



WORLD 5

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE HITS SCHOOL IN GAZA

MONEY 6

INDIA STEEL PRODUCTION TO CROSS 300MT BY 2030

SPORT 8

DAVID'S MESSAGE TO GAMBHIR

Published From DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JULY 28, 2024; PAGES 8-4 ₹5



Established 1864 Sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



HOW MANY MORE?

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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 Macchal, 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 Dossa 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



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

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.



Prime Minister Modi to visit Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister 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.

Continued on Page 2

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?

Mega PTM organised across Govt city schools



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A mega Parents Teachers Meeting (PTM) was conducted across the Delhi government and MCD schools on Saturday. Delhi Education Minister Atishi visited some of these schools located in East of Kailash and Kalkaji, and interacted with the parents and students there. During the visit, the AAP minister encouraged parents to participate in the Mega PTM and said it was vital for discussing ways to improve children's learning and performance with teachers. "The Mega PTM brings parents and teachers together and helps them to make better strategies for the future of children. It is important because the responsibility for children's education and progress does not lie with

a single person. Our children will progress only when teachers and parents together pay attention to their studies," she said. The education minister appealed to parents to spend at least half an hour with their children and try to understand their problems. "Due to the joint efforts of parents and teachers, schools under the Kejriwal government have been included in the top schools of the country. And now, it is the turn to make MCD schools world-class. This initiative of Mega PTM is the result of the vision of CM Arvind Kejriwal, which has worked to increase the connection between parents and teachers. It will play an important role in bringing an education revolution in MCD schools," she said.

Modi meets CMs of BJP ruled States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held deliberations with chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of BJP-ruled states over a host of issues. The "mukhyamantri parishad" organised by the BJP at regular intervals is aimed at reviewing key schemes in states, following the best governance practices and the delivery of central government welfare initiatives. Besides Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah and J P Nadda, who is also the party president, chief ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Bhajanlal Sharma (Rajasthan) and Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha) were among the leaders who attended the first day of the two-day meeting here. Chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Manipur and Chhattisgarh were also part of the deliberations. The leaders at times also take stock of the political situation. < The meeting includes two sessions where BJP leaders will discuss the Lok Sabha election results. The agenda of the meeting include analysis of the 2024 Lok Sabha results to identify areas to be improved, strategy for the upcoming assembly polls and implementation of the states and centre's schemes at ground level.

Dhankhar leads plantation drive as part of Ek Ped Maa ke Naam campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday led a massive plantation drive in the National Capital as part of the ambitious "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" campaign that aims at increasing the green cover and enriching the ecology. He planted a sapling in the honour of his mother Kesari Devi at the Asita, an ecological park developed by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on the eastern floodplains of Yamuna opposite ITO in New Delhi. Dhankhar planted a sapling of Tabebuia Rosea (commonly known as rosy trumpet tree), a flowering tree species, along the greenway of Asita. His wife Sudesh Dhankhar also planted a sapling in the honour of her mother Bhagvati Devi at Asita. Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Justice Prakash Srivastava also planted saplings in the honour of their mothers Vedvati Saxena and Kamla Srivastava, respectively, at the venue. The saplings planted at Asita included Jamun, Gular, Tabebuia, Arjun, Shisham, Guava, Largestroemia and Jacaranda. Simultaneously, a total of 1,11,111 trees were planted on Saturday in various parks and green belts of Delhi by the DDA, other agencies, students, RWAs, common Delhi residents and officials. Dhankhar interacted with over



250 school children, who had assembled at Asita for the plantation drive, and administered them a pledge that they would also urge their family members to plant trees for a greener and sustainable Delhi. The school children too planted saplings at Asita Park with great enthusiasm. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President appealed for making the "EkPedMaakeNaam" campaign a huge success and said tree plantation was the easiest, yet the most effective way of protecting our environment. He said as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, he has also urged every Member of Parliament to plant at least 200 trees, as their contribution to protect the nature. Notably, on the World Environment Day this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' Campaign, with an aim to increase the green cover and protect the environment. The Vice-President, who also went for bird-watching and took a ride of the Asita Park

along its wetlands and the grasslands, appreciated the DDA for painstakingly and scientifically restoring this stretch of the Yamuna floodplain into a bio-diversity park, which was just two years ago, lying as a polluted and degraded land under heavy encroachment. During the nature walk, Dhankhar was explained at length the scientific process of ecological succession used by DDA for restoration of Yamuna Flood Plains at Asita and several other locations in Delhi. Senior officers of Delhi Government and DDA, including Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and DDA Vice Chairman Subhashish Panda also participated in the plantation drive at Asita, including trees in their mothers' name. It may be noted that Asita has been developed as a bio-diversity park over 225 acres of land on the Yamuna Floodplains, which was, till May 2022, under massive encroachment by squatters and stray cattle that were polluting Yamuna severely.

INBRIEF

TRANS BRAHMA LAUNCHES BOOK GEOPOLITICS REDEFINED

New Delhi: Trans Brahma proudly announces the successful launch of the revolutionary book "GEOPOLITICS REDEFINED"- Punctured Truths & Glamourised Lies" by renowned strategic thinker and polymath K. Siddhartha. The event, held on July 25, 2024, at the Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, was a resounding success, drawing a distinguished audience of diplomats, academics, and thought leaders. Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), officiated the book launch, praising Siddhartha's work as "a crucial contribution to our understanding of modern geopolitics." The event featured engaging discussions on the book's themes, with panellists including Ambassador Deepak Vohra offering insightful commentary on the changing landscape of international relations.



ASSAM'S TANGLA STATION TO BE REDEVELOPED

Malgao: In a bid to further enhance rail facilities in Northeast and Assam, Rs. 10,369 crores have been allocated in the interim Budget 2024-25 for Railway infrastructure projects. Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), 60 stations in Northeast are being redeveloped with world class amenities/facilities. Among the selected railway stations, Tangla railway station in Assam will receive a significant facelift under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at a cost of Rs. 14.14 crores. The revamping of this station will provide modern state-of-the-art amenities to the railway users.



Rain lashes parts of city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Parts of Delhi on Saturday were lashed by rain, and the maximum temperature was recorded at 36.3 degrees Celsius, 1.4 notch above the season's average. The commuters are advised to take alternative routes due to waterlogging and uprooting of trees reported in some areas across Delhi.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minimum temperature settled at 28.2 degrees Celsius, one notch above the season's average. The weather department has predicted a generally cloudy sky with light rain on Sunday. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 36 and 29 degrees Celsius.

