one and same person.

I, Shamsheer Singh S/o Satnam Singh Village Narayanpur, PO Khalchian, Tehsil Baba Bakala, Distt Amritsar have changed my name from Shamsheer Singh to Shamsheer as given name and Singh as surname. Concerned Noted.

I, Ramrati, Mother Of No. 3001913w Rank Hav Name Firangi Singh Unit 17 Rajput C/O 56 Apo Residing At Derak, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Pin 283104 Have Changed My Name From Ramrati Devi To Ramrati And Change Date Of Birth From 01-07-1960 To 01-07-1959 Vide Affidavit Dated 29 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, No. 15220973n Hav (Opr) Kadake Atul Ashruba Unit 310 Fd Regt Residing At At Post Padlii, Ta Kallam, District Osmanabad, State Maharashtra, Pin 413510, Have Changed My Minor Daughter Name From Kadake Arya To Kadake Arya Atul Vide Affidavit Dated 27 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Sunehari Devi Mother Of No. 3009839p, Hav, Baljeet, Unit 17 Rajput C/O 56 Apo, And Resident At Shihodyan Ki Dhani, Jhunjhunoo, State Rajasthan, Pin 333516, India, have Changed My Name From Sunderi Devi To Sunehari Devi Vide Affidavit Dated 27 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Valekar Uttam Shahu, Father Of No. Jc781263h, Rank Nb Sub, Master Tech C Veh Name Dadasaheb Uttam Valekar, Unit Of 806 Fd Wksp Coy Emme (607 Emme Bn) Resident Of Village & Post Nimbhore Tehsil Karmala District Solapur State Maharashtra Pin 413202 Declare That In My Son's Army Service Records My Name Valekar Uttam Shahu & Date Of Birth 12 June 1960 Wrongly Mentioned. But Actual And Correct My Name Is Shri Uttam Shahu Valekar & Date Of Birth 01 January 1948.

I, Valekar Sarada Uttam, Mother Of No. Jc781263h, Rank Nb Sub, Master Tech C Veh Name Dadasaheb Uttam Valekar, Unit Of 806 Fd Wksp Coy Emme (607 Emme Bn) Resident Of Village & Post Nimbhore Tehsil Karmala District Solapur State Maharashtra Pin 413202 Declare That In My Son's Army Service Records My Name Valekar Sarada Uttam & Date Of Birth 12 June 1965 Wrongly Mentioned. But Actual And Correct My Name Is Sharada Uttam Valekar & Date Of Birth 01 January 1950.

I, Vasudha Dnyandev Pharatade, Spouse Of No. Jc781263h, Rank Nb Sub, Master Tech C Veh Name Dadasaheb Uttam Valekar, Unit Of 806 Fd Wksp Coy Emme (607 Emme Bn) Resident Of Village & Post Nimbhore Tehsil Karmala District Solapur State Maharashtra Pin 413202 Have Changed My Name From Vasudha Dnyandev Pharatade To Vasudha Dadasaheb Valekar Vide Affidavit Dated 27 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I, Malkeet Singh Bhullar Son Of Virsa Singh Resident Of Village Khu Kalala Wala Po Canal Colony Ferozepur City Have Changed My Name To Malkeet Singh.

I, Surinder Kumar S/O Manohar Lal R/O Monga Street, Guru Har Sahai, Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name From Surinder Kumar To Surinder Pal.

I, Basant Kour Alias Basant Arora W/O Surinder Arora R/O Namdev Nagar, Muktsar, Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib Have Changed My Name To Basant Kaur.

I Sarabjeet Kaur Wife Of Surinder Singh Resident Of House No. 114 Kucha Bawa Tara Singh Ferozepur Have Changed My Name To Sarabjit Kaur.

I, M Priya Is Spouse Of No.1544937x Hav Marimuth T Of Unit 307 Field Hospital C/O 56 Apo Residing 38 Railway Meetu Street, Village And Post Office Taluk, District Tenkasi State Tamilnadu Pin 627811 Have Changed My Name From M Priya To Priya M Vide Affidavit Dated 27 July 2024 Before At Notary Ferozepur.

I Krishan Singh & Krishan Singh S/O Makhan Singh Resident Of Village Chhanga Rai Uttar, Tehsil Gurdahrahsai Distt. Ferozepur-152022 I Am Known By Both Names As Above One And Is Same Person.

I, Gajendra Kumar Bhati (Adhar Card no.395803384199) S/O Sharwan Kumar Bhati R/O B-103, Block -B, Adesh University, Barnala road, Bhucho Kalan, Bathinda have changed my minor daughter's name from Tejasvi to Tejasvi Bhati.

I Irivinder Rehill W/O Dhanwant Singh R/O Vpo. Ram Colony Camp District Hoshiarpur 146001 Have Changed My Name To Irivinder Kaur.

I Jagdip Singh Parmar S/O Shamsheer Singh R/O H.No.- 93/A Jodhamal Road Civil Line Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Jagdeep Singh Parmar.

I Ratinderpreet Kaur Shergill W/O Dipreet Singh Bhagrath R/O Vpo. Gondwal Tehsil Raikot Distt. Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Ratinderpreet Kaur Bhagrath.

I Kamaljit Kaur W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Sahauli Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Kamaljeet Kaur.

I, Pawan Kumar S/O Vaishno Dutt Vpo Dorangla, Teh. Dinanagar, District Gurdaspur Have Changed My Name From Pawan Kumar To Pawan Sharma. All Concerned Note.

I, No Jc-701971-K Ex Sub Sarbjit Singh S/O Sh Harbhajan Singh R/O Village Kangra Po Machrawan Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur State Punjab Have Changed My Mother Name From Tejinder Kour To Tejinder Kaur And Date Of Birth Is. 04/04/1948 To 20/10/1946.

I Vishal S/O Tilak Raj R/O H.no. 5-A New Dayal Bagh Ambala Cantt that I have changed my name from Vicky to Vishal. Concerned note

I Tarsem Kumar S/o Mam Raj R/o Plot No. 19 New Paras Nagar Boh Road Ambala Cantt that in my driving licence my name is wrongly mentioned as Pappi Kumar but my actual name is Tarsem Kumar. Concerned note

I, No.JC-706097Y Sub/NA Shriwastav Devendra Ranvir resident of Village-Ajanta, Post-Ajanta, Tehsil- Sillod, District-Aurangabad, State-Maharashtra, Pin-431117, have changed my Daughter name from Diptee to Diptee Devendra Shriwastav Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40098410323154W dated 27 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15795067A L/Hav Guddu Kumar Singh resident of Village- Ghrupali, Post-Banpura, Tehsil- Ekma, District-Chhapra, State- Bihar, Pin-841212, have changed my Son name from Nakhsh to Nakhsh Singh Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40098687242059W dated 27 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, smt Mamata Vishwakarmah spouse of Dinesh Kumar Vishvakarma resident of Village- Mahadevi, Post- Bhitoli Bazar, Tehsil- Maharajganj, District- Uttar Pradesh, Pin-273302, have changed my name from smt Mamata Vishwakarmah to Km Mamata Vishwakarmah Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40087199799262W dated 27 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, Madhaviben Hariyani spouse of No.1578723F Hav (Gunner) Hariyani Pradip Kumar resident of Village-Khantadi, Post- Bhinkada, Tehsil- Ghogha, District- Bhavnagar, State- Gujarat, Pin-364060, have changed my name from Madhaviben Hariyani to Hariyani Madhaviben Pradipkumar Vide affidavit No.IN-PB38593580653644W dated 23 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, MD Nazidul Hoque resident of Village- Jotkabil, Post- Gangaprosad, Tehsil- Mothabari, District- Malda, State- West Bengal, Pin-732207, have changed my Mother name from Azadabibi to Ajida Bibi Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40142994595379W dated 27 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, MD Nazidul Hoque resident of Village- Jotkabil, Post- Gangaprosad, Tehsil- Mothabari, District- Malda, State- West Bengal, Pin-732207, have changed my Father name from MD Abdus Subhan to Abdus Subhan Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40143331599476W dated 27 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

I, No.15626346L NK Magendiran R. resident of Village- Mothakkal, Post-Mothakkal, Tehsil- Vellore, District- Vellore, State- Tamil Nadu, Pin-632319, have changed my Father name from Rajendiran to Rajendiran E Vide affidavit No.IN-PB40097645073436W dated 27 July 2024 before notary public Pathankot

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In most heated of times, exhale, take a step back: Dravid's message to Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India coach Rahul Dravid passed a lead to his successor Gautam Gambhir in taming the tough situations he is bound to encounter - "exhale, take a step back", a message that left the latter "emotional."

