



**OPINION 6**

**BJP STRIVES HARD TO IMBIBE 'INTEGRAL HUMANISM'**

**WORLD 8**

**BOAT CAPSIZES IN CONGO, KILLING AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE: WITNESSES**

**MONEY 10**

**SAMSUNG WORKERS PROTEST CONTINUES TO 4TH WEEK**

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

Late City Vol.21 Issue 274  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BHOPAL, FRIDAY OCTOBER 4, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1865

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

MESSI, INTER  
MIAMI WIN MLS  
SUPPORTERS SHIELD  
12 SPORTS



# Marital rape not a crime, Centre tells Supreme Court

**Government says punitive measures in place**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court opposing petitions that have called for the criminalisation of marital rape in India.

The affidavit filed by the Union Home Ministry said that in a marriage, there is a continuing expectation to have reasonable sexual access from one's spouse. It clarified that such expectations do not entitle a husband to coerce his wife to have sex against her will. However, it may be excessive and disproportionate to punish a man under anti-rape laws for such an act, the Centre said. The affidavit further highlighted that the parliament has already provided different remedies to protect a married woman's consent within marriage.

In the counter-affidavit filed through advocate AK Sharma, the Union Home Ministry backed the existing Indian rape law that carves out an exception for sexual relations between a husband and wife. The Central Government



asserted that the issue is more of a social than a legal one, which has a direct bearing on society in general. While so, even if 'marital rape' is to be criminalised, it is not up to the Supreme Court to do so, the Centre argued.

"The (issue) cannot be decided without proper consultation with all the stakeholders or taking the views of all the States into consideration... the act colloquially referred to as 'marital rape' ought to be illegal and criminalised. The Central Government asserts that a woman's consent is not

obliterated by marriage, and its violation should result in penal consequences. However, the consequences of such violations within marriage differ from those outside it," the affidavit stated.

It added that a breach of consent should be punished differently, depending on whether such an act occurs within or outside a marriage. These remedies include laws punishing cruelty to married women (as it was under Section 498A under the Indian Penal Code then), laws punishing acts against the

modesty of women, and remedies under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

The Bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud with Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is currently seized of the matter. Marital rape is excluded from the ambit of "rape" by way of Exception 2 to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A similar provision is also present in the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) which replaced the IPC on July 1 this year. In 2022, the

Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict on whether marital rape should be a criminal offence. The matter then reached the Supreme Court in September that year. "The sexual aspect is but one of many facets of the relationship between husband and wife, on which the bedrock of their marriage rests... Given the nature of the marital institution in our socio-legal milieu, if the legislature is of the view that, for preservation of the marital institution, the impugned Exception should be retained, it is submitted that it would not be appropriate for this Hon'ble Court to strike down the Exception," the latest affidavit added.

The counter-affidavit was filed in response to a batch of petitions that have called for the criminalisation of marital rape. The Centre criticised the petitioners' approach of treating the institution of marriage as a private institution, terming this view unidimensional. The case of a married woman and her own husband cannot be treated in the exact same manner as other cases, it said.

# West Asia war hits Sensex

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An escalation in the West Asia conflict had a massive impact on the Indian market on Thursday. The Sensex tanked 1,769 points to slide to a three-week low on Thursday as a spiralling triggered selling in oil, banking and auto shares, wiping out Rs 9.78 lakh crore investor money in a single day.

The NSE Nifty slumped 546.80 points or 2.12 per cent to 25,250.10 with 48 of its constituents ending lower. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,579.35 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Falling for the fourth day, the BSE Sensex tumbled 1,769.19 points or 2.10 per cent to settle at 82,497.10, its lowest closing level since September 11. During the day, it plummeted 1,832.27 points or 2.17 per cent to 82,434.02. As many as 29 Sensex scrips closed in the red while only one stock ended in the green.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, Adani Ports and HDFC Bank were the major laggards. JSW Steel emerged as the only gainer. A total of 2,881 stocks declined while 1,107 advanced and 88 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies dropped by around Rs 9.78 lakh crore to Rs



# Israeli hits Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

BEIRUT: An Israeli airstrike on an apartment in central Beirut killed seven Hezbollah-affiliated civilian first responders. Israel has been pounding areas of the country where the militant group has a strong presence since late September, but has rarely struck in the heart of the capital.

There was no warning before the strike late Wednesday, which hit an apartment in central Beirut not far from the United Nations headquarters, the prime minister's office and

parliament. Hezbollah's civil defence unit said seven of its members were killed. The Lebanese Red Cross, meanwhile, said an Israeli strike wounded four of its paramedics and killed a Lebanese army soldier as they were evacuating wounded people from the south. It said the convoy near the village of Taybeh, which was accompanied by Lebanese troops, was targeted Thursday despite coordinating its movements with UN peacekeepers.

4,65,07,685.08 crore (USD 5.54 trillion). Continuous foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices dented investors' sentiment, analysts said. "The domestic market took a sharp downturn following Iran's launch of ballistic missiles at Israel, sparking fears of retaliation and escalation in the war," Vinod

Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. "New SEBI regulations for the F&O segment have raised concerns about reduced trading volumes in the broader market. Lastly, with attractive valuations in China, FIIs have redirected their funds, adding pressure on Indian stocks," Nair added.

# Delhi Police summons Elvish Yadav, Bharti

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi Police has summoned YouTuber Elvish Yadav, comedian Bharti Singh and three others in an alleged app-based scam involving a fraud of Rs 500 crore, an officer said on Thursday.

Police received over 500 complaints alleging that many social media influencers and YouTubers promoted the HIBOX mobile application on their pages and lured people into investing through the app, the officer added. The main accused in the scam, Sivaram (30), a resident of Chennai, has been arrested, police said. As per the complaint, social media influencers and YouTubers including Saurav Joshi, Abhishek Malhan, Purav Jha, Elvish Yadav, Bharti Singh, Harsh Limbachiya, Lakshay Choudhary, Adarsh Singh, Amit, and Dilraj Singh Rawat promoted the application and lured people into investing through the app.

# Drug mastermind has Congress link, says BJP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tushar Goyal, the mastermind behind Delhi's biggest drug bust worth over Rs 5,640 crore allegedly has Congress connections. Sources in Delhi Police's Special Cell said that he admitted to having held office in the Congress's IT Cell.

Later, a war of words broke out between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress. The BJP claimed that the kingpin arrested in the case of seizure of drugs worth Rs 5,600 crore is the chairman of the Delhi Youth Congress' RTI cell. It asked if the money was brought in for the October 5 Haryana elections while a claim refuted by the opposition party as baseless. According to sources, Goyal claimed

during interrogation that he has been the chairman of the RTI cell of Delhi Pradesh Congress till 2022, Delhi Police sources said. Photos of the accused with many Congress leaders have also surfaced.

Delhi police special cell has arrested Goyal, the main accused following the recovery of more than 500 kg of cocaine and 40 kg of hydroponic marijuana worth over Rs 5,600 crore in a raid conducted in south Delhi on Wednesday.

Later, a war of words erupted between BJP and Congress on this issue. "Drugs worth Rs 5,600 crore have been recovered from Delhi. The main accused in this case is Tushar Goyal, who is the chief of the RTI cell of the Indian Youth Congress," BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said addressing a press conference in the national capital on Thursday. Trivedi sought explanation from the Congress, questioning if the party used drug money in its election campaign and if its association with Goyal extended to business as well. Was there an arrangement between the drug dealers and the Congress that they will be given a free run in Haryana if the party comes to power, he asked, alleging that the neighbouring state of Punjab is already in the grip of drugs.

# Revolving door in Haryana, Tanwar back in Congress

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ MAHENDRAGARH (HARYANA)/ NEW DELHI

The high-voltage campaign for a cut throat finish in Haryana for the October 5 Assembly polls came to an end on Thursday evening. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) suffered a major blow as its senior leader and former Member of Parliament Ashok Tanwar, who was the party's candidate from Sirsa for the Lok Sabha elections a few months ago, re-joined Congress at a rally of Rahul Gandhi in Mahendragarh district in Haryana on Thursday. Interestingly, shortly before joining the grand old party, the former Sirsa MP, who represented it as a Congress member, was campaigning for the BJP candidate in Safidon Assembly constituency. As Rahul Gandhi finished his speech, an announcement was made from the stage asking the audience to wait for a few minutes. To their surprise Tanwar walked on to the stage and greeted Rahul.



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with former BJP leader Ashok Tanwar as the latter joins Congress during a public meeting ahead of Haryana Assembly elections, in Mahendragarh district. PTI

Tanwar, a former Haryana Congress president, shook hands with Rahul and greeted senior party leader and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Tanwar, who was considered close to Rahul and had left the Congress in 2019 following differences with senior party leader former Hooda and in between he had his stint with Trinamool Congress (TMC) as well as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Leading the campaign for BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Congress stands for the "guarantee of corruption, casteism,

communalism and nepotism". The PM exhorted people to vote for the BJP, saying it is important that they elect a government which strengthens India at a time when the entire world is looking at the country with hope and expectations. In his last speech for the campaign in Haryana, Rahul said his party will not let the "hatred" being spread by the BJP on the basis of religion, language, and caste win and appealed to the people of Haryana to oust the ruling party in the Assembly polls. More than two crore voters are eligible to exercise

their franchise in Haryana for 90 assembly seats. The key parties in fray are BJP, Congress, AAP, Indian National Lok Da-Bahujan Samaj Party (INLD-BSP) and Jannayak Janta Party-Azad Samaj Party. While BJP focused its election campaign on the works and performance of the "double-engine" government, while it targeted the Congress on reservation, corruption, appeasement and dynastic politics, Congress wooed by announcing seven guarantees, including the promises of a legal guarantee for MSP, a caste survey, and Rs 2,000 per month to women, if voted to power. On the last day of campaigning, Congress's Rahul Gandhi and Bhupinder Singh Hooda, BJP's Yogi Adityanath and Nayab Singh Saini, JJP's Dushyant Chautala and INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala were among the prominent leaders who canvassed for their respective parties. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal also campaigned in Haryana for his party.