Setback for Ajit as senior leader Babajani returns to Sharad led NCP

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In another major setback to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP in the run-up to the October 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls, its senior leader from Parbhani and former MLC Abdullah Babajani Khan Durrani returned to the Opposition NCP and parent party headed by Sharad Pawar on Saturday. Revealing that he was feeling "awkward" to continue in the NCP (Ajit Pawar), a constituent of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led MahaYuti because of his "ideological differences" with the BJP, Babajani Durrani -- Abdullah Babajani Khan Durrani is popularly known -- joined the NCP (SP) in the presence of Sharad Pawar at a function held in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar (erstwhile Aurangabad). Babajani Durrani's return to the NCP comes a week after the NCP (Ajit Pawar)'s Pimpri unit chief Ajit Gavahane and



three other leaders quit the party and joined the rival NCP (Sharad Pawar). Speaking at the function where he was welcomed into the parent party which he had quit after a vertical split in the united NCP engineered by Ajit Pawar on July 2, 2023, Babajani Durrani said: "Two the split in the NCP, I had joined the Ajit Pawar-led party due to some reasons and also the advice I had received from some people. I have not betrayed Sharad Pawar ji. I have been with him

since 1980. At a time when the party set up in 1999 was growing, I had ensured the victory of several municipal councilors in the municipal councils of Pathri, Parthur and Osmanabad in Marathwada." "Parbhani is a stronghold of NCP. When the party split in July last year, I stayed with the Sharad Pawar-led group for the first two months. However, after that, for some inexplicable reasons and the advice I received, I joined the Ajit Pawar-led NCP," Babajani

Durrani said. "The Muslim minority community is under tremendous stress in my region. Muslims are disenchanted with the parties that are in alliance with the BJP. Under such circumstances it was awkward for me to continue with such a party (Ajit Pawar-led NCO) any longer, hence I am joining the NCP (SP)." Durrani's entry to the NCP (SP) came a day after his son Junaid met State NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) state chief Jayant Patil and conveyed his father's desire to join the Sharad Pawar-led party and sought ticket for his father to contest from the Pathri Assembly constituency, which is part of the Parbhani Lok Sabha constituency. An ex-MLA and two-time MLC who has long keen to contest the State Assembly polls, Durrani is likely to be fielded as a candidate from Pathri. His term as an MLC ended on Saturday.

NCRTC introduces new features in RRTS Connect application

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region (NCRTC) has introduced new features in the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Connect application, including ticket booking, live train tracking, and station navigation. According to the statement, the NCRTC has rolled out new updates to the RRTS Connect app, making travel on Namo Bharat trains smoother and more convenient. Available on Google Play and the Apple Store, the app now includes many new features alongside ticket booking, ensuring a more comfortable journey for passengers on the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor, it said. "Passengers can book their journey tickets under the 'plan your journey' option on the app, with payments accepted via UPI, debit or credit card, and net banking. Users can also access their transaction histo-



ry to review details about their previous journeys and download invoices," it read. "NCRTC has introduced a live train tracking feature that shows passengers the real-time status and tracking of Namo Bharat trains available at their station in the next 30 minutes. Additionally, it provides information about the next station in the direction of Delhi or Meerut, the distance to it, and the estimated arrival time. The app also offers a complete timetable of train services, including start and end times for all days of the week," the statement said.

The feeder bus services feature on the app provides comprehensive information about bus stops near the starting point of the journey and the nearest available RRTS station, including bus arrival and departure times for better travel planning, it stated. Additionally, the RRTS passengers can book bikes, autos, and cabs at stations through a link to the Rapido app, allowing easy ride booking. These features effectively address the crucial need for last-mile connectivity, it said. The station facilities option provides extensive information to enhance your travel experience. It displays the name and location of the nearest RRTS station, along with key nearby landmarks. Details on drinking water and restroom availability, entry and exit gate status, and which gates are open for passengers are also included, the statement said. The app provides platform information, train directions,

and the operational status of lifts and escalators. Additionally, it offers parking information, showing the number of two-wheeler and four-wheeler parking spaces available. The app includes the complete station layout design of the platform and concourse levels, making navigation and planning easy, it stated. Furthermore, the contact number for the station control room is provided in the app. Passengers can contact the control room for assistance or send WhatsApp messages for help or suggestions. The app also provides information about major attractions near RRTS corridor stations and includes a system map for passengers to learn about all the stations on the corridor, it said. The lost and found feature on the app lists all recovered items, along with the date, time, and station where they were found, and includes the procedure for recovery, the statement added.

Three killed, two injured in Belapur building collapse

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Three persons were killed and two others injured, when a four-storey building collapsed at Belapur in Navi Mumbai in the early hours of Saturday. As many as 52 residents had a narrow escape as the ground-plus-three storied building "Indira Nivas" at Shahbazgaon village located near Belapur town in Navi Mumbai caved in like a proverbial pack of cards at around 4.30 am. The residents in the 10-year-old building, which housed 13

flats and three commercial shops, collapsed all of a sudden, when the residents were sleeping at their homes. All three persons killed in the mishap were migrants from Uttar Pradesh. They were identified as Mohammed Meraj Altaf Hussain (30), who hailed from Karanpur in Pratapgarh in Uttar Pradesh, Shafiq Ansari (29) and Miraj Saif Ansari, (24), both of whom belonged to Lohinda village in Jaunpur district. Two persons were injured in the mishap, while other residents managed to run out of the building as it crashed.

Yogi Govt gears up to provide world-class health services Maha Kumbh-2025

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is set to offer world-class health services to the devotees attending Maha Kumbh 2025, with a significant investment of approximately Rs 125 crore allocated for 18 health-related projects. This funding will be utilised to upgrade hospitals in the Mela area, Prayagraj city, and community health centres and primary health centres located along routes leading to the event. The facilities will be equipped with advanced technology to enhance service quality. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, 43 temporary hospitals will be established in the Mela area to ensure optimal health services for the devotees. Additionally, 305 beds will be reserved across four city hospitals. To ensure continuous care for the pilgrims coming to Prayagraj, doctors and paramedical staff will be on duty 24x7 to manage emergency situations effectively. Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand stated that Chief Minister Yogi is continuously monitoring the preparations for Kumbh mela and giving necessary directions to ensure the grand and safe

organisation of Maha Kumbh 2025. As per his vision, 18 health-related projects are being implemented in Prayagraj at an estimated cost of around Rs 125 crore. To date, Rs 41.73 lakh have been released by the government for health-related works, and an additional Rs 57.97 lakh have been approved and will be released soon. Additional Director (Health) Dr Rakesh Sharma mentioned that the government initially allocated Rs 28 crore for upgrading four hospitals in the city -- Motilal Nehru Hospital (Colvin), Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital, State Tuberculosis Hospital (Teliyaganj), and District Women's Hospital (Dufferin). These hospitals are reserving 305 beds for devotees, with 50 beds specifically reserved for female devotees at Dufferin Hospital. Furthermore, Rs 13.73 lakh have been allocated for ambulances, biomedical waste management, mortuary vehicles, disaster management and office expenses. This fund will be used to deploy 125 road ambulances, 20 river ambulances and one air ambulance. Joint Director of Health, Dr Vivek Kumar Mishra, stated that to accommodate the needs