Dravid vacated the hot seat after India's triumph in the T20 World Cup in the Americas last month, and Gambhir took over the reins of the team from the on-going whiteball tour to Sri Lanka.

"From one Indian cricket coach to another, one last thing. In the most heated of times, exhale, take a step back. I wish you the very best Gautam. I am sure you will take the Indian team to even greater heights," Dravid said in a video posted by BCCI on its 'X' handle.

Dravid's dry wit came to the fore even amidst that touching message.

"Even if it's difficult for you, crack a smile. Whatever else happens, that will shock people," he said, eliciting a wide smile from Gambhir.

Gambhir sounded moved while thanking his predecessor for the wise words.

"I don't get too emotional but I think this message actually

made me a lot emotional which normally I shouldn't. But it's a great message. "It's massive shoes that I can hopefully fill. Hopefully, I can do that with absolute honesty, transparency and hopefully, I can make the entire nation and more importantly, the person I have always looked up to - Rahul Bhai - proud," he said.

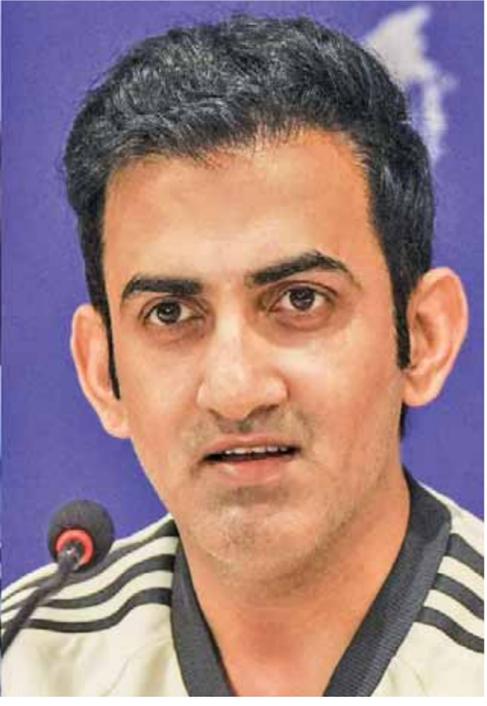
Dravid was certain that Gambhir, who carried a never-say-die attitude in his playing days, will bring his fighting qualities to the coaching job as well.

"As your teammate, I saw you giving it your all on the field. As your batting partner and fellow fielder, I saw your resilience and refusal to surrender. Across many IPL seasons, I noted your desire to win, your assistance to younger players and your drive to extract the best out of your team on the field.

"I know how dedicated and passionate you are about Indian cricket and I am sure you will bring all these qualities into the new job," he said.

The 51-year-old, however, offered a word of caution to his one-time teammate about living under constant scrutiny.

"As you know, the expectations will be high and



the scrutiny will be intense," he said, also reminding that there will be overwhelming support for him from all

quarters. "But even in the worst of times you will never be alone. You will have the support of

who are very demanding but will always be behind the team."

Dravid hoped that Gambhir will have a fully-fit squad to work with, and will have the assistance of fortune in crunch moments.

"I also hope that you will also have the availability of fully fit players in every squad. Good luck with that. I also wish you a little bit of luck, as you know that all of us coaches need to make us look that little bit wiser and smarter than we actually are," he noted.

The former Indian captain also urged Gambhir to forge a strong bond with the team members - something he managed to do during his tenure.

"Hello Gautam, and welcome to the most exciting job in our world, as coach of the Indian cricket team. It's been three weeks since I ended my stint with the Indian team in a manner that was beyond my dreams, both in Barbados and a few days later in that unforgettable evening in Mumbai.

"More than anything else I will cherish the memories and friendships I made in my time with the squad. As you take over the role of India coach, it's what I wish for you as well," he added.

Gambhir imbibed Dravid's words in their true sense, and said he has not seen a more "selfless" servant of Indian cricket.

"I don't know how to react because this message means so much to me. The reason is not because it comes from the person who I have succeeded but from a person who I have always looked up to when I was playing.

"I have always felt that and I said it in a lot of my interviews - I think the most selfless cricketer I have actually ever played with. Rahul bhai has done anything and everything Indian cricket needed."

Gambhir said Dravid's association with Indian cricket is a text book for others to learn from.

"I think there is so much to learn from, not only for me but for the next generation and the current generation as well. That's how important Indian cricket is, not me, not individuals," he said.

Great Britain rides strong effort of Olympic veterans to early lead in men's gymnastics qualifying

AP ■ PARIS

Great Britain surged to an early lead during men's gymnastics qualifying, posting a team total of 256.561 to finish ahead of the United States in the first of three subdivisions Saturday.

The Americans, who finished third at the 2023 world championships ahead of Great Britain, dealt with issues on the high bar and pommel horse to finish second at 253.229.

The US arrived in Paris

believing it had a legitimate chance to medal in the team competition for the first time since earning a bronze in Beijing 16 years ago.

There is work to be done after the British put on a largely mistake-free clinic across six rotations.

Jake Jarman (84.897) and Joe Fraser (84.666) posted the top all-around scores and six-time Olympic medalist Max Whitlock provided a jolt with

an electric pommel horse routine - his signature event - that left the 31-year-old looking relieved. Whitlock's 15.166 trailed only American Stephen Nedoroscik, a specialist whose 15.200 likely earned him a spot in the event finals and gave his teammates some early momentum.

It didn't last. Brody Malone, who returned from a horrific leg injury to win his third US

championship in June, fell twice on a high bar and once on a pommel horse to scuttle his chances of returning to the all-around finals.

Instead, Frederick Richard and Paul Juda will represent the Americans. While Richard - who earned bronze in the all-around at the 2023 world championships - is expected to advance, Juda's performance is a bit of a surprise.

PROVISION OF IP BASED INTEGRATED PASSENGER INFORMATION SYSTEM AT VARIOUS STATIONS

E-Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-7; dated. 25-07-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **SL No.1; Tender No. N-2024-K-7; Name of the work: Provision of IP based Integrated Passenger Information System at Purnea Jn., Joghani, Forbesganj Jn., Samsi & Bagdogra stations of Kathar Division.** Tender Value: ₹2,04,72,304.21; Earnest Money: ₹2,52,400.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 16-08-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 16-08-2024 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

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PROFESSOR (1)
10 years of experience with M.Sc. (N); 7 years of teaching | Ph.D.(N) is desirable

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (2)
8 years of experience with M.Sc.(N); 5 years of teaching | Ph.D(N) is desirable

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (3)
3 years of teaching experience | Ph.D(N) is desirable

TUTOR (10)
M.Sc. (N) or B.Sc. (N)/ P.B.B.Sc. (N) with 1 year of experience

To apply, share your CV at 9810094625/ 9205240559

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/13/2024-25 Dated: 26-07-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

SN.1 Tender No. 10/24/4436/OT/95/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 16-08-2024
Brief Description: Cable to EMD Part No. 10661360 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] Qty- 2500 Metre for Siliguri Jn./Diesel/Depot, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No. - 18330800.

SN.2 Tender No. 50/24/5141/OT/96/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 12-08-2024
Brief Description: Underground Railway jelly filled 06 Quad Cable 0.9 mm dia, as per IRS specification No. IRS: TC-30/2005 (Ver. 1) with amendment 5 or latest, if any. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] Qty- 10 KM for SSE/SIG/Rangapara North, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 561100191464.