# Delhi's traffic needs divine intervention

**Navratri begins, and so does road congestion**

BY RAJESH KUMAR

From Mehrauli-Badarpur Road to Vikas Marg and Jhandewalan, Najafgarh to Peeragarhi, commuters in Delhi had harrowing experiences during the peak hours on the first day of the Navratri festival in the national Capital. However, according to frequent road users, this traffic stagnation is a routine affair. Wrecked roads, potholes, breakdown of vehicles, high volume of traffic and poor maintenance of major stretches result in massive jams. On Thursday, the first day of the Navratri festivities, heavy traffic exacerbated congestion on all roads leading to prominent temples including

Jhandewalan, Kalkaji, Maa Katyani Devi mandir in the national capital. The situation worsens each year as according to experts, while road size and capacity remains the same, the number of vehicles has grown exponentially. The vehicle movement was also badly affected on Vikas Marg in the carriageway from Karkari Mor towards Preet Vihar and vice-versa, due to ongoing work being carried out by Delhi Jal Board (DJB) at Preet Vihar Red Light and Najafgarh Road and Old Pankha Road in both the carriageways due to ongoing work being carried out by DJB at Old Pankha Road. Commuters had a harrowing experience on GTK Road on



Photo: Ranjan Dimri

both the carriageways from Jahangirpuri to Azadpur flyover as the entire traffic came to standstill for two-three hours due to heavy vehicles movement in

Azadpur Mandi. According to a traffic police advisory, traffic was affected on Maa Anandmai Marg in the carriageway from ESI Hospital towards Govind

Puri due to breakdown of a bus at Crown Plaza Red Light. Traffic was affected on Ring Road in the carriageway from DND towards Ashram Chowk due

to breakdown of a water tanker on Maharani Bagh Flyover. A loaded truck near Peeragarhi flyover broke down which led to massive jam on the Main Outer Ring Road in the carriageway from Madhuban Chowk towards Peeragarhi. Traffic was also affected on Rohtak Road in the carriageway from Nangloi towards Tikri Border and vice versa due to potholes and water logging. There was a traffic jam on the SSN Marg in the carriageway from Satbari towards Mehrauli due to drain work being carried out by civic agency. Commuters were advised to plan their journey accordingly. "Traffic remained affected on

Dwarka Palam Road in the carriageway from Palam Flyover towards IOC Red light due to breakdown of a bus on Palam flyover. Kindly plan your journey accordingly. Traffic was affected on Mathura Road in the carriageway from Badarpur towards Sarita Vihar due to breakdown of a truck near Aali Village", traffic police advisory stated. According to traffic police, breakdown of vehicles during peak hours on major roads is also an issue that leads to traffic jams. Roads leading to the Jhandewalan temple and Shri Adhya Katyayani Shaktipeeth temple witnessed heavy traffic flow on the first day of Navratri festival.



# Public welfare decisions will be taken from rural areas

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has taken the initiative to schedule Cabinet meetings along with industry conclaves in divisional and zonal areas beyond the capital Bhopal for the holistic development of the state. The first Cabinet meeting of the Mohan government outside the capital was held in Jabalpur in January 2024. The next Cabinet will be held on October 5 in Singrampur of Damoh district. District administration Preparations are complete for the Cabinet meeting in Singrampur. Chief Minister Yadav said Veerangana Rani Durgavati's contribution has been historic. Singaargarh Fort is near Singrampur village in

Damoh district. This area is historically recorded as the capital of Rani Durgavati. On the occasion of the 500th birth centenary of Veerangana Durgavati, it has been decided to hold a Cabinet meeting in Singrampur in her honour. On October 5, all the members of the State Cabinet and administrative officers will reach Singrampur, where important decisions will be taken regarding the development of the state. **Ladli Behna Sammelan will also be held** Along with the Cabinet meeting, Ladli Behna Sammelan will also be held in Singrampur village. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will transfer the amount in the accounts of the beneficiaries of the state's Ladli Behna



Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The Chief Minister will also interact with the Behnas. **Cabinet members to tour Singrampur** The members of the Cabinet will also visit the historical places located in and around Singrampur. They will visit the fort of Rani Durgavati, worship in the Rani temple and offer floral tribute to the statue of Rani Durgavati.

Chief Minister Yadav accompanied by all other ministers will also plant saplings here. It is worth mentioning here that after becoming the Chief Minister, Dr. Mohan Yadav had first decided that division-wise review meetings would be held in the state to resolve the problems of the citizens, for good governance, development works and field implementation of public welfare schemes. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav took the first review meeting on 17 September 2023 at Ujjain headquarters. In the same sequence, review meetings were held in other divisions also and the status of administration and implementation of schemes at the field level was assessed. **Other activities** Release of Damoh Darshan book.

Launch of Sankat Ke Sathi and Damoh Helpline Mobile App. Foundation laying and dedication of various development works. Release of vision document of Damoh district. Display of videos of achievements of Damoh district. Launch of Ayushman Card Scheme for senior citizens above 70 years of age. Installment to be deposited in the accounts of Ladli Behnas through single click. Distribution of benefits to the beneficiaries of various schemes. Honoring outstanding children of Hardua Jamsha village, Batiagarh block. Honoring rescue teams during floods. Interaction with women members of self-help groups.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Anurag Jain being greeted by Commissioner Public Relations Sudam Khade after he assumed office at State Mantralaya in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## BJP going to form gov third time in Haryana: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On Thursday, on the last day of campaigning for the Haryana Assembly elections, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav held a road show in support of the party candidates in Matanhail of Jhajjar district and Tosham of Tosham Assembly of Bhiwani district and appealed to the general public to ensure the victory of the party candidates with maximum votes. Yadav, while talking to media persons during the road show, said that once again there is a BJP atmosphere everywhere in Haryana and for the third time, the Bharatiya Janata Party government will be formed with a huge majority. Today, where I held a road show in support of the party candidates, we will have a historic victory.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has failed in the last two elections in Haryana and now he will fail for the third time in Haryana as well. The Chief Minister said that the people of Haryana are very intelligent. The people here are giving their blessings to the BJP for the development of their state and the country. BJP candidate from Jhajjar Assembly, Captain Birdhana and party candidate from Tosham Assembly and granddaughter of former Chief Minister late Bansi Lal, Shruti Chaudhary are committed to the development of the region. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a double engine government is working in Haryana. The opposition parties do not have any vision of development. For the development of Haryana, BJP is going to form

the government here for the third time with a historic majority. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav did a road show of about 15 km in Jhajjar assembly. His convoy passed through Matanhail, Tuchhakwas, Khedi and Khatiwasi. Yadav was given a grand welcome in the road show organized in Tosham of Tosham assembly. During the road show, slogans of 'BJP Zindabad', 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi Zindabad' were being raised continuously. Thousands of people welcomed Yadav by showering flowers and wearing a turban on the road side. The road show was welcomed by bursting fireworks and crackers at the squares and intersections. During the road show, a huge crowd gathered to express their support for the BJP candidates and to welcome Chief Minister Yadav.

## CM releases book

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released the book "Master Your Destiny - Lessons from Lohani" by Director of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Tarun Kumar Pithode, in New Delhi. The event was also graced by the presence of Ashwani Lohani, a retired officer from the Indian Railway Service, whose remarkable career in public administration and management has inspired the book. "Master Your Destiny - Lessons from Lohani" is the sixth book written by Pithode. The book presents various aspects of management in a unique manner. It highlights how Lohani faced challenges at different levels, along with insights from his seniors, friends, colleagues, and juniors. < The book also discusses the strategies he employed to lead various organizations to new heights of success.

## Agitating guest teachers forcibly evicted from Ambedkar Park

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The lights were switched off at the time of cane charging the guest teachers protesting in Bhopal on Wednesday night, alleged the guest teachers. The protestors alleged that they were beaten in the dark so that the cane chargers could not be identified. The videos of the cane chargers surfaced on social media on the intervening night of Wednesday. In this, the screams of the teachers are heard in the dark. After the cane chargers, the protesters returned. The TT Nagar police station has registered an FIR against the state president of the Guest Teachers Association KC Pawar and BM Khan, Mukesh Joshi, Santosh and others associated with the

organization. In fact, on Gandhi Jayanti, guest teachers from all over the state had gathered at Ambedkar Maidan at Second Stop in Bhopal to demand regularization. The guest teachers were raising slogans, 'We have come to occupy and will leave after occupying.' This slogan is being considered a response to the statement of School Education Minister Rao Uday Pratap Singh, in which he had said - 'If you come as our guest, will you occupy the house?' Guest teacher Ravikant Gupta from Sidhi district said, 'The police came to talk at around 8.30 pm. They said that your delegation has to meet the officials of the concerned department. We said, whoever wants to talk should come here.

There was a clash between the police and the guest teachers when the guest teachers were moving forward to surround the CM House, the police put up barricades to stop them. There was also a clash and jostling with the police. The protest continued till late night. At 8 pm on Wednesday, the police suddenly cane chargers the guest teachers. A banner was also put up, which read, 'Rioters, your gathering has been declared illegal. Disperse effective bullets will be fired.' When the banner was opposed, it was removed. The police removed the guest teachers from the road. After this, the protesters went towards the Congress office on foot. Guest teachers said, we were

reciting Sunder Kand. Then the police switched off the lights. After some time they started using lathis. We ran away through different routes. Police chased them, there was a stampede due to the sudden lathi charge. Guest teachers from all over the state had gathered at Ambedkar Maidan in Bhopal. ACP Chandrashekhar Pandey said, FIR has been registered against four named persons and others in TT Nagar police station. The demonstration was being done without permission. At the same time, regarding the banner of firing bullets, he said that the intention of firing bullets was not that we will fire bullets. Later that banner was removed. This is being unnecessarily blown out of proportion.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during an election campaign on the last day of the campaign for state assembly elections in Haryana on Thursday.