of devotees, the Maha Kumbh Mela area has been divided into 25 sectors. Accordingly, 43 temporary hospitals with a total of 380 beds are being established in the Mela area. This includes a 100-bed central temporary hospital, two 25-bed sub-central temporary hospitals, two 20-bed infectious disease temporary hospitals, and eight 20-bed temporary hospitals in eight sectors. These hospitals will cover approximately three sectors of the Mela area. Additionally, 10 first aid posts with one bed each and 20 outpatient health posts are being set up. These health posts will be located at parking lots, stalls and other locations. A budget of Rs 14.25 lakh has been allocated for these facilities. Furthermore, Rs 10 crore will be spent to control vector-borne diseases in the Mela area. To cover the costs of food, surgical items and local purchase of medicines for patients admitted to these hospitals, Rs 12.73 lakh is being spent. Additionally, Rs 21.24 lakh is being spent on upgrading 12 community health centres (CHCs), two primary health centres (PHCs), a post-mortem house, and a drug warehouse located on the way to the Mela area.

Mamata...

From Page 1

Mamata said she mentioned during the meeting that the BJP-led Centre presented a politically-biased Budget and asked why it was discriminating among States. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin came out in support of his West Bengal counterpart. Opposition parties have alleged that the States ruled by them have been ignored in the Union Budget presented recently in the Lok Sabha. Chief Ministers of the INDIA Bloc -- Stalin (DMK), Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan (CPI-M), Punjab's Bhagwant Mann (Aam Aadmi Party), Congress's Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh) and Revanth Reddy (Telangana), and Jharkhand's Hemant Soren (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha) -- skipped the NITI Aayog meeting. The cause for Bihar CM's absence from the crucial meeting could not be known immediately and the State was represented by Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha. Kumar, who after the Centre's announcement of the decline of Special Status Category quipped last week that all will know everything "slowly, slowly," chaired a meeting of his party at his official residence. The meeting was attended by JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, among others. In his address to the ninth Governing Council meeting at

CSIR-NEIST scientist, official among 4 arrested by CBI on bribery charges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested four people, including an official and a principal scientist of the Jorhat-based CSIR-NEIST for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 8 lakh from a businessman to pass an equipment purchase contract, officials said on Saturday. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST) is a research and development organisation based in Assam's Jorhat. The Institute's Controller of Stores and Purchase (COSP) Praveer Mohan Verma and Principal Scientist Prasenjit Manna were taking the bribe from Kangan Kashyap of KKK Technologies Pvt. Ltd and his brother Angkan Borpujari for favouring the company and passing a bill for the supply of a spectrophotometer and its associated software, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) alleged. The probe agency laid a trap and arrested Manna, Verma and Borpujari in Jorhat on Friday, and Kashyap from Guwahati on Saturday, the officials said. The CBI has also conducted searches at 18 locations in Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, they said.

The CBI has arrested four people, including an official and a principal scientist of the Jorhat-based CSIR-NEIST for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 8 lakh from a businessman to pass an equipment purchase contract, officials said on Saturday. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST) is a research and development organisation based in Assam's Jorhat. The Institute's Controller of Stores and Purchase (COSP) Praveer Mohan Verma and Principal Scientist Prasenjit Manna were taking the bribe from Kangan Kashyap of KKK Technologies Pvt. Ltd and his brother Angkan Borpujari for favouring the company and passing a bill for the supply of a spectrophotometer and its associated software, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) alleged. The probe agency laid a trap and arrested Manna, Verma and Borpujari in Jorhat on Friday, and Kashyap from Guwahati on Saturday, the officials said. The CBI has also conducted searches at 18 locations in Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, they said.

Alert issued in places along Krishna, Cauvery river basins due to heavy rain

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has urged people living in low-lying areas along eight rivers on the Krishna and Cauvery basins, which have recorded severe water level (above danger line), to be on high alert. As of Saturday, in Krishna basin, the water level in River Ghataprabha at the Gokak falls station in Belagavi, River Kumudvati in Kuppelur station in Haveri and River Tunga in Shivamogga, Mahishi and Chikkamagalur

districts is way past its danger level. In the Cauvery basin, River Hemavathi at Bettadamane station in Chikkamagalur, River Harangi at Mukkodlu station in Kodagu and River Cauvery in Kollegal station in Chamrajnagara are likely to flood low-lying areas. Except for River Harangi, water levels of all other rivers are consistently rising due to torrential rains in the basin areas. Meanwhile, district collector of Chamarajnagara, Shilpa Nag C T, issued a flood alert to low-lying villages.



Govt. of Haryana



Mhara Haryana

Non-Stop Haryana

We Haryanvis

**Our respected Annadatas now
receive the Kisan Samman Nidhi**

2 lakh farmers have received
₹5693 crore since October, 2018

The amount is **paid directly** into the
farmers' bank account **every fourth month**

**Continuously ensuring
the honour of our farmers**



Emergency a dark period: Dhankhar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing Emergency as a "painful, dark" period, Raja Sabha Chairperson

Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said that that period is ignored, the Parliament has done well. Addressing new MPs of the Raja Sabha at an orientation

programme here, Dhankhar said, "There has been only one painful, heart wrenching dark period and that was when Emergency was declared."

During the period, the Constitution was reduced to just a paper, he said. "It was shredded and leaders were jailed. MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act) became a draconian word. One of the

senior politicians of the country, Lal Prasad Yadav, was so moved and touched by the atrocities of the Emergency that he named his child Misa," he said.

Misa Bharti was a member of Raja Sabha and is currently a Lok Sabha MP. "That was the sentiment. If we ignore that dark period, our parliament has performed very well. It has done excellently," Dhankhar told the new RS MPs.

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 Silguri 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 jolly 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- 561100911464.

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 micrometre 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 (WCMSC) 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- 60606270.

SN.5. Tender No. 30/24/10956/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] 1) 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 Katihar/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 Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar) P.L. No 33503000.

SN.7. Tender No. 30/24/1168/101/2024-25 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 Katihar 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/177 /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 Alt-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 Silguri 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

PCMM, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

Arttech

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

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

1. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Approvals / Colonizer/Developer: M/s. Arttech Affordable Housing LLP LICENCE No./Year: 112 of 2021 dated 17.12.2021.

Building Plan Approved on Dated: 09/12/2022 vide Memo No. ZP-1571/JD(NK)/2022/37046.

2. LOCATION :

Sector-84, Faridabad

3. PROVISIONS: Project Area:

Project Area: 7.33125Acres, comprising of a Total 1012 No. of Flats out of which 5% flats are reserved for management quota and balance 95% flats are available for sale to the General Public.