SN.3 Tender No. 61/24/5203/OT/97/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 12-08-2024
Brief Description: Surface roughness measuring Instrument Similar to Loram Part No. 244120 Range: 17.5 mm/ Detector range 360 micro meter (-200 micro meter to + 160 micro meter) Data Output: Memory card Measuring Force: 4 mN Measuring Units: Ra, Rq, Rp Number of probe inputs: Size- Stylus tip radius 5 micro meter. AMC for 3 Years. Make- PIE/LORAM/Phase II SRG2000 or Similar Warranty: 01 Year from the date of supply against any manufacturing defects or use of substandard material. [Warranty Period: 12 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] Qty- 12 Nos. for SSE/P-WAY/Barsoi Jn., NFR (Bihar), P.L.No- 721615990065.

SN.4 Tender No. 61/24/5202/OT/98/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 19-08-2024
Brief Description: 1-in-12 BG 60 KG Weldable CMS Crossing (WCMS) on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSOs standard drawing sole plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6204 to RDSO/T- 6211, RDSO/T-6843 to RDSO/T-6846), excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E.R Clips, insulating liner etc. (latest alteration if any up to the date of opening of tender). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: Yes, Stages: 1] Qty- 201 Set for SSE/P-WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 60060270.

SN.5 Tender No. 30/24/1095B/OT/99/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 26-08-2024
Brief Description: BRAKE PAD half 200cm² made of organic materials to RDSO Spec: RDSO/2013/CG-01 (Rev-1) [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] Qty- 8820 Pairs for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam) 2) Qty- 10730 Pairs for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam) 3) Qty- 4320 Pairs for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam) 4) Qty- 2000 Pairs for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal) 5) Qty- 2000 Pairs for Kathar/GSD, NFR (Bihar) P.L. No- 33510350.

SN.6 Tender No. 30/24/1169/OT/100/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 30-08-2024
Brief Description: RUBBER SPRING to Drg No. 1268685 VER. 02,Mat. Spec.: Technical Specn. No.17.531.10.03, technical specn. No. 17.617.100.02 and MDTs-148 REV-01, MDTs-122 REV-03. [Warranty Period: 30 months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] i) Qty-1628 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty: 692 Nos. for Pandu GSD,NFR (Assam). iii) Qty-2736 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). iv) Qty:178 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). v) Qty:145 Nos. for Kathar GSD, NFR (Bihar) P.L. No 33503000.

SN.7 Tender No. 30/24/1168/OT/101/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 09-09-2024
Brief Description: Ball joint Roll link Flexible joint (Anti Roll bar Link) Drg No C53973 REB BRED 8416 REV-3R3%u201D as per technical specn.No.17.531.100.3,technical specn.No.17.617.100.02 and MDTs-148 REV-01,MDTs-122 REV-03.[Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI,Stage Insp.: No,Stages: 0] i) Qty:8367 Nos. for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot,NFR(Assam). ii) 9974 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot,NFR (Assam) iii) Qty: 39 Nos for Kathar GSD, NFR (Bihar).

SN.8 Tender No. 50/24/5015A/OT/102/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 05-08-2024
Brief Description: Supply of High availability single section digital axle counter system with dual track sensors complete set as per RDSO spec. No. RDSO /SPN/17 /2012 (Ver.3) with latest amendment or specification, complete set with redundancy consisting of dual hardware for each track section like Evaluatory processors ,Vital relays track side unit with detection point, complete assembly & fixing arrangement for each detection point clamp, deflectors for either side of each detection points & dual display Reset box with auto resetting facility for each track section. (One set consist of all equipments one block section) including installation, wiring & Testing/commissioning of digital axle counter complete set as per TS including wiring the same to integrate with the relay circuits as per approved drawings and as per the instruction of Rly engineer at site and technical specifications. This includes laying & termination of cables if any form panel Room to Axle counter room/Relay Room in DWC pipe/existing ladder.[Warranty period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency : TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] Qty-7 Set for SSE/SIG/Rangapara North NFR (Assam), P.L. No - 567902310043.

SN.9 Tender No. 30/24/1187/OT/103/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 02-09-2024
Brief Description: Standardized BRAKE DISC FOR LHB Coaches Drawing No. CG-15066 All-01 Mat Spec: RDSO/2017/CG-02 (Rev. 2) corr-1 [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] 1) Qty-160 Nos. for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 160 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 33509682.

SN.10 Tender No. 10/24/1391/OT/104/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 20-08-2024
Brief Description: Water Pump Left Bank to EMD PART NO 40004234 DLW PT No. 16070100 as per Drg. No. EMD PART NO 40004234 DLW PT NO 16070100 specn: EMD PART NO 40004234 DLW PT NO 16070100 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] 1) Qty- 10 Nos for New Guwahati/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 11 Nos for Siliguri Jn./Diesel/ Depot, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 16070100.

SN.11 Tender No. 40/24/0517A/OT/105/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 16-08-2024
Brief Description: 4.5 KW Under slung constant voltage regulated cum Emergency battery charger for LHB Coaches. Specn: As per RDSO's specification No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0183 (Rev. 1) - 2018. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] 1) Qty-20 Numbers for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 20 Numbers for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 45139659. For details please visit website www.ireps.gov.in

NATA2024
NATIONAL APTITUDE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
CONDUCT OF ADDITIONAL TESTS FOR NATA 2024

The Council of Architecture has decided to conduct additional tests for NATA 2024 on 10th & 24th August, 2024 (in two sessions) in order to provide more opportunity to eligible aspirants for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree programme.

The candidates qualifying in the above tests shall be considered for admission only against the vacant/ unfilled seats in the programme available at various Institutions. Centralized Admission counselling process in the states shall continue as per their respective schedules.

Registration shall commence from 28.07.2024. For further details on registration and NATA 2024, please visit the NATA website www.nata.in.

New Delhi
July 28, 2024
Registrar

USP

All India State Bank of India Staff Federation Council Meeting Held

Chandigarh: All India State Bank of India Staff Federation (AISBISF) organized its Council Meeting at Crystal Resort at village Rampur Kalan on Zirakpur - Patiala Road. AISBISF is a body formed by the Staff Associations from all circles of State Bank of India throughout the country. The Federation holds this meeting once in three years, the last Triennial General Body Meeting was held at Indore in 2021.

Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Bandlish, General Secretary, AISBISF was the convener of the meeting. He welcomed and addressed all the comrades who had come from all the nooks and corners of the Bank. The participants were above the rank of Dy. General Secretary. Sh. Bandlish acknowledged the fact that banking is evolving on a daily basis due to which he impressed upon being updated all the time. In his address, he said if all the leaders of the association keep themselves educated about staff welfare activities, schemes, leave and job rules, then only they will be able to assist and help the general staff members at large.

Sh. Arun Bhagoliwal, President AISBISF also addressed the comrades, and he praised the efforts of his General Secretary in achieving the highest and the best wage negotiation in 12th Bipartite Settlement between associations and Indian Bank's Association (IBA), a Govt. body.

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RECRUITMENT OF VACANCIES IN SCALE III, V, VI & VII ON REGULAR BASIS

Advt.No.: IPPB/CO/HR/RECT./2024-25/02

Applications are invited for appointment to the following post:

Department	Scale	Type of Employment	Designation	No. of Vacancies	Vacancy reserved for				
					UR	OBC	EWS	SC	ST
Finance	VI	Regular	DGM-Finance/CFO	1	-	1	-	-	-
	VII		General Manager - Finance/CFO	1	1	-	-	-	
Technology	V	Regular	Assistant General Manager (Program/ Vendor Management)	1	-	1	-	-	
Technology	V	Regular	Assistant General Manager (IT)	1	-	-	-	1	
Information Security	III	Regular	Senior Manager (Security Administration)	1	1	-	-	-	
Product	III	Regular	Senior Manager (Products & solutions)	3	1	1	-	-	
Internal Audit	III	Regular	Senior Manager (Information System Auditor)	1	1	-	-	-	
Operations	III	Regular	Senior Manager (ATM Operations)	1	1	-	-	-	

Horizontal Reservation is applicable for Persons with Disability (minimum 40% Disability) as per Government of India norms.