## Monsoon withdrawal from eastern part of MP to be delayed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Withdrawal of monsoon has started in the state on Wednesday, the Meteorological Department announced the withdrawal of monsoon from Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, Datia, Shivpuri and Sheopur. Monsoon withdrawal in some districts of Ujjain division on Thursday and later it will withdraw from Jabalpur, Rewa, Shahdol and Sagar divisions. Senior scientist said that on October 4, a low pressure area is becoming active in the Bay of Bengal. Due to this, the departure from the eastern part of the state will be delayed. According to the Meteorological Department, there may be drizzle and thunderstorms in Barwani, Khargone, Khandwa and Burhanpur

**Senior scientist said that on October 4, a low pressure area is becoming active in the Bay of Bengal. Due to this, the departure from the eastern part of the state will be delayed**

in the next 24 hours i.e. on Thursday. There will be bright sunshine in the rest of the districts of the state including Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur. Monsoon entered MP on June 21. Monsoon came via Jabalpur division. On 28 June, the monsoon reached Gwalior-Chambal division last, but it was the first to depart from here. Monsoon remained active here for about 95 days. The rainy season has stopped in the state for 3 days. With the departure of monsoon from Gwalior and Chambal division on Wednesday, the effect of heat increased in many

districts of the state. The mercury reached 36.6 degrees in Gwalior and Khajuraho and 36 degrees Celsius in Tikamgarh. The mercury crossed 35 degrees in Bhopal, Guna, Ratlam, Ujjain, Damoh, Jabalpur, Rewa. 34 degrees Celsius was recorded in Indore. According to the Meteorological Department, the days will be hot and nights will be cold till the onset of winter. Cold will increase at night from October 20. Jabalpur division has been at the forefront in terms of monsoon rain this year. Mandla district received

the highest rainfall. More than 60.6 inches of rainfall has been recorded, 56.8 inches of rainfall has been recorded in Seoni. Sheopur, Niwari and Rajgarh have received more than 52 inches of rain. The top-10 districts with the highest rainfall include Bhopal, Sagar, Alirajpur, Dindori and Chhindwara. However, there has been no rain anywhere for the last 2 days. The rainy season may have stopped in the state, but the inflow of water in the dams and ponds continues. This season, 200 out of about 250 dams in the state have been full. There are many dams including Bargi, Banganga, Omkareshwar, Indira Sagar, Tawa, Kaliyasot, Kerwa, Bhadbhada, whose gates have been opened 6 to 10 times or more in the season.

## BHEL ED awarded for his contribution in implementing official language

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The prestigious award of "Madhya Pradesh Rashtriya Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Hindi Sevi Samman Year 2024" for non-Hindi speakers was organized at Hindi Bhavan premises, Shyamala Hills, Bhopal on Wednesday. His Excellency Mangubhai Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh was present as the Chief Guest in the program. In the program Tamil speaking SM Ramanathan, Executive Director, BHEL, Bhopal was honoured by Mangubhai Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh with a memento, shawl and shreefal. This award was given to him for his notable contribution in the field of implementation of official language, use of Hindi in technical field, emphasis on digitization and use of Hindi in financial sector. The program started with garlanding the portraits of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, lighting of lamps and singing the national anthem. This award is given every year to non-Hindi speaking personalities who have made

**Tamil speaking SM Ramanathan, Executive Director, BHEL, Bhopal was honoured by Mangubhai Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh**

a notable contribution in the use of official language. in the offices, undertakings and banks of the Central Government. Those who have worked with commitment and special interest to increase the use of official language Hindi in their office/undertaking. On this occasion, Chairman of M.P.R.B. Prachar Samiti Dr. Sukhdev Prasad Dubey, Minister Director Kailash Chandra Pant, Raghunandan Sharma, Vice Chairman, Prof. Ranjana Aragade, Dr. Sanjay Saxena and Additional General Manager (HR) of BHEL, Bhopal Arif Ahmed Siddiqui, Deputy General Manager (HR) Prajjal Adak and official language team and a large number of Hindi lovers were present.

## Anurag Jain takes charge as CS



**Bhopal:** Anurag Jain, a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service officer, took charge as the 35th Chief Secretary of the State Government at the Mantralaya today. Senior officers presented bouquets to Chief Secretary Jain. Chief Secretary Jain was born on 11 August 1965 in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. After joining the Indian Administrative Service, Jain's first posting was as Assistant Collector in Sagar in June 1990. A multi-talented person, Jain's educational qualification is B. Tech. Engineering and M.A. Public Administration (USA). Chief Secretary Jain held the post of Collector in Mandla, Mandsaur, Bhopal districts. Jain discharged the responsibilities of various departments as Secretary, Principal Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary in the Madhya Pradesh Government. Chief Secretary Jain also held key posts on deputation in the Government of India.

## Traditional Hajong community house reconstructed at IGRMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) successfully completed the reconstruction of the traditional Hajong House in its open-air exhibition premises. Seventeen traditional artists from the Hajong community of Joyrampur Village in Dhemaji District, Assam, led by Sri Sanjiv Kumar Hajong, played an instrumental role in reviving this important cultural exhibit. The team arrived at the IGRMS campus on September 5, 2024, and, within a span of 28 days, meticulously completed the reconstruction of the traditional house, which stands as vital of the Hajong community's traditional architecture and cultural heritage in the museum premises. The culmination of this effort was celebrated with an inaugural ritual, marked by the preparation of a Dev Haali, a sacred and symbolic space used for invoking gods and goddesses. Positioned towards the north-eastern side of the reconstructed house, the raised earthen plinth served as a focal point for the ceremony, which is a cornerstone of Hajong spiritual life.

The ritual also involved the invocation of ancestral spirits, reflecting the deep cultural and spiritual ties embedded in the community's practices. The event was attended by Prof. Amitabh Pande, Director of IGRMS, along with museum officials and special invitees, including officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), who witnessed the ritual and the inauguration. Among the distinguished guests was Sri Prem Chandra mourya Income Tax Commissioner of Bhopal, who joined the celebration of this significant cultural milestone. This reconstruction project exemplifies the museum's mission of fostering community participation in preserving and promoting indigenous cultural expressions, with the Hajong house serving as a living testament to the enduring traditions of the Hajong people. Bamboo and cow dung are used on the walls of the houses. The Hajong house has special parts like Deo Ghor (a room for daily prayers), Akhil Ghor or kitchen, Bhat Ghor (a dining hall and bedroom), Khopra Ghor (a bedroom for a married daughter or son), Chang Ghor (grain warehouse), Kasari Ghor (guest room), Guli Ghor (animal shed), etc.



Leaders of Opposition Umang Singhar and other leaders launch the Indira Fellowship for women under Shakti Abhayan at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## One-year-old child falls from moving e-rickshaw, dies

**Bhopal:** A one and a half year old child died after falling from a moving e-rickshaw late on Wednesday night in the Eintkhedi area, the accident occurred after sudden brakes were applied by the driver. After the postmortem on Thursday, the police handed over the body to the family. The police have registered a case and started an investigation in the matter.

According to the police, Vihit Ahirwar had a one and a half year old child named Harikash. His wife was riding the e-rickshaw with the child in her lap. The driver suddenly applied brakes in the Eintkhedi area. At this time the child was in the mother's lap. After applying the brake, the child slipped and fell on the ground. After this, the family present on the spot took him to a pri-

vate hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. The police, who reached the hospital after getting information, recovered the body of the deceased and sent it to Hamidia Hospital for post-mortem. The police said that after investigation, action will be taken against the person who was negligent in driving. Police are investigating the matter.



# Congress search for Vijaypur hovers around Malhotra

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

Turning it into a battle for prestige, the Congress search for candidate for the Vijaypur by-election is fast zeroing in on Mukesh Malhotra to regain the seat, the party lost to defection. The party is said to be making all-out efforts to settle scores with both arch-rivals Bharatiya Janata Party and incumbent state forest minister Ramnivas Rawat in the yet-to-be-announced by-election. Rawat contested the seat on a Congress ticket in 2023 and switched sides to join the BJP months later. The by-election is mandated by the resignation of Rawat, who has since been elevated to the state cabinet.

Not surprisingly, the Congress views the upcoming bypoll as an opportunity to avenge the ignominy it suffered at the hands of the ruling BJP due to Rawat's defection. Amidst hectic maneuvering ahead of the bypoll, State Congress unit chief Jitu Patwari has already undertaken three tours of the constituency since it fell vacant. Former state minister and Congress party in-charge for the area Jaivardhan Singh has also visited the area as many times. Sources in the Congress identify Malhotra as the frontrunner among those lobbying for a party nomination to contest from the area and add that the local party leader lost the race

## The Congress is said to be making all-out efforts to settle scores with both arch-rivals BJP and Forest Minister Ramnivas Rawat

for the party ticket to Rawat in 2023. Malhotra's nomination is further cemented by his acceptance among voters in the constituency, as he polled 44,000 votes as an independent after being denied the party ticket in the last elections. While talking to The Pioneer, Malhotra said that only the party leadership

would decide the nomination. "I am doing party work and have not demanded a ticket. The party is engaged in conducting surveys and seeking feedback from the public," he added in an ostensible effort to shun the limelight at this juncture. He underlined that the party ticket would only go to a leader with wide appeal among voters. Congress sources say that Malhotra's ticket claims may find credence with party leaders as the Congress will, in all likelihood, contest a tribal leader from the constituency which has over 60,000 Sahariya tribal votes. BJP hopeful Rawat represents the OBC demographic and has represent-

ed the people of Vijaypur six times so far. Since Mukesh Malhotra is tribal, there are strong chances that Congress will field him from there. Congress media in-charge Mukesh Nayak informed that Patwari is visiting the election-bound area on Friday. He said the Congress was optimistic about its chances in the by-election, as voters are miffed with Rawat due to his decision to switch sides. The Congress has a long tradition of refusing nominations to frontrunners at the last moment; it remains to be seen if Malhotra will manage to break this unwritten party code and contest Rawat in what promises to be an absolute thriller.



Students participate in a rangoli drawing competition organised during Wildlife Week celebration, at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo



Students of National Institute of Fashion Design (NIFD) during a fresher's party at a hotel in Bhopal on Thursday.