Common Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000Sq.ft. (Approx.) and One Anganwadi-Cum-Creche of 2000Sq.ft. (Approx.)

4. FLAT DETAILS (Offer for Public):

Category 3(3BHK): 03 no. of Flats having carpet area of 645.517 Sq. ft. (approx.) and balcony(ies) with an aggregated area of 164.883Sq.ft. (approx.) with a Two-wheeler Parking

5. ALLOTMENT RATE OF THE FLAT(All Inclusive) + GST as Applicable + Statutory and other charges

Category 3 (3BHK): Rs.33.47,585/- per Flat/as per rates prescribed under the policy notified vide Memo No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013, amended upto date vide Memo No.PF-27 (VOL-III)/2023/23523 dated 19.07.2023 by the Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Haryana, Town and Country Planning Department, Chandigarh(details available at the website of the department i.e. tcharyana.gov.in)

6. PAYMENT TERMS

Cost of the flat shall be payable as per stages of construction to be prescribed in the Builder Buyer Agreement. No interest shall be payable before the due date of payment. Default, if any, in making payment of the due instalments will attract penal interest at the rate provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017.

ELIGIBILITY

i) The applicant should not be debarred from entering legally binding contract under any prevailing law.

ii) Any person can apply but person which includes his/her spouse or his/her dependent children, who do not own any Flat/Plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban Areas in the State of Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given first preference in allotment of Flat

iii) An applicant can make only one application. The successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy, in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retain only one flat.

ALLOTMENT CRITERIA

i) The allotment of flats shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the Cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner, (circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.

ii) After fixation of the date of draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer, informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.

iii) For detailed criteria and time frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 notified vide No. PF27/48921 dated 19.08.2013, amended upto date (available at the Department website i.e. tcharyana.gov.in)

BROAD SPECIFICATIONS OF THE FLAT:

Flooring: Rooms-Ceramic tiles, Kitchen-Ceramic Tiles, Toilet- Ceramic Tiles, Balcony-Ceramic Tiles Class II, Common Area-Ceramic Tiles/Stones and any other material as decided by the Developer, Door/Window Frame-MS 2 section frame /Press Steel/Aluminium or any other frame as decided by the developer, Door Shutters-Flush Doors Painted with Paint or any other shutter as decided by the Developer, Wall Tiles-Bathroom Ceramic Tiles up to 5 feet height, Kitchen-Ceramic Tiles up to 2 Feet height above counter, Kitchen Counter Top-Stone/IPS, Wall Finish-Colour Wash/Dry Distemper, Plumbing Fitting-PPR Pipes/CPVC Pipes/UPVC Pipes or equivalent, Sanitary Fitting-Chinaware and CP Fittings, Electric Switches /Wiring-ISI Marked or equivalent, Structure-RCC frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS Code.

APPLICATIONS TIMELINES

i) Application form will be filled online by registering on the website <https://edraw.tcharyana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home> w.e.f 01.08.2024

ii) Last Date of submission of the Application: 01.09.2024

ARTTECH AFFORDABLE HOUSING LLP

GF-10, Plot No.9, Ground Floor, Ozone Centre, Sector-12, Faridabad-121007, Haryana

Web:-www.arttechllp.com | Email Id:- info@arttechllp.com | Mob.:- +91-8151848484

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information that General Public that Sh. Kalyan Singh Rathore S/o Lt. Sh. Jagdish Singh Rathore and Smt. Pramila Rathore W/o Sh. Kalyan Singh Rathore both R/o 6667, Block-9, Gai No.7, Dew Nagar, Karol Bagh, P.O.-Karol Bagh, District-Central Delhi-110002 (here in after jointly called my client) co hereby debar and disowns his son Sh. Ashutosh Rathore and another son Sh. Aditya Rathore from all their movable and immovable properties as they are not acting like a good son and misbehaving with my client and living separately from my client. My client has already broken-up his all relations with his above sons. From this day, above persons shall have no right, title or share in, any of movable and immovable properties of my client. If anyone deals with the above persons, same shall be done by him/her at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client shall not be responsible or liable in any manner whatsoever. N.K. GUPTA (ADVOCATE) Ch. No. 464, Western Wing, The Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054, Mob.: 9811195187

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shareef Ahmad Siddiqui, S/o. Abdul Rasheed, R/o. P-17, Ghaffar Manzil-2, Haji Colony, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport No.E259462 as Shareef Ahmad instead of Shareef Ahmad Siddiqui.

PD(627)A

I, Mohd Irfan Khan, S/o. Mohd Yusuf Khan, R/o. E-31, Okhla Vihar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Passport No.J9507257 as Mohd. Irfan instead of Mohd. Irfan Khan.

PD(628)A

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Anvesh Sharma, Ravinder Sharma, Arvind Kumar Sharma, Anil Sharma & Amit Sharma (hereinafter called the seller's) claims to be owner and in possession of Prop. No. K-B/97, Block-B, Kavi Nagar, Ghazlabad, U.P. (herein after called the said property) on the basis of inheritance after the death of Harish Chand Sharma DOD 04.06.1998 and Mahender Sharma DOD 04.06.2022, said Harish Chand Sharma was the owner of the said property lease deed executed in No. 1973 and the said property is duly mutated in favor of Seller's by the GDA vide its letter dated 23.01.2024, said Seller's have agreed to sell the said Property to Pawan Agarwal and said Pawan Agarwal has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd, Rajendra Place Branch, any persons' having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP

H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19

Mobile No. 981839999

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Mr. Radhey Singh S/o Late Mr. Beg Raj Singh the owner of Khaska No. 1120 mm., situated at Village Rihala, Abadi Known As Extended Lal Dora, Delhi-110005, through registered relinquishment deed dated 05-07-2020 executed by (1) Mr. Tumesh Chand S/o Late Mr. Beg Raj Singh & (2) Mrs. Sanel W/o Mr. Ratpal Singh D/o Late Mr. Beg Raj Singh & (3) Mrs. Kamala Devi W/o Sh. Brendar Singh D/o Late Mr. Beg Raj Singh in favour of Mr. Radhey Singh S/o Late Mr. Beg Raj Singh Vide Reg. no. 2024/14/2384 at SR-NORTH WEST Kanhasa the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fec Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpur, New Delhi-110058
 Phone: 011-2661042, 2661043, 2661044
 Email: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com Website: www.kangrabank.com

[APPENDIX IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of below mentioned Immovable Secured Asset under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with proviso to rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the below mentioned borrower and mortgagee that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to The Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" BASIS THROUGH "SALE BY AUCTION (UNDER SARFAESI ACT & RULES, 2002)" as per brief particulars given here under:-