IMPORTANT DATES:

(i) Opening date for On-line Registration of Applications	20.07.2024: 10.00 AM
(ii) Last date of On-line Submission of Applications with Fee	09.08.2024: 11.59 PM

For detailed advertisement, please visit our official website <https://ippbonline.com/web/ippb/current-opening>

Place: New Delhi
Date: 20.07.2024

Sd/-
Chief HR Officer

CBC 06346/12/0004/2425

Punjab and Sind Bank Zonal Office Jalandhar organised a rally in and around Model Town, Jalandhar to promote Bank Deposit schemes like attractive interest rates of 7.95% for 666 days (for super senior citizens); PSB DHAN KUBER 7.40% for 999 days for general public. The rally was led by Zonal Manager Sh.Milind Buchke, DGM along with S.Karamjit Singh, DGM from Punjab and Sind Bank FGM Office, Chandigarh. Bank also reported 19 per cent rise in net profit to Rs.182 crore in the June 2024 quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans.

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RICH LEGACY OF INDIA'S TIMELESS CUISINE

With global trends and multinational narratives challenging the nutritional value of traditional Indian dishes, it is crucial to preserve the unique flavours and benefits that define Indian cuisine, writes **ANIL RAJPUT**

Air, water, and food are essential for life, and in India, they have had a revered status from the beginning of civilisation. In this article, I will focus on the third—Indian Food and cuisine! The history and deep connection of Bharat with food are perhaps among the oldest in the world; it is actually timeless. The people of early Vedic civilisations in India were nomadic pastoralists who practiced elaborate rituals to placate their gods. Agni, the god of fire, was considered the mouth through which the gods ate their sacrifices, and one of his favourite foods was ghee (clarified butter), which remains popular to this day. The Indus Valley Civilisation that spanned from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE was known for barley, millet, ragi, amaranth, wheat, sorghum, rice, as well as oilseeds such as sesame, linseed, and mustard.



The traditional Indian palate has evolved over centuries and includes the traditional Ayurvedic way of living, which is a 6000-year-old healthcare system and lays special emphasis on Ahara (diet) and Anna (food) as means of good life, health, and wellness. One of the fundamental teachings of Ayurvedic tradition is that everything in the universe is composed of five elements—earth, water, fire, air, and ether (space)—and the tastes are no different; each taste contains all five elements, with each taste predominantly composed of two elements. There are six such tastes: Sweet (Madhura)—Earth and water, Sour (Amla)—Earth and Fire, Salty (Lavana)—Water and Fire, Pungent (Katu)—Fire and Air, Bitter (Tiktka)—Air and Ether, Astringent (Kashaya)—Air and Earth. In addition, Ayurveda describes foods as sattvic (pure or balanced), rajasic (active or increasing the energy of the body), and tamasic (heavy or reducing the energy of the body). The Sanskrit grammarian Panini, in his work Ashtadhyayi (6th–5th century BCE), describes three categories of food: meat, lentil-based soup, and vegetables. Chanakya's Arthashastra, a manual on how to run a kingdom that may date in part to the 4th century BCE, elaborately describes how certain foods are to be prepared, most of them with spices.

Foreign invasions have had a profound impact on Indian food. When Alexander came to India in 350 BCE, several parts of the country were introduced to fresh herbs like mint, coriander, oregano, and essential oils like olive oil. The Turk-Mongol conqueror Timur brought the precursor of Biryani when he arrived at the

frontiers of India. The biryani, a celebratory meal made using meat, rice, yogurt, onion, and spices, originated in Persia but evolved in India during this era. Biryani now has multiple variants across the country, with the most popular ones credited to the Mughals and the nizams of Hyderabad. The Islamic conquest of India also introduced fruits such as apricots, melons, and plums, as well as a rich gravy style of cooking. Kebabs cooked over coals and pilaf became popular during this period and are still classified as Mughlai cuisine in present-day India.

To the east, in West Bengal and Odisha, the amount of spice used in cooking decreases, and the use of mustard oil is more common. There is much importance given in this region to 'Shadrasa' or the six basic flavours in Ayurveda, with particular emphasis on tikta (the bitter taste). The cuisine of northeastern India is rice-based—rice is grown on terraced fields in the region's hilly terrain—and freshwater fish appears in many dishes, as does pork, mutton, and chicken. This reflects the cohesive nature of Indian regional cuisines, where the use of local ingredients and the customisation/ modification



A Pillar of Corporate Leadership

ANIL RAJPUT'S leadership journey, marked by strategic roles and impactful projects, showcases his deep understanding of finance, policy matters, and stakeholder management

Anil Rajput serves as a Member, Corporate Management Committee and Head of Corporate Affairs at ITC Limited, a leading Indian conglomerate with diversified presence in FMCG, hotels, information technology, packaging, paperboards and agribusiness.

Anil Rajput joined ITC in 1976, and in the course of last 48 years, he has held various positions in the organisation. Starting his career in the finance function, he was seconded to International Travel House Limited in 1983 as part of the start-up team. During his tenure with International Travel House

Limited, he assumed the charge of General Manager-Travel at the age of 27 and laid a strong foundation for its domestic network across India.

Upon completion of his secondment in International Travel House Limited in 1989, he was assigned the responsibility in ITC's Hotels Division as Divisional Project Controller. In this assignment with the Hotels Division, he was tasked with the critical functions of finance, projects and development. He has been closely associated with iconic hotel projects like ITC Grand Maratha, Mumbai, ITC Sonar Bangla, Kolkata and ITC Grand Central, Mumbai. In the year 2003, he held the position of Vice-President - Project



Finance & Development, before he moved to ITC's Corporate Affairs function as Vice President, Corporate Affairs. Anil Rajput has been heading the Corporate Affairs Division since 2007. He is the first corporate affairs chief of

ITC to be designated as its President. With a keen global perspective, clear and deep understanding of policy matters, he is highly attuned to the developments, nuances and impact of regulatory and policy issues. Over the years, he has forged effective and strategic relationships with key stakeholders in the government, public affairs, media and the industry chambers.

In his capacity as President, Corporate Affairs he also represents the organisation in all major industry Chambers of the country like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, PHD, and International Chamber of Commerce. He is on the

Executive Committee of FICCI, ASSOCHAM, and PHD and he chairs/co-chairs various sectoral committees in these chambers. He holds the Membership of Academic / Professional organisations such as FMS and Skal International. He is a Non-Official Member of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society (Delhi Branch) and Secretary, Cuisine India Society.

He is also a Non-Executive Director on the Board of International Travel House, a subsidiary of ITC Ltd, engaged in the Travel & Tourism Business, since May 2000. Anil Rajput is an alumnus of Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University.



of dishes from different regions is done with perfection.

In southern India, rice is the staple food, and it is eaten with sambhar, a watery stew comprising lentils, tamarind, and vegetables. Many fruits and vegetables are pickled and

consumed with meals, and coconut oil and gingelly (sesame) oils are used as the mediums for cooking. Seafood is common along the coast, along with high sugar and salt content, which is scientifically supported due to the high humidity and the resulting loss of body fluids from excessive perspiration in these regions. Within southern India, there are also diverse cuisines—

Andhra, Tamil, Chettinad, Kerala, and Mangalore, among others. Each region cooks sambhar differently and uses different varieties of rice. Tamil cuisine classifies food into six tastes—sweet, sour, salty, bitter, pungent, and astringent—and aspires to include each taste in every main meal.

The west coast of India has its own distinct cuisines. In Goa,

rice and fish are staples. Goan Hindu cuisine is less spicy and includes many vegetables, though little onion and garlic. Portuguese cuisine in Goa includes meat and uses a vinegar-based gravy (vindaloo) for many dishes. The arrival of New World vegetables by way of the Portuguese in the 16th century resulted in further changes to Indian cuisines. They introduced chilies, tomatoes,

potatoes, and peanuts, and brought beans, corn, cashews, peppers, and more from the Americas. Vinegar, which is used to season achar and chutneys, was also introduced by them in India.

In coastal Maharashtra, fish and rice are quite common. Mutton Kohlapuri is famed, and then there is the legendary Pav Bhaji. Things

change within the state as well, and we find the increased consumption of millets and groundnuts in inland areas instead of rice and coconut. Further north, Gujarat is predominantly vegetarian, and most dishes have some sweetness due to the use of sugar. This is quite unique to the state and indicative of the sheer variety and changes.