## GM WCR conducts coordination review meet

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Co-ordination review meeting of the first week of October held under the chairmanship of General Manager of West Central Railway Shobhana Bandopadhyaya. In this meeting, all the heads of departments of the headquarters including Additional General Manager RS Saxena and Chief Safety Officer Mr. Prabhat Kumar were present. Apart from this, Divisional Railway Managers of Bhopal and Kota and both Additional Divisional Railway Managers of Jabalpur Division also remained connected through video conferencing. In the meeting, emphasis was laid on safety, punctuality, freight loading, redressal of rail help complaints, station redevelopment,

infrastructure construction works like RUB/LHS and ROB. Along with this, many important topics like works directed by the Railway Board and safety inspection of trains were discussed. At the beginning of the meeting, General Manager Shobhana Bandopadhyaya said that protected and safe rail operations are our priority. She directed the concerned officials to review the infrastructure works. The General Manager directed to ensure compliance of the instructions laid down by the Railway Board regarding safety and security and to follow the safety related improvements in a planned manner. Necessary guidelines were given to speed up the work of ROB/RUB (LHS) and FOB under infrastructure construction works. Apart from this,

necessary guidelines were given to speed up the station redevelopment infrastructure construction works and complete them within the time limit. During the meeting, the General Manager said that there is a need to focus on increasing goods traffic loading and revenue. During the meeting, the General Manager said that under passenger facilities, there is a need to lay special emphasis on Rail Madad Analysis and prompt resolution of complaints of railway passengers. She talked about monitoring the punctuality of trains, and emphasising on speed related works and safety of trains. The General Manager also reviewed the progress of infrastructure works. He said that safety is paramount for the Railways.

## Dial 100 helps two women reach home

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Taking prompt action by Dial-100 two women who were marooned in Barwara police station area of Katni were provided help and dropped the two at their home in the night on Wednesday. In the evening on Wednesday a woman and her daughter-in-law were not getting any means to reach home after they missed their bus at night in the Barwara police station area of Katni. They required assistance and information was received at the state level police control room Dial-100 Bhopal on October 2 at 08:30 pm. On receiving the information, a Dial-100 vehicle

deployed in the Barwara police station area was immediately dispatched for help. Dial-112 and 100 staff head constable Sushil Dubey and pilot Pankaj Tiwari reached the spot and told that woman Sushma Namdev, who had come to Barwara, was not getting any means to reach Thuthiya Salaiya village after they missed the bus. Daughter Shalini Namdev had called on Dial-112 and 100 numbers and asked for help. Dial-112 and 100 personnel took the mother and daughter 8 km away in a FRV vehicle and left them in their village Thuthiya Salaiya. The family thanked the Dial-112 and 100 police personnel for helping at night.

## Santoshi Shyam's work on display at Tribal Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An exhibition featuring the works of Gond tribal artist Santoshi Shyam is currently underway at the Tribal museum in the state capital. Single artist exhibitions, under the 'Shalaka' series, are held every month at the Likhandra exhibition gallery of the museum. The single artist shows present tribal folk artists with an opportunity to show and sell their work to connoisseurs. Young Gond artist Santoshi Shyam was born in Patangarh, a tribal-dominated area of Dindori district of the state, but was raised and educated in Bhopal. Her father, Narmadaprasad Tekam, was a renowned Gond artist and hails from the family of the late Janardhansingh Shyam. Thus, she inherited the

traditional Gond painting legacy. She is married to fellow young Gond artist Rajendra Kumar Shyam and currently resides in Bhopal. They have two children, one of whom has a disability that requires special attention, making it challenging for her to devote much time to her art. Santoshi, however, remains committed to preserving the artistic tradition and actively assists her husband with his work. She has participated in several solo and group art exhibitions and has received various awards for her outstanding work, including the Kalidasa Award. She credits her success to her father, Narmadaprasad Tekam, whose continuous encouragement has refined her art which often features depictions of wild animals and birds.

## Work on water supply project at Burhanpur almost complete

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Development Company, an undertaking of the Urban Development and Housing Department, is carrying out the work of water augmentation project in Burhanpur with the support of the World Bank, which is nearing completion. An intake-well has been installed on the Tapti river to provide clean water to the city residents. At the same time, a water purification plant of 50 MLD capacity has also been installed to purify the water. Availability of purified water will also reduce the risk of water-borne diseases. 8 overhead tanks have been built for water storage, as well as the existing 4 over tanks will also be used for water storage. A 296 km distribu-

## A water purification plant of 50 MLD capacity has also been installed to purify the water. Availability of purified water will also reduce the risk of water-borne diseases

tion pipeline has been laid to deliver water to every house. The work of providing tap connections has also started. So far, a total of more than 35 thousand tap connections have been given. Under Burhanpur water augmentation project, water is being supplied daily in the new pipeline through the new water supply system in zone number 5 Shivaji Nagar, zone number 6 Marichika Garden and zone number 10 Indira Colony through water augmentation project and the old water supply system has been completely shut down by the Municipal Corporation.

At the same time, water is being supplied daily under water augmentation project in zone number 1 Subhash School, zone number 2 Kila and zone number 3 and the process of shutting down the old system is also going on. In the remaining 4 zones of the project, including zone number 4 Lalbagh, zone number 8A Transport Nagar, zone number 8B Sindhipura, zone number 9 Azad Nagar, about 80 percent area has been covered by water supply under water augmentation project and the work of commissioning the remaining is in progress.

## 9000 homes connected to PM Surya Ghar Scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ensuing central government directives for provision of free electricity under PM Surya Ghar Scheme, the central region power distributor on Thursday said it has connected 9000 homes across 16 districts in Madhya Pradesh. Providing benefits under the scheme, the Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company is also extending a subsidy of Rs 30,000 to 78,000 to consumers installing solar systems. Presently, electricity consumers in 16 districts across Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Gwalior, and Chambal divisions are deriving benefits under the scheme which envisions easy access to free electricity for consumers. The objective of the PM Surya Ghar Scheme is to enhance cost saving benefits for consumers while they contribute to the protection of the environment.

## Two female GST employees caught red-handed accepting bribe

PNS ■ UJJAIN

In a first, two female officers of the GST department were trapped while accepting a bribe by the Lokayukt special police cell in Ujjain on Thursday. The two officers, including a GST inspector, were trapped while taking Rs 3500 as bribe at the GST office in the temple city. The two have been identified as Vijaya Bhilala and Kiran Joshi. While Bhilala is an inspector at the GST office (Commercial Tax Department), Joshi is an Assistant Grade 3 Clerk. On Thursday afternoon, both were working in their office when Lokayukt DSP Rajesh Pathak arrived with his team and caught them accepting the bribe from road contractor Deep Singh Bunkar. The action taken by the Lokayukt, marking the first instance in the GST

department, caused a stir. Bunkar, a resident of Mahavir Bagh Colony on Indore Road, had contracted work for cement and gravel from GR Company on Ujjain-Badnawar Road under his firm, Shri Radha Contractors. When he needed payment, he applied online for a GST number on 23rd August. However, Bhilala and Joshi demanded Rs 6,000 in exchange for providing the number. When he hesitated, they negotiated, and both agreed to Rs 3,500 for the work. Bunkar recorded their demand for a bribe and submitted it to the Lokayukt two days ago. DSP Rajesh Pathak said that the trap was conducted in a planned manner based on Bunkar's complaint. An investigation will be carried out into the case, and action will be taken against anyone else involved in this bribery scheme.

## Singrapur preserves the memories of Dalpat Shah and Rani Durgavati

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Singrapur is a gram panchayat under Jabera tehsil of Damoh district, about 54 km from Damoh headquarters and about 51 km from Jabalpur district, the capital of Gond ruler Raja Dalpat Shah and Rani Durgavati. One can reach Singrapur from Jabalpur via Narmadapuram from Bhopal. Singrapur can be reached from Damoh via Sagar from Bhopal. Raja Dalpat Shah husband of Rani Durgavati was the 49th king of the Gondwana Kingdom. He ruled from the fort of Singaurgarh located near Singrapur. His tomb is present near Singrapur. Rani Durgavati Veerangana Rani Durgavati was a great Indian ruler, who sacrificed her life for her self-respect and motherland.

dom from Mughal invaders. Their struggle against the British Empire has been remarkable. Route to Singrapur Singrapur can be directly reached by road which is 54 km from Damoh headquarter and 51 km from Jabalpur. One can reach Singrapur from Jabalpur via Narmadapuram from Bhopal. Singrapur can be reached from Damoh via Sagar from Bhopal. Raja Dalpat Shah husband of Rani Durgavati was the 49th king of the Gondwana Kingdom. He ruled from the fort of Singaurgarh located near Singrapur. His tomb is present near Singrapur. Rani Durgavati Veerangana Rani Durgavati was a great Indian ruler, who sacrificed her life for her self-respect and motherland.



Devotees in a queue to offer prayers on the first day of the nine-day Navratri festival, at Goddess Kali Temple in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## Youth caught for raping schoolgirl

Bhopal: Jehangirabad police have arrested a youth for sexually assaulting a class 9 girl, accused used to live in the same locality and was acquainted with the victim. Police have registered a case against the accused identified as Yashwant. On Wednesday evening, the police registered an FIR on the complaint of the victim and started searching for the accused. Later in the investigation accused was tracked and arrested. SHO Ashutosh Upadhyay said that the 16-year-old girl lives in a locality in Jehangirabad area and is a class 9 student. A youth named Yashwant lives in a rented house in the same locality. He

is originally from Sehore district. The two became friends due to living in the same area. They were acquainted for about a year, when the two became close, a month ago the youth made physical relations with the teenager after luring her. After this, he started physically exploiting the school girl by threatening her with defamation. Accused was repeatedly pressurizing her to have physical relations. Harassed by this, the student told the whole thing to her family and went to the police station and lodged a complaint. The police registered a case under the sections of rape and POCSO Act and took the accused into custody.

INDIAN BANK  
BIMR Branch: Gwalior

APPENDIX - IV (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice dated 08/07/2024 to the below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors, calling upon the borrowers and also the owner of the property/Surety to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors / owners of the property having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the owner of property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the movable/immovable property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 30th day of September of the year 2024.