S. No.	Name of Borrower, Mortgagee & Branch.	(a) Date of Demand Notice (b) Possession Type/Date. (c) Demand Notice Amount.	Description of Property.	Reserve Price.	(i) Earnest Money Deposit. (ii) Bid Increment amount. (c) Date & Time of Inspection. (d) Last date/Time of EMD & KYC Submission. (e) Date/ Time of E-Auction.
1.	Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. Shesh Ram Sharma. (Borrower)	a) 01-02-2019 (b) Physical 24-04-2019. (c) Rs. 15,72,220/- together with further interest, pending interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time. (d) From 31-01-2019 till the date of payment.	PLOT NO.203-204, KHASRA NO. 2211,2,9,12,19,22Z, FIRST FLOOR (FRONT PORTION), CONSISTING OF TWO ROOMS, ONE KITCHEN, ONE TOILET & BATHROOM, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, NEAR SURROUNDING AREA NEAR ABOUT 450 SQ. FEET (50 SQ. YDS.), SITUATED AT SANJAY GANDHI MEMORIAL NAGAR, TEHSIL & DISTRICT FARIDABAD, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS: EAST - WEST; HOUSE, NORTH - REMAINGH PART, SOUTH - GALI 15 FT.	Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Only (Rs. 14,28,000/-)	(a) Rs. 1,42,800/- (b) Rs. 10,000/- (c) 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (d) 12-08-2024 (e) 10-08-2024 (f) 9:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2.	Smt. Veena Devi W/o Sh. Pramod Sharma. (Surety) Head Office Janakpuri	From 31-01-2019 till the date of payment.	TEHSIL & DISTRICT FARIDABAD, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS: EAST - WEST; HOUSE, NORTH - REMAINGH PART, SOUTH - GALI 15 FT.	Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Only (Rs. 14,28,000/-)	(a) Rs. 1,42,800/- (b) Rs. 10,000/- (c) 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (d) 12-08-2024 (e) 10-08-2024 (f) 9:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For detailed Bid/Tender form, terms and conditions of the said sale, please refer to the link provided in THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI NEAR JANAK CINEMA, NEW DELHI-110058, The Secured Creditor Bank's website i.e. www.kangrabank.com.

The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger), and for the detailed Bid/Tender form, terms and conditions of the said sale and procedure of submission of Bid/Tender, are available from their website at <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>

STATUTORY NOTICE AS PER RULE 8(6) & RULE 9 (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

This notice also considered as a notice to the above named borrower/mortgagee of said loan, to pay the dues in full before the date of sale, failing which the property will be sold on the above mentioned Sale/Auction date. This publication is also 15 days' notice to the above named borrower & mortgagee.

HARISH SHARMA
 AUTHORIZED OFFICER
 THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
 HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE,
 PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058.
 PHONE NO. 9013568418, 9013568419

DATED: 22.07.2024
 PLACE: DELHI

STATE BANK OF INDIA DEMAND NOTICE

Branch Office : Home Loan Centre, A1 / 24, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT') HOME LOAN OF MR. INDRA CHETRI.

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised Officer of State Bank of India under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Rules, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers /Mortgagors / Guarantors listed here under (hereinafter referred to as the "said Borrowers"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice, as per detail given below. The said Notice has either been returned undelivered by the postal authorities or have not been acknowledged by the borrowers /mortgagors/guarantors. Hence the Bank by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice. The undersigned has therefore, caused these Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors as per the said Act. Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrowers/ Mortgagors/ Guarantors, may, if they so desire, collect the said copies from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. Against the above background, Notice is hereby given, once again, to said Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors to pay to State Bank of India, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated here in below together with future interest at contractual rates and rests from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment under the Loan and other documents. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged / hypothecated to State Bank of India by the respective borrowers. If the said borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors fail to make payment to State Bank of India as aforesaid. Then State Bank of India shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and Rules entirely at the risk of the said borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors as to the costs and consequences. Further, attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (B) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. In respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. You are prohibited under the SARFAESI Act from transferring the secured assets, whether by way of sale, Lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of State Bank of India. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules shall be liable for imprisonment and/or fine as provided under Section 29 of the Act.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Name and Address of Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor	Details of the Security to be enforced	Amount 0's as per 13(2) Notice	Demand Notice Date
MR. INDRA CHETRI F4, 3rd Floor, Kailash Colony, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065. Also At: M/s. Grand F Four F-4, 3rd Floor, Kailash Colony, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065. Pocket 3, Sector 34, Rohini, New Delhi-110085.	EQUITABLE MORTGAGE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :- FLAT NO.15, BLOCK C 5, POCKET 3, SECTOR - 34, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085 ADMEASURING CARPET AREA 25.302 SQ.MTRS.	Rs. 7,95,653/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three Only) as on 21.05.2024 plus future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc.	Demand Notice Date 21.05.2024 NPA Date 21.05.2024 Home Loan Account Number 41350318235

Place: NEW DELHI Date: 27.07.2024 Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi Branch

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

(CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779)
 Registered Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Phase, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi -110091
 Tel. No : (+91-11) 49482870, (+91-124) 4354400 Fax : (+91-11) 49482900, (+91-124) 4354500
 Email: info@kamaholdings.com; website: www.kamaholdings.com

INFORMATION REGARDING 24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

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.

"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."

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-

tal 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.

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.

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.

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

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-

June) of 2024, its global parent company PepsiCo logged double-digit growth in beverages volume and convenience foods unit volume in the Indian market. For the first quarter (January-March), the New York-headquartered multinational reported a "high single-digit growth" in its beverage unit volume and a "double-digit growth" in convenient foods business in the Indian market. PepsiCo entered India in 1989 and has grown to become one of the largest MNCs engaged in the business of manufacture and trading of aerated and non-aerated beverage products, juice and juice-based drinks and packed food products.

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

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 ■ CHATEAUROUX/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 Chateauroux 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.



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

won gold in the last three world championships and were heavy favourites going in. The crowd, heavy with Chinese fans and flags, chanted "jiaoyou" - roughly translated "let's go" - each time the Chinese walked out to dive. This event was added in 2000, and Chinese women have won gold six times in seven Games. The only loss was to Russia in 2000. China won three years ago in Tokyo with Shi Tingmao and Wang Han. Starting with the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where China claimed its first diving gold, it had won 47 of 64 gold medals in diving. Add to that 23 silver and 10 bronze. If you start counting from the 2008 Beijing Olympics, China won 27 of 32 gold at the Olympics. These are the numbers before Paris. Now, add another gold to the total and watch the numbers climb as the Olympics roll on in Paris.