A CULINARY SYMPHONY

CHEF PRATEEK SADHU and **CHEF MANISH MEHROTRA** Shine at Indian Accent Pop-Up

FOODFREAK



Pawan Soni
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

I had long yearned to savor Chef Prateek Sadhu's cuisine, which I had heard so much about. However, during my brief visit to Mumbai, I only had time for lunch, and his ingredient-driven restaurant, 'Masque,' was only open for dinner. Later, I learned about his new restaurant, 'Naar'-meaning fire in Kashmiri-near Kasauli, where all dishes are cooked over a wood fire, symbolising the passion of the entire team to deliver something extraordinary. Chef Manish Mehrotra, a household name, has given

India a strong contender in Asia's 50 Best Restaurants with Indian Accent. So, when Rohit Khattar, the media-shy promoter of Indian Accent and other popular restaurants, invited me to a unique pop-up at Indian Accent featuring both Chef Prateek and Chef Manish, I immediately said yes with great excitement. The event was graced by many luminaries from the culinary world, including Vir Sanghvi, Rocky Mohan, Rocky Singh, and Sourish da, with whom I had the pleasure of sharing a table



and discussing each dish as it arrived. **While I could detail the 12 exquisite courses we enjoyed, I'll focus on a few standout dishes:** **DIRTY TOAST BY CHEF SADHU:** This fluffy fermented wheat bread topped with trout, flavoured with Kashundi and perhaps a



hint of ketchup, was both comforting and gourmet. **GHEE LAMB BY CHEF MEHROTRA:** This dish exemplified the principle that less is more. The best meat from the shank was cooked with just four ingredients—ghee, salt, red chili, and garlic. The result was a flavour explosion, and I

guarantee you won't find better meat. **LEMON CRAB BY CHEF MEHROTRA:** Cooked with Karnataka's byadgi chili, it boasted vibrant color and flavour without being overly spicy, and was served with dried shrimp poppadom for an added crunch. **PAHADI PORK BY CHEF**

SADHU: This dish, served with bakharkhani, white butter, and fermented bamboo shoot pickle, featured a perfect fat-meat ratio and was my overall favourite. The handmade noodles called sundar-kala were also delightful. Each course was expertly paired with wine, and the desserts, such as the classic Kashmiri shafta served like a pinwheel paneer, were equally delicious. Unfortunately, the pop-up is already over. It was priced at Rs. 9800 per person for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian offerings. The food was so exceptional that I am already planning a visit to Naar to enjoy a meal in its serene environment.

"It is not part of a true culture to tame tigers, any more than it is to make sheep ferocious"
— Henry David Thoreau



INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY

Forests, which are essential carbon sinks and wildlife habitats, play a crucial role in combating climate change.

Strengthening tiger conservation programs is vital to protect their ecosystems, benefiting both tigers and humans, writes **BK SINGH** on the eve of International Tiger Day

DON'T LET THE ROAR DIE DOWN

Scientific studies have consistently brought out that the planet Earth is warming at a faster pace than ever before. The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned of the consequences of frequent and destructive climatic catastrophes if the global rise in temperature is not contained within 1.5 degrees Celsius concerning pre-industrial (1850–1900 levels). Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) dealing with the European Union's 'earth observation program' launched in January 2023, has recently taken stock of the project and found that June 2024 marks the 13th month of global temperature at 1.50 C above pre industrial levels. The monthly average surface air temperature from June 2023 to June 2024 was 16.660C and was .760C higher than the average for 1991-2020 and 1.640C above pre industrial 1850-1900 levels. So far 2023 has been the warmest year on record, but 2024 is on course to break this.

We are left with no option but to transition away from fossil fuel consumption and develop renewable energy with speed and scale. Forests are the biggest carbon sink that can suck CO2 emitted into the atmosphere due to industrial activities and fossil fuel burning. It is the home of wild animals. Forests not only provide food and shelter to wild animals but also provide a series of ecological services necessary for the survival of mankind. Tiger is at the apex of wild animals. If a tiger is saved, other wild animals and the forests are secure. Project Tiger was launched in India in 1973 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi covering nine tiger-bearing areas extending over 16338 sq km of good quality forests across the country namely Corbett, Kaziranga, Melghat, Bandipur etc. Since then many more areas have been added to the list and by now there are 53 Tiger Reserves (TRs) in India. To commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger an international conference was held at Mysuru on 9th April 2023, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The most important takeaway of the conference was the launch of the international big cat alliance to protect seven species namely tiger, leopard, jaguar, lion, snow leopard, puma and cheetah worldwide. Among 94 member countries harbouring these species, the Ministers from India, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Suriname, Tanzania, Vientiane, and Vietnam presented the status of conservation of big cat species in their country. They also pledged to conserve the species. Forests and wildlife have a symbiotic relationship and both cannot survive without the other.



BK SINGH

PROJECT TIGER WAS LAUNCHED IN INDIA IN 1973 BY THE THEN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI COVERING NINE TIGER-BEARING AREAS EXTENDING OVER 16338 SQ KM OF GOOD QUALITY FORESTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY NAMELY CORBETT, KAZIRANGA, MELGHAT, BANDIPUR ETC. SINCE THEN MANY MORE AREAS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE LIST AND BY NOW THERE ARE 53 TIGER RESERVES (TRS) IN INDIA. TO COMMEMORATE 50 YEARS OF PROJECT TIGER AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT MYSURU ON 9TH APRIL 2023, WHICH WAS INAUGURATED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

In this long journey of 50 years, the Project tiger coverage has been increased from 9 to 53 sites. The area under Project Tiger management has also been increased from 16338 sq km to 75000 sq km. Though tiger security was the focus in all 53 tiger reserves of the country, aggressive activities of interstate poaching gangs who killed tigers at will and decimated tigers from many reserves namely Sariska (Rajasthan), Panna (Madhya Pradesh), Buxa (West Bengal), Namdapha and Kamlang (Arunachal Pradesh) and Dampa (Mizoram). Project Tiger was revamped when the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was brought in 2006 and enabling provisions were made in the Wildlife (Protection) Act through amendment. A robust methodology for All India Tiger estimation was developed by our Scientists at the Wildlife Institute of India and experts from NTCA and used for tiger estimation in the same year. First first-ever exercise was carried out in all forest areas of the country, which revealed that India had 1411 tigers in the wild. Thereafter the estimation was repeated every four years that was in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022 which brought out the tiger numbers as 1710, 2226, 2967 and 3682 respectively.

An increasing trend in tiger numbers has been noticed, but the most worrying part that surfaced was the shrinkage in the areas of tiger occupancy. Though the recovery of tigers has grown from 1411 to 3682, the area of its occupancy has declined. From 92,000 sq km area in the first cycle of estimation in 2006, it has been reduced to 88,000 sq km in the fourth cycle in 2018. Despite all stringent measures the fragmentation of habitats and encroachments in forest lands have continued resulting in the loss of tiger-occupied areas. The western Ghats landscape itself has lost 527 sq km of tiger occupancy in four years between 2014 and 2018. North northeastern part of the country has lost more than 6000 sq km area under tiger occupancy in this period. Survey of India biannual report, which was last published in 2021 has assessed the change in forest cover of all tiger reserves over a decade (from 2011 to 2021). The report brings out that the forest cover has decreased by 22.62 sq km (0.04%) in this period. Twenty tiger reserves have gained in forest cover, while the remaining 33 have lost. While Buxa (West Bengal, Annamalai (Tamil Nadu) and Indravati (Chhattisgarh) have gained, Kawal (Telangana), Bhadra

(Karnataka) and Sunderbans (West Bengal) have lost.