The Borrowers and Guarantors / owners of the property in particulars and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, BIMR Branch, for the amount mentioned against the borrowers and interest thereon, costs etc. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount Outstanding	Description of Movable / Immovable Property
Borrower: Mr. Shubham Tomar S/o Rajendra Singh Co-borrower & Mortgagor : Mrs. Anita Tomar W/o Rajendra Singh	₹ 1610520.10 + Interest & other Charges	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Survey No.48, plot No. 515 Block-M, Ward no.18, Apna Ghar Yojna Phase-I, Shatabdipuram, Gwalior (MP) Admeasuring total area of 50 sq meter in the name of Mrs. Anita Tomar w/o Rajendra Singh Boundaries: North - Common road/way, South- Plot no. M-516, East - Common road/way, West - Plot no.556

Place: Gwalior, Date : 30/09/2024  
Authorised Officer, (Indian Bank)

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED  
Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015  
HOUSING FINANCE Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010

Appendix IV : Symbolic Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor / Co-Borrower	1. Demand Notice issued Date 2. Loan Account No, 3. Amount Due as on Notice Date	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)	Date of Symbolic Possession
Mr. SAMNDAR SINGH (Borrower) Mrs. MANU BAI (Co Borrower) Mrs. DEEPAK (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 25/08/2023 2. MP/UJJ/AGAR/A000000038 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 8,07,735/- (Rupees Eight Lacs Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Five)	Gram Panchayat House No 73 In Village Dontajagir Ward No. 13 Tehsil Tonkhurd, Dist. Dewas Madhya Pradesh, India- 456770 Total Area - 600 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - House Of Badrial S/o Chena Ji, West - Common Road, North - House Of Antar Singh S/o Bherulal, South - Common Road	28/09/2024
Mrs. SANGITA BAI (Borrower) Mr. RAJARAM GOUD (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 08/04/2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000009 & MP/IDR/UJJN/A0000000587 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 9,24,690/- (Rupees Nine Lacs Twenty Four Thousand Six Hundred Ninty)	Plot No.01, Survey No. 609/Min-2, 618/1/Min-1, 618/2/Min-1, 619, 620, 621, 624/1/1, Janki Nagar, Gram Bhitri, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456006 Total Area - 1224.25 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - Land Of Seller, West - Road, North - Road, South - Plot Of Other	28/09/2024

STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS

Borrower(s)/Guarantor's are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time herein after by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002. Authorised Officer Mobile No.- Vaibhav Shrivastav - 7987969803, Rajesh Chakotiya - 84355 71111, Sitaram Prajapat - 95845 67867  
Place : Indore, Date : 04/10/2024  
Authorised Officer, Hinduja Housing Finance Limited



# India rejects USCIRF report as political bias

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday took strong exception to a US Commission on International Religious Freedom report claiming worsening religious freedom in the country and said it is a biased organization with a political agenda. Giving this stern reaction here, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said "Our views on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) are well known. It is a biased organisation with a political agenda. It continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF further. We would urge USCIRF to



desist from such agenda driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the

United States." "Newagency PTI reported from Washington a US federal government commission has flagged the alleged worsening of religious freedom in India

and called for it to be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern". Authored by senior policy analyst Sema Hasan, the section on India describes the

use of misinformation and disinformation -- including hate speech by government officials -- to incite violent attacks against religious minorities and their places of worship, the US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said in a statement. In its annual report, the USCIRF also recommended that the US Department of State designate India as a "Country of Particular Concern" for engaging in systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom. The state department has so far refrained from accepting the recommendations. "This report highlights how, throughout 2024, individuals have been killed, beaten, and lynched by vigilante groups, religious leaders have been arbitrarily arrested, and homes and places of worship

have been demolished. These events constitute particularly severe violations of religious freedom," the USCIRF said. Beginning with the previous Manmohan Singh-led government, India has consistently denied visas to USCIRF members to visit the country, citing "interference" in its internal affairs, it added. India and several Indian-American groups have in the past accused the USCIRF of biased, unscientific and agenda-driven reporting to malign the country. "It (the report) further describes changes to and enforcement of India's legal framework to target and disenfranchise religious minorities, including the Citizenship Amendment Act, a uniform civil code, and several state-level anti-conversion and cow slaughter laws," the USCIRF said.

# J and K Assembly polls show 69.69 per cent turnout: EC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Voter turnout of 69.69 per cent has been recorded in third phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, with women outnumbering men in casting votes, the Election Commission said on Thursday. Overall, 63.88 per cent turnout has been recorded at polling stations, as against 58.58 per cent in the Lok Sabha polls, the poll panel noted. In phase-three of the polls on October one, when 40 seats went for voting in the Union Territory, the turnout of male voters was recorded at 69.37 per cent as compared to 70.02 per cent of women, the Election Commission (EC) said. Nearly 44 per cent of voters from the third gender

category came to cast their votes in this phase. Referring to the overall turnout, the Election Commission said it stood at 63.88 per cent with male participation recorded at 64.68 per cent. The overall women turnout was recorded at 63.04 per cent and that of the third gender at 38.24 per cent. The final votes polled will be available post-counting with counting of postal ballots. Postal ballots include postal ballots given to service voters, absentee voters (those above 85 years of age, persons with disabilities, those part of essential services) and voters on election duty, the EC noted. Daily account of such postal ballots received, as per established guidelines, are given to all candidates, it said.

# Modi greets people on Navaratri festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted people at the start of the auspicious Navaratri festival. "It is my wish that this sacred festival devoted to worshipping shakti is auspicious for everyone," he said in a social media post. The festival is marked by festivities in many parts of the country, while the devout involve themselves in religious practices, including fasting, during the period.

# Indian researchers develop road safety sensor prototype

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A prototype of a road safety sensor that can be implanted at high-risk turning points where accidents are frequent, has been developed by Indian researchers from a new polymer nanocomposite with pressure sensing and energy harvesting properties. The prototype may be implanted in the movable ramp and secured to the road just 100 meters before acute and fatal turning points. Thus, any vehicle approaching from the opposite side will see the signal on a screen and be alerted, according to a statement from the Department of Science and Technology which has funded the project under INSPIRE

-faculty fellowship programme. This prototype works on the principle of piezoelectric effect so it can generate energy that can be stored and used further to power electronic gadgets as well. Developed by the scientists from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, the novel polymer nanocomposite, from which the prototype has been crafted, has been made of transition metal dichalcogenide, Scientists, Ankur Verma, Dr. Arjun Hari Madhu, Dr. Subash Cherumannil Karumuthil synthesised vanadium disulfide (VS2) with a very high surface charge which has the capacity of improving the piezoelectric characteristics of polymers. Polymer nanocomposite films



were prepared by integrating these nanoparticles at various concentrations into a well-known piezoelectric polymer, poly (vinylidene difluoride) (PVDF). Further they investigated how

the surface charge of nanoparticles will affect the piezoelectric properties of polymer nanocomposite. In addition, a laboratory-scale demonstration of a road safety sensor and smart door

generating and pressure sensing applications. This work was recently published in the Journal of Material Chemistry A and an Indian patent application filed. This study is part of an ongoing project "Materials for self-powered energy generating and pressure sensing devices". Scientists are constantly trying to develop new materials for self-powered energy generating and pressure sensing devices and using them for several applications. Flexible, portable, long-lasting, and wearable sensors and energy harvesting devices can play an essential part in today's artificial intelligence era. Polymers and nanoparticles serve critical roles in today's flexible electronic systems, added the statement.

# Modi to address Kautilya economic conclave in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the Kautilya Economic Conclave here on Friday, his office has said. The third edition of the conclave will be held from October four to six, the PMO said. The conclave will focus on themes such as financing green transition, geo-economic fragmentation and implications for growth, and principles for policy action to preserve resilience. Both Indian and international scholars are slated to discuss some of the most important issues confronting the Indian economy and economies of the Global South, the PMO said.



# India joins IMDRF as affiliate member, enhancing global collaboration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), a development that will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide while strengthening the "Brand India" in the global market. The Union Health Ministry said on Thursday, the IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence. Its members include national regulatory authorities of the US, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the UK, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore and the World Health Organisation (WHO). "To achieve global alignment in its medical device regulatory system, enhance the competitiveness of the domestic industry and boost transnational prominence, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the Union Health Ministry, applied for Affiliate Membership in the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) in 2024," the Ministry said in a statement. "After review of India's application for affiliate membership and meeting

discussions by the IMDRF Management Committee (MC) with the senior officers of CDSCO during the 26th Session of IMDRF held in September 2024 at Seattle, Washington, USA, the CDSCO has received approval from IMDRF as an affiliate member of the forum," it said. Becoming an affiliate member of the IMDRF will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide, it said. The membership helps to harmonise regulatory requirements across the globe, which reduces complexities for manufacturers and helps safeguard public health by promoting collaboration, harmonising regulations and promoting convergence. As an affiliate member, India will participate in IMDRF open sessions for information exchange on technical topics with other regulators, to discuss the latest medical device regulatory strategies and trends, provide feedback on its experience and perspectives and use IMDRF documents in part or in whole as the basis for its regulatory framework for medical devices, said the statement. This membership will also enable Indian medical device manufacturers to meet the regulatory requirements of IMDRF member countries, thereby strengthening the "Brand India" in the global market, it said.

# Air Marshal SP Dharkar appointed Vice Chief of Air Staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Air Marshal S P Dharkar, an accomplished fighter pilot with 3,600 hours of flying experience, on Thursday assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Air Staff. He succeeds Air Chief Marshal A P Singh who became the Chief of Air Staff on September 30. Air Marshal Dharkar has flown various types of fighter jets and trainer aircraft and commanded a MiG-27 squadron. He is an experienced qualified flying instructor, fighter strike leader and instrument rating instructor. Commissioned in the fighter stream in 1985, he is an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC),



National Defence Academy (NDA), Defence Services Staff College and the US Air War College. He has commanded a frontline fighter unit and served as the first Director General of the Defence Space Agency. Air Marshal Dharkar was serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command prior to taking over as Vice Chief of Air Staff. He has also served

as the assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Training) at the air headquarters. As the Director General of the Defence Space Agency (DSA), he was responsible for handling all aspects related to setting up of the new organisation. The DSA would control and oversee all aspects of space exploitation in the military domain by the Indian defence forces.