Olympic cyclists criticise streets of Paris

AP ■ PARIS

Remco Evenepoel was unimpressed by the rough roads that Olympic cyclists had to cover in the time trial through Paris on Saturday, while Nino Schurter was just as critical of the gravel covering the man-made mountain bike course in nearby Elancourt. Evenepoel, fresh off his third-place finish in the Tour de France, described the first and last five kilometres of the time trial as bad roads being made worse by the rain, which made for a damp opening ceremony on Friday night and continued into Saturday when the start of skateboarding had to be postponed due to the weather. The time trial began upstream from the Eiffel Tower on the Esplanade. It covered 32.4 kilometres (19.8 miles) past Place de la Bastille and through the Polygone de Vincennes, before finishing at the gilded Pont Alexandre III bridge over the Seine River.



"Quite some beautiful sightseeing as well," Evenepoel acknowledged, "but the road surface is pretty bad in the beginning and in the end. So, that might be a problem if you have black spots in front of your eyes in the last kilometres. It's not so nice." The Belgian is the reigning time trial world champion and won the first of two-time trials during the Tour de France. Meanwhile, at Elancourt Hill about 40 kilometres (24.8 miles) outside of Paris, the Olympic mountain bike course was carved through the site of a former sandstone quarry-turned-landfill.

It was regenerated into a park in the 1980s, and one of the highest points in the region now offers sprawling vistas of the Eiffel Tower, La Defense and the forests around Paris. The course was designed by South African expert Nick Floros, who also designed the mountain bike venue for the 2016 Rio and 2020 Tokyo Games, and features man-made jumps and rock gardens with stretches of gravel-covered paths. The women's competition is Sunday and the men cover the same course on Monday. "It's slippery. It's quite loose," said Schurter, a three-time Olympic medalist and the champion in Rio. "If you go fast it's super slippery. I hope the gravel still goes a bit to the side and makes it less loose everywhere. You can feel there was no mountain biking before and it's 100% man-made, like we saw in London and in Rio. "It could be a bit more natural," Schurter acknowledged, "but in general it's nice."



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, 2.19 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. Their team has been under intense scrutiny after reports that nearly two dozen swimmers tested positive for a banned substance before the 2021 Olympics, but were not sanctioned. Ledecky is looking to add to her haul of six individual gold medals - already the most by any female swimmer in Olympic history.

Olympic organisers apologise for introducing South Korean athletes as North Korea

AP ■ PARIS

Olympic Games organisers said they deeply apologise for introducing South Korea's athletes as North Korea during the opening ceremony in Paris. As the South Korean athletes waved their nation's flag on a boat floating down the Seine River Friday evening, they were announced in both French and English as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. South Korea is the

Republic of Korea. "We deeply apologise for the mistake that occurred when introducing the Korean team during the opening ceremony broadcast," the International Olympic Committee said in a post on X in Korean. The South Korean Ministry of Culture Sports and Tourism Vice Minister Jang Mi Ran requested a meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach over the incident, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday. It said the ministry also asked

South Korea's Foreign Ministry to file "a strong government-level complaint" with the French government. The statement said South Korea's Olympic committee separately asked the organizers of the Paris Games to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. IOC spokesperson Mark Adams on Saturday called the error "clearly deeply regrettable." "An operational mistake was made. We can only apologize,

in an evening of so many moving parts. That this mistake was made," Adams said in response to a question from a South Korean journalist during a news conference on Saturday. The Korean peninsula has been bitterly divided into South Korea and North Korea since the end of World War II in 1945. The blue sign on the boat carrying the South Korean athletes did show the correct name.



Indians fail to qualify for 10m mixed rifle and men's pistol finals

PTI ■ CHATEAUROUX (FRANCE)

Sarabjot Singh and Arjun Singh Cheema sparked in patches but could not make the men's 10m air pistol final after both the air rifle mixed teams also fell by the wayside during qualification in a disappointing start for Indian shooters in the Olympic Games here on Saturday. Sarabjot finished ninth with a total score of 577 in the qualifications while Arjun ended way behind at 18th with 574. Germany's Robin Walter, who also shot 577, grabbed the last (eighth) qualifying spot after managing to shoot one inner 10 (X) more than Sarabjot's 16. A perfect 100 in the fourth series propelled the 22-year-old Sarabjot into the top-three after a poor start but he failed to sustain the momentum and fizzled out.

Cheema shot 10 perfect 10s off his last 10 shots, which lifted him to the fourth position but he too lost the plot after promising much. The 23-year-old Cheema collected 97 points from Series 2 (8, 10, 10, 10, 9, 10, 10, 10, 10) and was placed 10th in the list. He collected 96 points from Series 1. However, a poor 7 followed by a 9 from Cheema saw him slip outside the top eight. Both Cheema and Sarabjot were part of the Indian side that won the 10m air pistol team gold at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last year. DISAPPOINTMENT IN MIXED RIFLE EVENT: Earlier in the day, the Indian shooters were eliminated in the 10m air rifle mixed team qualifications stage. 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. The duo of Ramita and Babuta came close and was placed fifth with three shots remaining but fell 1.0 point short of the medal round cut-off. Babuta enjoyed a fine start in the second relay and had a sequence that read 10.5, 10.6, 10.5, 10.9, while Ramita managed 10.2, 10.7, 10.3, 10.1 in the second series. But, to get into the bronze medal round, they needed to do more than what they eventually achieved. Shooters from China, Korea and Kazakhstan dominated the qualifications. China eventually won the first gold medal of the Games in this event after qualifying as the top team for the finals. A side has to get to the top four to enter the medal matches.

American cowbell clanging will be raucous again at Paris Games

AP ■ PARIS

Before Tokyo three years ago, the US Olympic swim coaches pondered how to best support their athletes and help fire them up before a race, given there were no family or friends or fans in the stands. They turned to clanging cowbells. While spectators return to the pool in Paris on Saturday, American women's coach Todd DeSorbo and his staff plan to continue what worked so well - even if it's not popular with the rival Australians or others. Given that most everybody at the pool by now has heard about the Aussies' disdain for the noise, the rivalry could reach new decibels at these Summer Games. Australian star Cate Campbell, who is rarely afraid to speak her mind, referred to the Americans as "such, such sore losers" after Australia won more gold medals at the world championships last year in Fukuoka, Japan, and expressed her disgust with all the cowbells ringing out. "I've never wanted to punch someone more and steal the cowbell, and I really hope that someone did," Campbell said in an interview with Australia's "Today" show last year. You better believe the Americans heard about that and took notice. Michael Phelps hopes Campbell's complaints only provide more motivation for the US, saying, "I would watch that thing every single day, give me that little extra." American Abbey Weitzeil said last month at the U.S. Trials: "We're all



bringing the cowbell. "Whenever comments are made about your country or your jobs, it's all competitive. I think we all are competitive, our competitive side comes out, so we're all bringing the cowbell, extra loud!" DeSorbo didn't realize the motivational tactic would cause an international uproar. "That was an interesting thing," he said. "I think that not having fans in the stands you had to create an environment to help them get excited, to help them get motivated. I do think you can't get motivated with the opportunity to win an Olympic medal, then I don't know what would motivate you, but the fans and the spectators certainly help. "Being in an environment where we as a coaching staff had to create that

excitement for them, I think probably the cowbells were probably rang louder at that Olympics than ever before because of that. "And, that might be part of why there's a little bit of trash-talking going on back and forth about that because it was really loud in '21 and probably since then it has been." Indeed, the clanging isn't always popular with some athletes from opposing countries. American Hunter Armstrong spoke about the 4x100 freestyle relay foursome chasing a world record in Paris while making sure to point out, "We definitely want that world record, but most importantly we need more cowbell." Campbell shared how thrilled she was not to hear the US national anthem as regularly at worlds last year.