The latest tiger estimation report about the Western Ghats landscape reads, "Majority of tiger populations remain stable and some have declined, a significant reduction of tiger occupancy has been observed throughout the landscape." Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats landscape are reported to have added tigers but several threats are looming large; The report adds "High concentration of mining activity poses a significant challenge to conservation. The forests of this region are under threat from various activities, despite their high biodiversity and conservation significance. - Tiger occupancy declined in states of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana." The description from the north eastern landscape is no different. It indicates some major threats the region is facing "The landscape has experienced extensive change in land-use patterns in the past, leading to severe loss of natural habitat." Overall, the report is positive about the increase in tiger numbers from 2967 to at least 3167; the loss in the Western Ghats

landscape has been wiped out by the gains in the central Indian landscape. Human-carnivore conflict is prevalent in several landscapes, especially where buffer forests are disturbed due to human and livestock presence. When an area of occupancy decreases and the number increases, tigers are bound to stray outside the reserve and come in conflict with humans. Forest department faces challenges across the tiger landscapes; the conflicts can disturb the relationship with communities. The country should pledge to focus on conservation even outside tiger reserves. Diversion of natural forests, whether inside or outside the tiger reserve is detrimental to conservation. There is a mechanism for paying

compensation for the loss of human life as well as livestock, but the community has to be taken in confidence. Losing tigers would mean losing tree cover and vice versa. Loss of forest cover is the loss of sink for Carbon dioxide and further warming of the planet.

The writer is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Karnataka; views are personalK

Image Source: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on X post





Photos: Pankaj Kumar

A DAZZLING DEBUT IN THE WORLD OF KUCHIPUDI

Aadya Gupta's breathtaking Kuchipudi debut, Rangapravesham, showcased her years of dedication and passion. Guided by the esteemed Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Guru Kaushalya Reddy, Aadya's performance beautifully highlighted her mastery of the classical art form, illustrating her journey from student to accomplished dancer, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

As one steps into Kamani Auditorium, they are immediately transported into the heart of a spellbinding Kuchipudi recital - Rangapravesham. This cherished milestone, marking a dancer's formal debut, was brilliantly embodied by Aadya Gupta. Under the esteemed guidance of Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardees Drs. Raja Radha Reddy and Guru Kaushalya

Reddy, Aadya's performance was a radiant showcase of her dedication and passion. Her recital not only highlighted years of rigorous training but also celebrated her remarkable journey from an earnest student to a consummate performer. The evening was more than just a performance; it was a celebration of art and tradition that captivated everyone present. The audience's presence in the hall was a tribute to the enduring

appreciation for Kuchipudi, as people from all age groups came together to admire the rich heritage of this classical dance form. The non-stop applause and standing ovation from the audience, spanning from children to elders, underscored the universal appeal and excellence of Aadya's performance. This enthusiastic response highlighted not only her individual talent but also the remarkable mentorship of her Gurus.

The evening's celebration was enhanced by a meticulous attention to detail in every aspect of the performance. The light design added a captivating depth to the visual experience, enhancing the emotional impact of the dance. The costumes and makeup, elegant and alluring, played a crucial role in bringing the traditional essence of Kuchipudi to life, ensuring that each movement was complemented by its visual presentation. A particularly magical aspect of the performance was the live orchestra, whose contribution was essential to the recital's success. The musicians created a soothing and heavenly auditory experience, particularly in the Raga Ragamaalika, which accompanied the piece "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni." The harmonious balance and deeply devotional quality of the music elevated Aadya's performance, creating a rich, immersive experience that resonated deeply with the audience. The symbiotic relationship between the dancer and the musicians underscored the true essence of classical performance, highlighting the integral role of live music in enhancing the beauty and emotional depth of the dance. The program featured a range of pieces that demonstrated Aadya's mastery over Kuchipudi's expressive depth and technical brilliance. She began with "Shree Venkateshwara Stothram," a devotional piece that set a serene tone for

the evening. This was followed by "Jathikattu" in Raag Maand and Taal Khanda Chapu, a dynamic dance that showcased her precision and rhythmic mastery. One of the evening's highlights was "Bhamakalapam," a narrative dance that vividly portrayed Satyabhama's intense love for Krishna. Aadya's nuanced performance captured the emotional complexity of the character, showcasing her ability to convey deep emotions through her dance. Her rendition of "Chhaap Tilak Sab Cheeni," a poem by the 14th-century Sufi mystic Amir Khusro, was another standout, blending romantic and devotional themes in a mesmerizing performance. The recital concluded with "Tarangam," a traditional Kuchipudi piece celebrating Lord Krishna's childhood stories. Aadya's skillful execution of intricate footwork on a brass plate was a breathtaking display of her virtuosity and command over the dance form. Drs. Raja and Radha Reddy, along with Kaushalya Reddy, have played a pivotal role in promoting Kuchipudi globally. Their unique choreographic style and ability to blend tradition with modern sensibilities have garnered them numerous accolades. Natya Tarangini, founded in 1976, stands as a testament to their dedication and vision, nurturing countless dancers over the years. Aadya's journey, shaped by the disciplined and compassionate guidance of her Gurus, reflects the transformative power of Kuchipudi. The institute's focus on technical precision and emotional depth has enabled her to perform on prestigious platforms across India. This debut marks not just an achievement but a new beginning for Aadya, promising greater heights in her dance journey. Aadya Gupta's Rangapravesham was a radiant celebration of her talent and dedication. The performance, accentuated by beautiful lighting, elegant costumes and a supportive audience, was a seamless blend of technical brilliance and emotional depth. The live orchestra's contribution added a magical dimension, making the evening an immersive experience that beautifully highlighted the essence of Kuchipudi. The overwhelming appreciation from attendees, coupled with the meticulous execution of every element of the recital, left a lasting impression. With the unwavering support of her family, friends and mentors, Aadya is poised to achieve even greater success in her future endeavors.



A Celebration of Connection

M-tastic's inaugural Mother & Kids Exhibition offers a perfect blend of quality shopping and interactive fun. This vibrant event celebrates the special bond between mothers and children, featuring curated products and engaging activities that create unforgettable family moments, says **TEAM AGENDA**



In a world where family moments meet unforgettable experiences, M-tastic's inaugural Mother & Kids Exhibition has set a new benchmark for joy and connection. This enchanting event celebrates the special bond between mothers and their children, blending quality shopping, imaginative play and creative activities into a magical experience for families. Founded by Suryashi Juneja and Surbhi Sachdeva, the exhibition reflects their combined expertise and passion. Suryashi, a seasoned chartered accountant with a background in logistics, and Surbhi, who holds dual MBAs and extensive corporate experience, have crafted an event dedicated to enhancing family life. Their goal is to bridge the gap between emerging homegrown brands and discerning parents, providing a premier platform for quality brands and enthusiastic parents to connect and discover. The exhibition features a curated selection of products catering to every child's needs. Visitors are greeted with chic clothing, imaginative toys, innovative educational tools and stylish accessories. Highlights include the Norah Kids Collection and PNK by

Isha Arora, which offer adorable pink dresses capturing the essence of childhood wonder. Tiny COCO adds to the excitement with its chic finds for little minds, appealing to both children and their parents. Beyond shopping, the event is a celebration of creativity and fun. Children can participate in art workshops, science experiments, dynamic STEM projects and cupcake decorating. Face painting, gel nail art and a dedicated play area provide endless entertainment, while older kids enjoy exciting games. The creative free art corner stands out, allowing children to express their artistic talents and share special moments with their families. Seeing their faces light up with joy and concentration highlights the simple yet profound pleasures of childhood. A standout feature is the face painting, adding a special touch of joy to the event. Children and mothers are thrilled to see their favourite stars and characters come to life with vibrant designs. A particularly heartwarming sight was a little girl with a doll painted on her face in sparkling glitter, capturing the fun and creativity that define the exhibition. The event also includes free nail art by the talented Vaishali

Nagpal. Her decision to offer this service at no charge underscores the significance of such exhibitions in providing small businesses with a valuable platform. Vaishali's work adds glamour to the day and highlights how events like M-tastics play a crucial role in supporting the visibility and growth of emerging brands. This commitment enriches the experience for all attendees. Another highlight is the variety of stalls. Rakhi stands by a mother-daughter duo buzzing with activity as children eagerly choose their favourite designs, reflecting the creativity and personal touch of the event. The Ritwik Collection, featuring handmade tote bags and file folders crafted by a mother-son duo, exemplifies collaborative creativity and practical products from small businesses. M-tastic's dedication to a holistic experience is evident in its food offerings. Health-conscious parents will appreciate the homemade bakery items and granola bites from Pinks & Grumps, crafted without preservatives. Sanchita's Gourmet Medleys provides a selection of additive-free snacks, including Nutri Hexas cheese basil crackers and Millet Murukku. This focus on wholesome, artisanal products underscores the organizer's commitment to creating a nurturing environment for families. In essence, M-tastic's Mother & Kids Exhibition resonates with laughter, joy and discovery. It has set a new standard for family-centric celebrations and illuminated the beauty of shared experiences. Families leave with hands full of delightful finds and hearts brimming with cherished memories, experiencing a renewed sense of wonder and connection. M-tastic's dedication to thoughtful curation and the joy of family moments ensures that this exhibition will be remembered as a radiant chapter in the story of family celebrations.