# Congress demands urgent relief for Bihar flood victims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the flood situation in Bihar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday demanded that the Centre and state government should expedite the relief and rescue operations. According to the disaster management department, the number of people affected by flood has reached 14.62 lakh. "The flood situation in Bihar is becoming terrible. Nearly 15 lakh people in 17 districts are affected by the floods and the news of many deaths in the last few days is extremely painful," Kharge said in a social media post in Hindi. The Congress president said the bridges have collapsed



help they are providing in these difficult circumstances. But we still need all possible help from the state government agencies," he added. Kharge also urged the Centre to provide adequate compensation to every flood victim and help the state government. The Congress president said the farmers, whose crops have been destroyed should also get compensation. The Congress workers are expected to be ready to serve the victims, he added. According to the state disaster management department, packets of food and other relief materials are being air-dropped by the IAF helicopters in the 17 flood-affected districts.

# Climate change fuels gender-based violence in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Thirty-two-year-old Srestha, a mother of three from southern Bangladesh, has long relied on agriculture, cultivating rice and vegetables. However, the increasing frequency of floods due to climate change has dramatically impacted her family's livelihood. With no income, Srestha's husband, Shabbir, became increasingly stressed and frustrated. As months passed without financial relief, Shabbir's mood worsened. He began to lash out at Srestha, blaming her for their situation. What started as verbal arguments escalated into physical violence. Srestha found herself trapped in a cycle of fear and helplessness, often trying to placate Shabbir to avoid further conflict. However, Srestha's precarious situation is not an isolated case. She represents many women facing climate change-induced gender-



based violence which is set to aggravate in near future as impacts of global warming intensifies, as per a new analysis published in the PLOS Climate. A first of its kind analysis based on the data from 156 countries including India between 1993 and 2019 has shown that climate shocks—such as floods, storms, and landslides—are linked to higher rates of intimate partner violence in the two years following such events, particularly in patriarchal societies where violence against women is normalised. The study led by UCL researchers in collaboration with Exeter also shows that violence rates were found to be low in countries having a higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

# Reducing smoking could boost life expectancy: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

If smoking were cut down to just five per cent of current levels by 2050, men could expect an increase in life expectancy by about one year, while women might see an increase of 0.2 years, a recent study published in The Lancet Public Health has said. Achieving the five per cent smoking target could prevent 876 million years of life lost due to premature death, highlighting the profound impact of reducing tobacco use. The study suggests that banning the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products could prevent an estimated 1.2 million lung cancer deaths across 185 countries by 2095. Notably, about two-thirds of these preventable deaths would occur in low- and middle-income countries, where younger populations may be more vulnerable to the effects of tobacco. The researchers analysed the potential benefits of a



tobacco-free generation policy, which aims to restrict tobacco sales to those born after a specific year. This approach, however, has not yet been fully implemented in any country. For instance, noted the study, New Zealand had enacted a law to prohibit the sale of tobacco to individuals born on or after January 1, 2009, but this legislation was repealed earlier this year. Stein Emil Vollset, a senior author of the study from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the

"We must not lose momentum in efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate smoking around the world. Our findings highlight that millions of premature deaths could be avoided by bringing an end to smoking," said Vollset. Commenting on the study's observation, a representative from Mothers Against Vaping, a united front of concerned mothers combating the escalating vaping crisis asserted that there is a need to highlight health hazards of New-Age Gateway devices like e-cigarettes, vapes, and heat-not-burn devices for India to meet its tobacco control goals for the youth. In fact, the authors of the Lancet study have advocated for not only maintaining existing tobacco control measures but also implementing new strategies to address the ongoing risks associated with smoking which are major reasons for many preventable diseases including cancers.



# BJP proposes renaming Sealdah station after Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There are credible reports that a section of Bengal BJP has started lobbying for rechristening Sealdah Railway Station as Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Railway Station at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Railway Station.



sands of young people assembled and dragged his cart by hand." Ghosh said. However according to Bhattacharya, "When lakhs of beaten and uprooted refugees from the erstwhile East Pakistan thronged Sealdah Station post Partition it was Dr Mukherjee who stood by them and their cause I will request the honourable Railway Minister to consider renaming Sealdah Station after Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee."

runs the Upper and Lower Circular Roads more lately called the Acharya Prafulla Chandra (APC) Road and Acharya Jagadish Chandra (AJC) Road. The Maratha Ditch was dug up to prevent Maratha invasions in those days. So historically today's Sealdah Station stands by the Maratha Ditch so to say.

# Indian Army aims to crack terrorists' encrypted communication networks

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JANMU

The outgoing General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Thursday said that the Indian Army is working hard to crack the highly encrypted communication network of the terrorists to dismantle their ecosystem in the region.



active, and the army is determined to neutralize them soon. "We foiled infiltration attempts by terrorists from across the border. This summer there were fewer attempts of infiltration," he said.

troop cut was possible at this juncture, the GOC said: "We are in a consolidation phase and no dilution of counter insurgency and counter terrorism grid is recommended. Both the grids need to be maintained. I definitely won't advocate any dilution to these grids at this stage," the GOC said.

# Vijayan retracts claims on gold smuggling allegations



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Vijayan on Thursday made a quick volte-face from his earlier stance that Malappuram district topped the table in gold smuggling and hawala cash flow. Addressing the media after the cabinet meeting on Thursday, the chief minister said that he never blamed Malappuram district or the Muslim community for gold smuggling and hawala cash flow to the State.

# CPI(M) demands 12 seats in MVA alliance



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ahead of the formalisation of the seat-sharing tie-up among the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, its smaller ally - the Communist Party of India (Marxist) - has staked claim for 12 seats.

Maharashtra Assembly, the CPI (M) represents one seat - Dahanu (ST) in Palghar district, from where its party man Vinod Nikole was elected in the 2019 polls.

(AKIS) had in the PAST led several farmers' movements in Maharashtra, while several Left unions are active in urban areas.

# SC halts Isha Foundation probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the police probe into the alleged illegal confinement of two women at spiritual leader Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation ashram in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

The Foundation's ashram and are probing every corner. The bench, which interacted with the two women in-chambers through video-conferencing, noted they have stated that both of them are residing at the ashram voluntarily and without any coercion.

# Bengal doctors divided over protest strategies



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There seems to have developed differences of opinion among the doctors of Bengal agitating in demand of justice for their woman colleague who was on August 9 raped and murdered inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital with the seniors opposing the juniors' decision to resume indefinite "cease work" for the second time within a span of ten days following repeated attacks on their colleagues at various medical college hospitals.

expressing his views in a general convention of doctors called in RGKMCH on Thursday. Another senior doctor said that "we have been by the side of these junior doctors and will continue to support their cause but without imposing our views on them we will just like to advise them that this is not right time to resume cease work impeding the interests of thousands of common people who have been by us all these days we cannot alienate the common man from this movement," said another senior paediatrician.

Another doctor, a cardiologist suggested alternative mode of movement saying, "we can think about partial cease work or regular rallies and even dharnas or even go to the districts setting special medical care camps so as to make people aware about the plights of the doctors."

# Bombay HC orders to expedite inquiry into custodial death

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After the BJP-led MahaYuti government set up a Commission of Inquiry into the "encounter killing" of Badlapur children sexual assault case Akshay Shinde, the Bombay High Court on Thursday directed the Magistrate looking into Shinde's death to expedite its inquiry and submit its findings to it at the next hearing on November 18.



six years -- were sexually abused allegedly by sweeper Shinde when they in the washroom of the kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) on August 13 for using the toilet there. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Thane police that investigated the case has filed a charge-sheet in the case before the special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act court in Kalyan.

water after which he forcibly snatched the pistol of one of the police officers and opened fire. "It (bottle) is an important piece of evidence," the bench said. Seeking the medical report of the police officer who sustained injury in the firing opened by the deceased accused, the HC bench said: "The police officer who sustained gunshot injury...Has he been examined properly? Was there any residue or blackening at the spot? We need to see that. Was there an entry and exit wound on the thigh of the police officer who got hurt?"





www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

## The caste contest

Haryana elections will be a tight contest. The BJP-JJP alliance breakup and Congress rebels have added uncertainty to it

As Haryana heads to the polls on October 5, 2024, the political landscape is marked by intense competition and shifting alliances. This election holds importance as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which had formed a government in 2019 with the support of Dushyant Chautala's Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), is now contesting alone. The breakup of the BJP-JJP alliance has left the BJP in a precarious position, governing as a minority until the upcoming elections. The ruling party, which is contesting without its former ally, the JJP, is focusing on its development agenda, highlighting its work on infrastructure, education and women's safety. However, the party faces challenges, especially in rural areas, where discontent over issues like agricultural reforms remains strong. The Congress is positioning itself as the main alternative to the BJP. Led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the party is banking on strong support in rural areas, especially among Jat voters and hopes to capitalise on dissatisfaction with the BJP government. Dushyant Chautala is attempting to redefine his party's narrative, distancing himself from the BJP's policies and advocating for farmer-friendly reforms.