"Australia coming out on top of the world is one thing, but it is just so much sweeter beating America," she said. "There were a couple of nights, particularly the first night of competition, where we did not have to hear Star-Spangled Banner ring out through the stadium and I cannot tell you how happy that made me. "If I never hear that song again it will be too soon. So, bring on Paris. That's all I have to say, US, stop being sore losers. ... "When we're like right next to each other in the warmup areas, the US. Have this infernal cowbell that they ring and as someone leaves to go to the competition pool they ring out USA! USA!" and I've never wanted to punch someone more." Turns out, Campbell won't be competing and perhaps not as bothered by those bells at Paris La Defense Arena. Yet, those thoughtful gestures by the US. Coaches - no matter how loud - have meant so much to their swimmers. "Since I've been on Team USA, we've always had a lot of pride and interest in our teammates' success. When they go off to the ready room before a race, there's typically a big raucous," Ryan Murphy told The Associated Press. "Whether it's a cowbell, USA chants or a fist bump, we know that we have the whole team behind us when we step up on the blocks." DeSorbo and men's coach Anthony Nesty are bringing along the last two head coaches as key support: Stanford's Greg Meehan on the women's side and University of California-Berkeley men's coach Dave Durden.

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 the players, your support staff, the leaders of the past, the management and never forget for whom you play - for fans 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.

Kevin hopefully will play for US in its Olympic opener against Serbia

AP ■ PARIS
There is hope that Kevin Durant will play for the US in its Olympic opener against Serbia on Sunday, which means the men's national team may have 12 players available for the first time this summer. That is unless something else happens.
The Americans open their path toward what they hope is a fifth consecutive Olympic gold medal when they take on three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic and World Cup finalist Serbia in the opener for both teams at the Paris Games.
Durant missed all five exhibition games the US played coming into Paris because of a calf strain, and coach Steve Kerr stopped short of definitively saying Saturday that he is in the line-up for the opener.
"Hopefully," Kerr said. Durant was on the floor for practice, while presumed starting center Joel Embiid was not because of illness.
Kerr said he didn't expect Embiid to miss Sunday's game. "I'm confident we'll have everybody ready tomorrow," Kerr said.
There have been signs in recent days that USA Basketball expects Durant - a three-time gold medalist, now bidding to become the first player who can say he's a four-time Olympic men's basketball champion - will be ready to go.
First, it didn't replace him on the roster. Second, it released clips of a Thursday scrimmage where Durant was active and even had a reverse dunk (plus got dunked on by Anthony Edwards, who idolizes him). And third, Kerr insisted earlier in the week that he wasn't concerned about Durant's status.
"We'll see how things go in practice today," Kerr said Saturday. "So far, so good. He came through the scrimmage two days ago pretty well."
The team convened for its first summer practice in Las Vegas on July 6, about a week and a half after Durant strained the calf.
He couldn't participate in practices there, didn't play in the first exhibition win over Canada before the Americans left for their overseas legs of the pre-Olympic tour and



then the waiting game was on.
Durant did some on-court work in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, but missed two more exhibitions there against Serbia and Australia.
He did more work in London but missed the two exhibitions the US played there against South Sudan and Germany as well. He said he made the best of the situation.
"It's been incredible," Durant said. "I mean, I haven't played yet, but just being on the sideline, on the bench, I've got more energy than I've had in the past. I hate not playing, but just watching these guys, how they operate, it's just been incredible."
In Olympic play, Durant has been incredible as well.
Before Durant came along, Adrian Dantley had the highest scoring average for a US men's player in an Olympic tournament; he averaged 19.3 points at the 1976 Montreal Games.
That's now fourth on the single Olympics US list behind Durant's 20.7 points per game at the Tokyo Games three years ago, Durant's 19.5 points per game at the 2012 London Games and Durant's 19.4 points per game at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.
He has scored 435 points in Olympic play, the most in US men's history, 99 more than Carmelo Anthony. He is third in rebounds for the U.S. Men with 118, seven behind

Anthony and six behind David Robinson. He is the all-time US men's leader in Olympic 3-pointers made with 74 and the all-time leader in free throws made with 69.
"Instant impact. Instant impact," U.S. Forward LeBron James said when asked about what Durant would add to the mix when he returns.
"He looked extremely well the other day in practice. Obviously, his wind, his rhythm is going to continue to come, but to be able to get him back, it makes a huge impact for our club."
And, if all that wasn't enough, there's this: The US is 21-1 in Olympic games with Durant in the line-up, and he's won a pair of NBA championships with Kerr during their three seasons together with the Golden State Warriors.
"I know how hard he works because I've seen it up close and personal for three years, and I know the level that he's trying to get to competitively to be his best self and why he is the all-time leading scorer in (U.S.) Olympic history," Warriors guard and first-time Olympian Stephen Curry said.
"So, you thrive off of that, that preparation to give you confidence that says Hey, we're here for business, but we're also here to continue to learn from each other.

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



Stephen Nedorosick, 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.
The 23-year-old - who unabashedly broke down in tears after being named to the five-man Olympic squad - thrust his arms into the air after his dismount on floor exercise. His all-around total of 82.865 was fourth among early qualifiers, trailing only Richard (83.498), Jarman and Fraser.
Qualifying continues later Saturday, with longtime rivals and gold medal favourites Japan and China competing in the second of three subdivisions.

Landale scores 20 points, Australia powers past Spain 92-80 to open Olympic basketball tournament

AP ■ VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ (FRANCE)
Jock Landale had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Australia beat Spain 92-80 Saturday to open the group stage of the Olympic basketball tournament in Lille.
Patty Mills added 19 points and Josh Giddey contributed 17 to lift Australia to victory in Group A, including Greece and Canada. Australia next meets Canada on Tuesday while Spain will face Greece.
Australia led by as many as 14 points before Spain surged and used a 9-0 run to take its first lead of the game, 56-54, in the third quarter. The Aussies responded with a 15-4 spurt to close the period and never trailed again.
Santi Aldama finished with 17 points for Spain. Sergio Llull added 17 for the Spaniards, who connected on 12 3-pointers, but shot 39% overall from the



field for the game at Pierre Mauroy Stadium.
Australia established its presence in the paint early, scoring 42 in the paint for the game and holding a 46-34 rebounding edge.