Discover the Depths of Abstraction

Tejinder Kanda's latest exhibition is a vivid exploration of the human psyche, inviting viewers to delve into the realm of self-discovery through a mesmerising display of abstract artistry

BY **TEAM AGENDA**

Tejinder Kanda's latest exhibition, "In-Within," at the Shridharani Art Gallery, is a profound exploration of the human psyche through abstract art. Kanda, a celebrated contemporary artist known for his evocative and thought-provoking pieces, continues to push the boundaries of abstraction with this new series. The exhibition features 32 artworks, each painted with acrylic on canvas, offering viewers an opportunity to engage with art that is both visually stunning and deeply introspective. Kanda's work in this exhibition showcases a mastery of abstract techniques, utilising impasto methods and a vibrant palette to create canvases that evoke a powerful emotional response. The use of impasto techniques adds a tactile dimension to his work, inviting viewers to experience the paintings not just visually, but almost physically. This adds depth and complexity, drawing the audience into the layered and textured world Kanda creates. The swirling strokes and tonal gradations are reminiscent of the Abstract Expressionist movement, echoing the work of artists like Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. However, Kanda's approach is distinct in its exploration of the "unidentified and unknown," pushing beyond the traditional confines of abstraction. Kanda's versatility as an artist is evident in his wide range of influences and mediums. While this exhibition focuses on acrylic paintings, Kanda's artistic practice extends to vibrant silk-screen prints and ceramics, showcasing his ability to adapt and explore various forms of artistic expression. This diversity is a monument to Kanda's commitment to exploring the creative process in its many facets, providing a richer context for understanding his work. It also speaks to his broader artistic philosophy that art is not confined to a single medium or style, but is a continually evolving dialogue between artist, material,



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

and audience. The palette in "In-Within" is notably varied, ranging from earthy tones of reds and browns to cool blues, purples and greens. This wide spectrum of color not only reflects Kanda's skillful use of color theory but also the emotional depth of his work. He also incorporates pinks, pastels and yellows, which are traditionally seen as more feminine colors. However, Kanda employs them with a vigorous application and powerful strokes that inject a masculine energy into his paintings, subverting traditional color associations.

This interplay of color and technique creates a dynamic tension in the artwork, allowing viewers to experience a range of emotions from calmness and contentment to intensity and excitement. One of the most compelling aspects of Kanda's work is his ability to capture the passage of time and emotion. The fluid application of watered-down acrylics allows him to layer colors in a way that reflects his emotions and thoughts at the moment of creation. This technique gives his work a sense of immediacy and authenticity, inviting viewers to connect with the artist's emotional journey. It's as if each painting captures a fleeting moment in Kanda's personal exploration of his own psyche, offering a glimpse into his inner world. The exhibition is curated by Georgina Maddox, who highlights the transformative power of abstraction in Kanda's work. Maddox emphasises how abstraction goes beyond the physical realm, allowing viewers to connect with the intangible essence of the world. In this regard, Kanda's work invites the audience to engage in a shared journey of self-discovery. His art dissolves the boundaries between the physical and the metaphysical, revealing the true essence of the human experience. In "In-Within," Tejinder Kanda offers more than just an art exhibition; he provides a profound and introspective experience that invites viewers to look beyond the surface and engage with the deeper layers of meaning and emotion embedded in his work. This series represents a significant milestone in Kanda's artistic journey, as he delves into the depths of his psyche, translating his internal exploration into a visually stunning and emotive body of work. The exhibition is a tribute to Kanda's skill and creativity, offering a compelling exploration of the human condition that is both intimate and universal. "In-Within" offers a unique opportunity to experience the transformative power of abstract art in a profoundly personal and meaningful way.



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

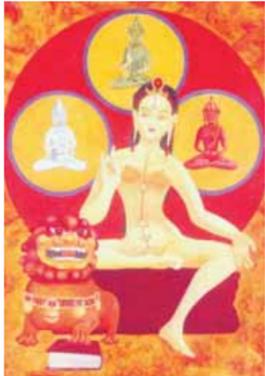
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week, you may sense a feeling of constraint or restriction in your enthusiasm and energy. External influences might be causing you to perceive barriers that don't actually exist. It's advisable to approach situations with care and thoughtful planning. Stay alert to any misleading situations and steer clear of unneeded risks. Employ your sharp intellect and adaptability to tackle challenges effectively. Remember, obstacles are just temporary hurdles. This period calls for using your inherent resourcefulness and flexibility to navigate through any difficulties and liberate yourself from any self-imposed limitations. Focus on being proactive yet thoughtful to accomplish your objectives during this time. Embrace patience; it will be your ally in turning challenges into stepping stones for success.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, your creative energies and nurturing spirit are heightened, making it an ideal time for artistic projects and deepening relationships. Express your true self and foster meaningful connections with those close to you. This period brings a surge of abundance and creativity, highlighting growth in both personal and professional spheres. Embrace your innate ability to lead with kindness and generosity. This is a moment to appreciate your accomplishments and take pride in what you have created. Prioritize self-care and engage in activities that enhance your well-being. This season in your life is marked by a significant boost in confidence and energy, empowering you to excel in various pursuits and make a positive impact.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you may encounter challenges or unexpected setbacks. The universe is encouraging you to stay strong and keep going. When facing obstacles, draw on your innate ability to adapt and find creative solutions. This period calls for courage and a readiness to explore new territories. Embrace these tests as opportunities to strengthen your resolve and assert your convictions. Your natural curiosity and eagerness to learn will guide you through any difficulties. Let this time be a lesson in growth and discovery, as you harness your inner strength to navigate through any adversities that come your way. Embrace this journey with an open heart and mind, ready to learn from each experience.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week brings a strong focus on self-reflection. While reminiscing about the past can offer valuable insights, it's crucial not to get lost in thoughts of what might have been. You might find yourself feeling somewhat disconnected or unsatisfied with where you are right now. It's essential to take this time to evaluate your ambitions and desires, as there's possibly a deep-seated yearning for more meaningful experiences. Avoid focusing too much on perceived deficiencies, which can obscure potential avenues for personal development and appreciation. Instead, stay engaged with the present. Finding joy in your current situation and exploring creative pursuits or rekindling connections with close ones could spark fresh motivation and emotional enrichment. Be open to new possibilities that may emerge, inviting transformative experiences into your life.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Denim Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week presents a challenge to your meticulous planning and dedication. You may face unexpected delays or setbacks that test your ability to stay on track. Despite these obstacles, it's crucial to maintain your focus and adjust your strategies accordingly. You might find yourself managing multiple tasks and feeling overwhelmed by responsibilities. To prevent burnout, prioritize your workload and consider delegating tasks where possible. Patience and persistence are essential as you navigate this period. Setting achievable goals and pacing yourself will help conserve your energy. Don't hesitate to seek support from colleagues or friends, as collaborative efforts can significantly ease your burden. Staying organized and communicating effectively will be key in overcoming these challenges.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, your drive for achievement is exceptionally strong. You'll find yourself encouraged to take decisive steps toward your objectives, infused with an energy and zeal that will fuel your pursuits. This is an excellent time to embrace new opportunities and invest your efforts in inventive projects. The groundwork you lay now promises to yield fruitful outcomes. Trust your intuition and make courageous moves to turn your aspirations into reality. Focus on meticulous planning and maintaining self-discipline; these will be your keys to enduring success in your ventures. Stay committed, and watch as your efforts gradually lead to significant achievements. Remember, perseverance is essential, as the most rewarding accomplishments often require sustained effort.