Another unpredictable player is Aam Aadmi Party which is contesting in Haryana with renewed vigour. AAP is aiming to replicate its success in neighbouring Punjab. The party is focusing on issues such as health-care, education and anti-corruption measures, appealing primarily to urban voters. A strong contender of yesteryears, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) led by Abhay Singh Chautala has joined hands with Bahujan Samaj Party. But the agrarian sector remains a pivotal issue in Haryana, especially after the farmers' protests against the now-repealed agricultural laws. Farmers' resentment towards the government has not entirely subsided, and the opposition parties, particularly Congress and JJP, are using this to mobilise rural voters. Besides, Haryana has one of the highest unemployment rates in India. Both the BJP and Congress have promised to address the issue, with the BJP touting its industrial initiatives and the Congress proposing new employment schemes. But all said and done, it is the caste politics which decides who rules the State. The traditional Jat-non-Jat divide continues to shape Haryana's political landscape. The BJP, which has traditionally garnered support from non-Jat communities, faces the challenge of consolidating this base while the JJP and Congress focus on winning over Jat voters. Caste dynamics have always been a significant factor in Haryana's political landscape, deeply influencing voter behaviour and electoral outcomes. Jats, who make up approximately 25-30 per cent of Haryana's population, are the state's most politically influential caste group. The Congress, under Hooda, is attempting to bridge the gap between Jats and non-Jats by emphasising its rural-urban development plans but is plagued by rebels. The outcome of the elections will be favourable to the party which manages the complex caste matrix of the state well.

protests against the now-repealed agricultural laws. Farmers' resentment towards the government has not entirely subsided, and the opposition parties, particularly Congress and JJP, are using this to mobilise rural voters. Besides, Haryana has one of the highest unemployment rates in India. Both the BJP and Congress have promised to address the issue, with the BJP touting its industrial initiatives and the Congress proposing new employment schemes. But all said and done, it is the caste politics which decides who rules the State. The traditional Jat-non-Jat divide continues to shape Haryana's political landscape. The BJP, which has traditionally garnered support from non-Jat communities, faces the challenge of consolidating this base while the JJP and Congress focus on winning over Jat voters. Caste dynamics have always been a significant factor in Haryana's political landscape, deeply influencing voter behaviour and electoral outcomes. Jats, who make up approximately 25-30 per cent of Haryana's population, are the state's most politically influential caste group. The Congress, under Hooda, is attempting to bridge the gap between Jats and non-Jats by emphasising its rural-urban development plans but is plagued by rebels. The outcome of the elections will be favourable to the party which manages the complex caste matrix of the state well.

### PICTALK



A man makes red handprints on a wall as part of a tradition on the first day of the 'Navratri' festival, in Ahmedabad PTI

## Online gaming industry needs regulation and govt support

A balanced, collaborative approach between the government and the online gaming industry is essential for responsible and sustainable growth

The online gaming industry in India is experiencing rapid growth but is often misinterpreted as being synonymous with gambling. This misconception fuels concerns about problem gambling and social harm, leading to a negative narrative surrounding the sector. In reality, much of the harm stems from illegal offshore betting and gambling platforms, which further exacerbate this misrepresentation. Every industry influences society in various ways, and it is the responsibility of regulatory frameworks to strike a balance—supporting legitimate enterprises while effectively curbing illegal activities. Conflating online gaming with gambling risks undermining an industry that is growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15.68 per cent on a base of USD 3.49 billion. This sector contributes significantly to job creation and tax revenues in India. With 83 per cent of the world's gamers, India boasts 568 million users and registered over 9.5 billion gaming app downloads in 2023. Real Money Games



alone contributed 60 per cent of their revenues to the Indian exchequer in FY 2023-24. Misunderstanding the online gaming industry as gambling could jeopardize its potential for economic growth and its contributions to national development. Regulators must prioritise cracking down on offshore and illegal businesses and apps that operate in violation of Indian law. Measures such as whitelisting legitimate platforms, and initiating legal actions against those facilitating illegal activities are crucial. Steps like freezing the bank accounts of operators and intermediaries, and working with financial institutions to block transactions tied to illegal gambling, are urgently needed. Practical enforcement challenges cannot be an excuse for inaction, as the

risks are significant. A coordinated effort involving the Ministry of Finance, Information Technology, Home Affairs, and Consumer Affairs is essential, with each department playing a critical role in enforcement and raising public awareness about the legal implications of supporting illegal operations. Without robust enforcement and heightened awareness, illegal gambling platforms will not only make Indian citizens vulnerable to gambling addiction but also siphon their hard-earned money into criminal networks. The profits from illegal gambling often fund organised crime, money laundering, and terrorism, with global examples linking gambling profits to drug trafficking and terrorist financing. This not only destabilises local economies but poses a serious threat to national security. As the government takes strict action against illegal gambling, it must also work closely with the legitimate gaming industry to differentiate between legal online gaming and illegal gambling. Such a partnership would not only help clear the negative perceptions but also sup-

port the industry's growth. This collaboration could further enhance the crackdown on illegal gambling through combined awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts. Finally, the government and the gaming industry must work together to develop a responsible gaming framework. This should include self-exclusion tools, age verification systems, game time monitoring, and partnerships with mental health experts. By promoting responsible gaming, the industry can ensure ethical practices, protect consumers from addiction, and foster a sustainable, well-regulated gaming ecosystem in India. A balanced approach that differentiates legitimate online gaming from illegal gambling, alongside stronger enforcement measures, is vital for the sustainable growth of online gaming industry. With govt and industry collaboration, responsible gaming practices can be promoted, ensuring the sector's positive contributions to economic growth and job creation.

(The writer is a partner at AP & Partners; views are personal)



ARJUN SINHA

## BJP strives hard to imbibe 'integral humanism'

As the BJP marks Deendayal Upadhyaya's 108th birth anniversary, it faces the challenge of aligning his "Integral Humanism" ideals with modern governance



K S TOMAR

On the occasion of the 108th birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya, a founding figure of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and the proponent of "Integral Humanism," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) finds itself reflecting on how closely it has adhered to his visionary ideals. Upadhyaya's philosophy focused on a holistic approach to human well-being, emphasising decentralisation, indigenous culture, self-reliance, and ethical governance. Though the BJP has embraced these principles rhetorically, transforming them into practical realities remains a formidable challenge.

**Economic Ideals vs Modern Policies:** Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision of economic self-reliance and decentralisation stands in contrast to India's current globalised and capital-driven economic policies, particularly those introduced since the liberalisation reforms of the 1990s. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has focused on economic growth through increased foreign direct investment (FDI), free-market reforms, and privatisation. Critics argue that this approach clashes with Upadhyaya's idea of a self-reliant economy, which emphasises supporting rural and local industries, creating jobs at the grassroots level, and minimising dependence on foreign capital.

**Balancing Indigenous Culture and Globalisation:** Deendayal Upadhyaya advocated for the preservation and promotion of India's indigenous culture, even as the nation embraced modern advancements. Striking this balance has been a delicate task for the BJP. On one hand, the party emphasises cultural pride, nationalism, and traditional values, promoting initiatives like Ayurveda and yoga on the global stage. On the other hand, India's integration into the global economy, alongside the rise of modern lifestyle trends and technology, risks diluting the deeper cultural roots Upadhyaya sought to preserve. The BJP has been critiqued for veering toward an exclusionary



cultural nationalism, which may diverge from Upadhyaya's more inclusive vision.

**Ethical Governance vs Corruption:** A key tenet of Upadhyaya's philosophy was the need for ethical governance, marked by integrity, honesty, and service to the people. While BJP leaders, including Modi, have presented themselves as champions of clean governance, the party has faced allegations of corruption, crony capitalism, and favouritism toward large corporations. Such accusations, particularly regarding land acquisition policies and privatisation, have cast doubt on the party's commitment to Upadhyaya's ethical standards.

**Inclusive Society vs Polarisation** Upadhyaya's vision of an inclusive society focused on addressing the needs of all communities, ensuring harmony across social and religious divides. However, the BJP has often been criticised for promoting divisive politics, particularly along religious lines. Reconciling Hindutva-driven politics with the ideals of inclusion and social harmony remains a central challenge for the BJP as it seeks to bridge the gap between rhetoric and reality. **Antyodaya - Uplifting the Last Person:** One of



UNDER PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, THE BJP HAS FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH INCREASED FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI), FREE-MARKET REFORMS, AND PRIVATISATION. THIS APPROACH CLASHES WITH UPADHYAYA'S IDEA OF A SELF-RELIANT ECONOMY

Upadhyaya's most important principles, Antyodaya, focuses on uplifting the most marginalised in society. The BJP has made significant strides in this area through its welfare schemes such as the PM Ujjwala Yojana (providing LPG to rural households), the PM Awas Yojana (affordable housing), and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (improving sanitation). The BJP has adopted this principle through various campaigns, such as the global celebration of Yoga Day, the promotion of Indian languages, and the reassertion of India's historical achievements.

**Political Decentralisation** A core aspect of Upadhyaya's philosophy was decentralising power, ensuring governance was closer to the people. The BJP's emphasis on cooperative federalism and policies such as GST and the creation of NITI Aayog are steps in this direction. Moreover, the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system and the Jan Dhan Yojana have empowered citizens by reducing middlemen and ensuring that subsidies and welfare benefits reach the people directly. Self-Reliance through Atmanirbhar Bharat; The Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, resonates with Upadhyaya's emphasis on self-

reliance. The promotion of local manufacturing, domestic industries, and efforts to reduce dependence on foreign goods align with his philosophy. The "Make in India" initiative, a key aspect of this vision, has made strides in boosting domestic production and job creation. However, the globalised nature of modern economics makes it challenging to fully realize a self-reliant economy.

**Striving toward Upadhyaya's Vision:** As the ruling party, the BJP's journey in adopting and implementing Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideals has been a mixture of successes and challenges. While considerable progress has been made in promoting nationalism, self-reliance, and Antyodaya, the party faces significant hurdles in achieving true economic decentralisation, upholding ethical governance, and fostering social harmony. The complexities of modern governance, global economic integration, and political strategies often pull the BJP away from Upadhyaya's pure vision. However, the ideals of Integral Humanism remain a guiding light, challenging the party to strike a balance between philosophical ideals and contemporary realities in their pursuit of a better India. (Writer is a political analyst and strategic affairs columnist based in Shimla; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### DECLINE OF GANDHIAN IDEALS

Madam — Since the Mahatma was an epitome of confidence and possessed an international mindset, he didn't treat the hymns of the Scottish gem "Abide with me" as threat enough to get blown off his feet! Rather, he allowed the window of his mind to let in the breeze of all possible cultures around the globe, including the evergreen Henry Francis Lyte classic. It is indeed a matter of utmost disgrace to notice the closure of minds in the country of Mahatma Gandhi—the epitome of liberal values and humanitarian thoughts with an all-embracing mindset.