The Aussies led 49-42 at halftime. Australia sprinted out to a 31-17 lead, with Jock Landale scoring eight early points.
Spain then used a 10-0 run that started late in the first quarter and continued into the second to get back in the game.
The Aussies' momentum also was disrupted by a heated exchange late in the first quarter.
With 2:13 remaining in the period, Spain's Usman Garuba set a hard screen on Australia's Josh Green, sending him stumbling backwards.
Green took exception and got in Garuba's face. Garuba slapped Green's hand away and Will Magnay stepped in to defend his teammate, prompting Garuba to shove him.
Referees reviewed the incident and accessed double unsportsmanlike fouls on Garuba and Magnay.



field for the game at Pierre Mauroy Stadium.
Australia established its presence in the paint early, scoring 42 in the paint for the game and holding a 46-34 rebounding edge.

field for the game at Pierre Mauroy Stadium.
Australia established its presence in the paint early, scoring 42 in the paint for the game and holding a 46-34 rebounding edge.

Swiatek starts 2024 Olympics tennis event with win at site of her French Open triumphs

AP ■ PARIS
Iga Swiatek shook off a bit of a dip in the first round of the Paris Olympics tennis competition and grabbed the last four games to beat Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu 6-2, 7-5 on Saturday under a closed roof at Roland Garros, the site of the No. 1-ranked Polish player's four French Open titles.
Swiatek, who won a third consecutive championship at Court Philippe Chatrier just seven weeks ago, got broken in that same stadium to trail 5-3 in the second set before getting back to her usual clay-court expertise. She wrapped up the victory by breaking at love when Begu double-faulted on the last point.
Day 1 of tennis began with showers that might have contributed to slow lines for umbrella-toting spectators at

the facility's security checks near entrances and postponed by hours the start of matches at the 10 courts without retractable roofs.
It's a good thing the French tennis federation built a pair of covers recently: 15,000-capacity Chatrier added one in 2020, and the second-largest arena, 10,000-capacity Court Suzanne Lenglen, has one as of this year.
Italy's Jasmine Paolini, who was the runner-up to Swiatek at the French Open in June and to Barbora Krejickova at Wimbledon two weeks ago, was the first tennis player to win a match at these Summer Games, eliminating Romania's Ana Bogdan 7-5, 6-3 at Lenglen.
Among the other big names from the sport scheduled to play later Saturday were reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz



- facing Lebanon's Hady Habib in singles in the afternoon and pairing with Spanish teammate Rafael Nadal in doubles at night - along with 24-

time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia and four-time major champion Naomi Osaka.
Nadal has won a record 14 of his 22 Slam titles at Roland Garros and owns Olympic gold medals in singles and doubles. He carried the torch and rode on a boat in the Seine River with retired tennis star Serena Williams during the drenched opening ceremony Friday night.
Coco Gauff, the female flag bearer for the United States on Friday, was slated to make her Olympic debut Saturday with Jessica Pegula in doubles.
Gauff won the French Open doubles title with Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic last month and the US Open singles trophy last September.
+Three years ago, Gauff missed the Tokyo Games after testing positive for COVID-19 right before she was supposed to fly to Japan.

Honda India riders impress in Asia Road Racing Championship

PTI ■ LOMBOK (INDONESIA)
The riders of the IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team impressed in Race 1 of Round 4 of the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship in Indonesia on Sunday.
The Indian duo of Kavin Quintal and Mohsin Paramban completed the race with determination and consistency at Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit.
Starting strong from the 27th position on the grid, Chennai's 19-year-old rising star, Kavin Quintal, swiftly moved up after the first lap and maintained consistency throughout the race.

Leveraging his experience and executing strategic moves effectively, he gave tough competition to international riders and continued to elevate his performance despite an injury. He finished the race at 19th position with a total time of 18:37.226.
Kavin's teammate, Mohsin Paramban from Mallapuram, started the race from 21st on the grid and delivered a good performance on international soil.
He maintained consistency throughout the race, navigating the track and crossing the chequered flag at 22nd position with a total time of 18:44.784.
Both the riders, however, could not secure any points

for the team in Race 1 of Round 4.
Quintal, "I began this round on a strong note, but yesterday's crash and my subsequent injury disrupted my plans for the race. Despite the tough competition, I'm pleased that we performed well and made no mistakes today."
"Having recovered well, I'm optimistic about securing better results and earning points for the team in tomorrow's race."
Paramban added, "Today's round was quite challenging, and my focus was on maintaining consistency throughout the race. I managed to hold my position and stay focused."

"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



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.



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.

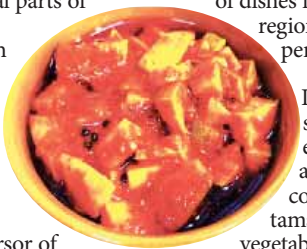
In his capacity as President, Corporate Affairs he also represents the organisation in all major industry Chambers of the country like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, PHD, and International Chamber of Commerce. He is on the

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.



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



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 shufta 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.



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



VIRGO 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

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

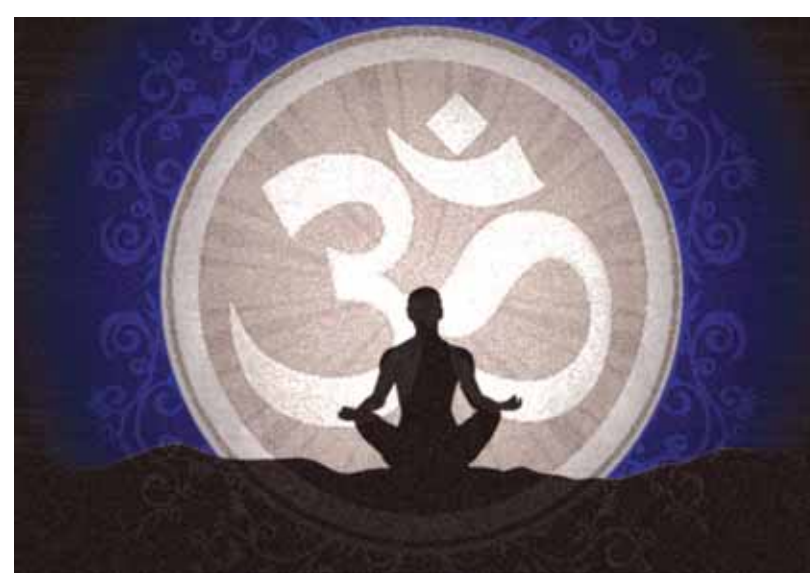


ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

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.....*

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com