Lucky number 23 | Lucky colour Lemon
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week calls for careful decision-making as you might find yourself drawn toward quick fixes or unhelpful attachments. The current cosmic setup might challenge your resistance to immediate pleasures, emphasizing the importance of choices that support your future aspirations. Resist the urge to fall into old habits or behaviors that obstruct your progress. It's crucial to address any deep-seated fears or restrictive beliefs that may be limiting your growth. Avoid excessive indulgence in physical comforts or negative thinking. Try to channel this energy to productive projects and chores. Communication is also key this week; speak thoughtfully and aim for clear, effective exchanges to navigate through potentially intense discussions.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Lilac
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you may encounter some challenging interactions that could test your diplomatic abilities. It's a time when differing views might surface, prompting the need for thoughtful negotiation and tactful communication. To keep the peace and ensure all parties feel valued, it's essential to listen actively and propose solutions that accommodate diverse viewpoints. Such an approach not only fosters mutual respect but also enhances your ability to navigate through disagreements without compromising the respect between all involved. Embrace these moments as opportunities for growth, allowing you to refine your skills in mediating and creating cohesive environments. This approach will help maintain a sense of balance and respect in all your interactions.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week focuses on cultivating tranquility and a sense of security. It's an excellent time to foster your personal connections and ensure your living space is a haven of comfort. Engage closely with your friends and family, showing gratitude and relishing quiet, serene moments together. You might find that your support network is particularly uplifting now, contributing to a nurturing environment. Take a moment to recognize the positive aspects of your life and commemorate your accomplishments with those close to you. This period is ideal for reinforcing relationships and creating cherished memories. Trust your inner feelings and emotional perceptions to guide you in your social exchanges, helping you to strengthen your bonds with important people in your life.

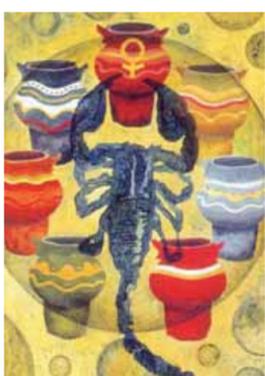
Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, your intuitive senses are exceptionally acute. Embrace your profound emotional insight and heightened sense of justice. Current influences favor straightforward communication and assertive actions. It's a prime moment to advocate for your values and defend your positions. You'll find that clarity comes easily now, enhancing your ability to navigate complex issues and generate innovative solutions. Your knack for dispelling ambiguity and viewing situations from new angles is amplified. Take this chance to speak up boldly and share your thoughts with conviction. As you navigate through the week, rely on your inner guidance to ensure your choices resonate with your core emotional desires. Your inner wisdom will lead you towards positive life.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Emerald Green
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week is centered on deep personal reflection and embracing solitude. Current celestial alignments prompt a journey into your own feelings, urging you to connect deeply with your inner guidance. Dedicate moments for personal introspection, perhaps through journaling, as this process will help refine your clarity and vision. Trust your internal compass to guide you through any uncertainties or decisions that arise. Prioritize self-care and take some time to think about your goals. Give yourself the space to recharge and connect with your true desires. Use this period as a chance for meaningful self-discovery. This period is marked by significant personal transformation, encouraging you to welcome change and let go of any old patterns or beliefs that hinder your progress.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week focuses on finding peace and stability. Planetary influences encourage nurturing your relationships and creating a sense of comfort at home. Connect with loved ones, express appreciation, and enjoy moments of tranquility. You may find yourself surrounded by supportive friends or family, fostering a positive and nurturing atmosphere. Take time to appreciate the blessings in your life and celebrate achievements with those close to you. It's a favorable period for strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories. Trust your intuition and emotional insights to navigate social interactions and deepen connections with those who matter most. This is an ideal time to focus on building harmonious relationships and cherishing the warmth and support of your loved ones.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Monday

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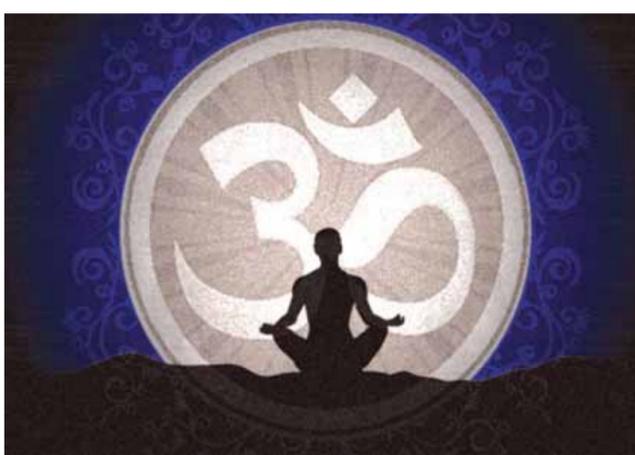


ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Three dimensions of 'Om?'

'Om?' is supposedly indivisible but said to have in its womb three modes of Shakti - Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa, and so termed as Shakti-trinity. Each of them is marked with individual specific functional aspects of creation process. They are also identified with attributes manifested in human beings. It doesn't mean that Om split into three different modes. Om sound corresponds to causal stress arising at primordial source, which when gravitated, three different energy variants inherent with the primordial source got excited. The word Shakti need not be mistaken as being synonymous with energy as we understand in modern sense. Here, it is worth adding that mechanically excited energy does not have a drive of its own. It will move the way it gets directed. Shakti on the contrary, is believed to be a self-intelligent force, which involuntarily subscribes to self-evolved design parameters underlying the making of this world. It is in this sense that Shakti is perceived as self-conscious enough to follow nature driven design parameters. Had it not been true, a dynamic world would not

have spontaneously come into being, which has been doing its rounds in an orderly fashion since time immemorial, and with absolute precision. And all through its run, the forces in play remain in perfect harmony and balance. We call Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa, as three modes of Shakti. They are marked with three functional aspects of the world process. The three, working in unison, excited a creation chain that progressively evolved into the manifest plural world. Self-intelligent that they supposedly are, led them get drawn towards each other to carry forward the creation chain. It is pertinent to note here that though the three are believed to be marked with varying attributes, they do not have any relevance in isolation. They carry meaning only when acting in support of each other as a collective organism to carry forward the creation chain. Though at different stages of evolutionary chain, the attribute of one or the other may be prominently in evidence, but simultaneously the other two would be playing a supportive role from the background. As per the second law of



thermodynamics, once there is entropy (disorder), it multiplies. So, following causal stress (disorder) at the primal-source, energy trinity got excited. That followed random mutation of the three modes of energy, which led to emergence of voluminous streams of

differentiated energies. Evolved thus, step-by-step, the corporeal world of forms and names together with all dynamic mechanisms' operative in between. And since matter and energy are inter-convertible, so has the world with form and name come out of forces

in play in the world process. Here, it may not be out of place to draw a parallel between emergence of three Shakti variants and the nuclear fission process. Following nuclear fission, each nuclei of a radioactive substance splits into three and then multiply in geometric progression. It sounds reason, if we hypothesize that the Big-Bag event would be nothing short of nuclear reaction type of an event. Even the issuance of energies with a roaring Hum? sound as described in Indian scriptures should also fall in the same category. Inferential logic would suggest that it would be quite fair to hypothesize the Primal-Source as the self-intelligent 'Energy-Whole'. The issuance of the inlaid constituents set into motion the creation chain, which finally culminated in the manifest plural world. Premise on which the shakti-trinity stand. Out of the above three Shakti variants, Sata (the eternal reality) supposedly carries in its womb the seeds of creation - the radical potential to manifest into a world with form and name. Rajasa is said to be the activating force, which

stirs up the seeds of creation. Tamasa, with its inherent sense of inertia has the capacity to bind whatever is subtle within the limitation of form. On this strength, it holds on what Rajasa stirred up, and then objectifies them into form-existence with name. It is something like forces of two opposite polarities such as male and female principles converging for the sake of creation. Sata, further lends support to provide temporary stability to the objectified form-existence, which could be captured by our cognitive instruments. Here again, the convergence of the three Shakti variants, provides the ground necessary for us to have a feel of the presence of "The fundamental element of Consciousness" in the form of life sparks available to all dynamic existences. The Shakti variants, thus, serve as three aspects of creative intelligences of nature, vital to carry forward the world process. *The issue continues.....*

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