Not to forget Gandhi's cardinal call: "Recall the face of the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything from it? Will it restore him to control over his own life and destiny? Will it lead to 'swaraj' for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?" Do the faces of any weak man get recalled today amidst the zealous trumpet of India being 'Viswaguru' (fast marching towards the status of "world's third largest economy") being beaten like a maniac! When none other than the Gandhians find themselves cornered and marginalised in the very state and den of Mahatma Gandhi itself (Sabarmati Ashram, Gujarat), rest assured about the fate of his values, ethics and humanitarian thoughts in the rest of the country!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

#### FLOODS HITS BIHAR

Madam — The rain in Nepal is wreaking havoc in Bihar. While 170 people have died in Nepal due to continuous heavy rains, floods and landslides, the terrible form of flooding is being seen in Bihar. In view of the flood, all 56 gates of Birpur Vairaj of the Kosi River and all 36 gates of Balmiki Nagar Vairaj of the Gandak River have been opened. This is not a disaster. It is a tragedy that

## India's triumph in Kanpur



Team India creates Test history on October 1. Kudos to Team India for defeating Bangladesh by 7 wickets on the fifth day of Kanpur Test and winning the Test series by

2-0. Team India has set a record of never losing to Bangladesh so far and has created a record on home ground by achieving a thrilling victory in the 18th series. With this extremely brilliant and powerful performance of Team India, India has reached the top position in the ICC World Test Championship table (WTC).

Yashasvi Jaiswal scored his second half-century with great skill and scored 51 runs to win the title of 'Player of the Match'. Bangladesh's so-called opening batsman Shadman Islam and former captain Mushfiqur Rahim were forced to kneel in front of Indian bowlers. India's next match with Bangladesh will be in the 3 T20 match series from October 6. It is hoped that Team India will be successful in maintaining its magical status.

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

is repeated every year. Bihar floods are writing the story of new misery and devastation every year; it is a serious humanitarian crisis. But no permanent solution has been found so far. How long will people continue to bear this pain? People are losing their homes, land, and loved ones. How many more lives will be lost, and how many more dreams will be shattered? However, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar said that full attention is being paid to the flood at every level. All kinds of relief and rescue operations are being arranged. To stop this, the government should make immediate arrangements on a war footing. For which a permanent solution is needed so that this disaster is not faced in the future.

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

#### KARNATAKA LAND SCANDAL

Madam — Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, BM Parvathi, said she would return the 14 plots she received in exchange for her undeveloped land.

However, the return policy, seen as Siddaramaiah flipping, might actually be counter-productive. The Muda case pertains to allegations that compensatory sites were allotted to BM Parvathi in an unmarked area in Mysuru that had a higher property value as compared to the location of her land that had been "acquired" by the authority. Siddaramaiah, BM Parvathi, Mallikarjuna Swamy, and one Devaraju were named in an FIR registered by the Mysuru-based Lokayukta police on September 27. This came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated a probe against her, Siddaramaiah, and her brother, Mallikarjuna Swamy, in what has now become popular as the Muda scam. Parvathi, the wife of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has returned 14 plots of land to Muda. Thus, Siddaramaiah shot himself in the foot for gaining more wealth using power politics.

CK Subramania | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

### REBALANCING THE GLOBAL ORDER

The escalating missile strikes between Israel and Iran threaten regional stability in West Asia



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The escalating situation in India's extended neighbourhood is threatening internal security for the region. The recent elimination of several top Hezbollah commanders, especially the killing of its top leader Hassan Nasrallah, by Israel, and Iranian missiles raining on Israeli territory is likely to widen the crisis in West Asia. PM Modi realised the sensitivity of the situation and immediately made a phone call to their Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu. Indian PM's message to Israel was "the crucial need for preventing regional escalation and the safe release of all hostages, terrorism has no place in any form and manifestation and India stands ready to support early restoration of peace and stability." Last month on the sidelines of the Summit of Future in New York, the PM met the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas. A press statement released after the meeting read "The Prime Minister reiterated India's time-tested principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue, and called for ceasefire, release of hostages and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. He stressed that only a two State solution will deliver enduring peace and stability in the region. Recalling that India was one of the first countries to recognise Palestine, he conveyed India's continued support to Palestine membership of the UN." Even as the Indian PM was holding bilateral with several global leaders in the US, the newly appointed head of the interim government of Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus was getting a much-needed pat on his back from Western leaders. Yunus during his US trip met the US President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton, US Secretary of State,



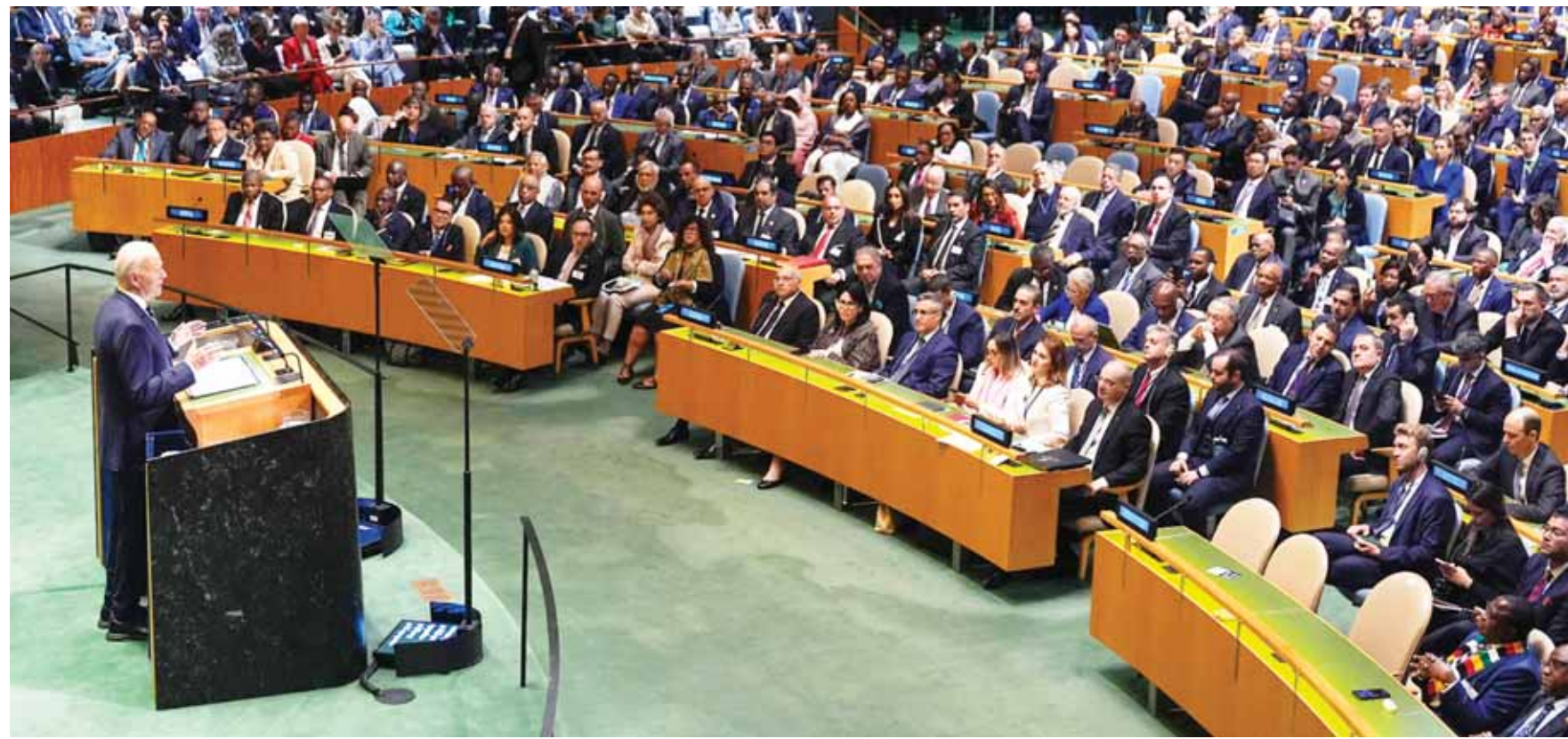
Canadian PM, President of the European Union, heads of the World Bank and ADB. He topped it up by having an unusually warm meeting with Pakistan's PM, where he expressed the desire to deepen their bilateral ties and revive the regional body SAARC. For India, these ties could potentially lead Pakistan and China to use this newfound bonhomie with Bangladesh to push its subversive agenda against India. Almost on cue External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in his remarks at the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York spoke on rebalancing the global order. He said "Rebalancing a global order which started with 51 founding members of the United Nations, which has quadrupled in the last eight decades, where you not only have more independent countries in the world, but the economic, political and even demographic weight of individual members of the global order has shifted, shifted to a point where many of us believe that today we are actually at an inflection." The minister carefully brought multipolarity and plurilateralism in same address while trying to define the evolving global order. He said "Today, we are looking really at a global landscape which is much more regional, which is, as I said, much more characterised by countries who have their strong interests and which have the ability to pursue that interest. And so a lot of what we see in terms of the world is really how does the politics of convergence of the world is really how does the politics of convergence play out. And a third word which would occur to me is 'plurilateralism'. It's a very ugly word, but it in a sense describes a world beyond bilateral relations but which are short of multilateral. That where countries form combinations based on these convergences and overlaps that I've talked about. And you have really this phenomenon of groups of countries coming together for often a limited agenda, sometimes in an agreed theatre to pursue their interests." The recent global events and India's measured stance on several of these reflect what the EAM spoke about in New York, and a rebalance is underway. (The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## How global powers exploit democratic ideals



V K BAHUGUNA

From the overthrow of governments to the double standards in addressing terrorism, democracy has been reduced to a fashionable tool of manipulation by global superpowers



One of the remarkable characteristics of the modern era is reflected in the progress of democracy, and the rise of nation-states. The modern era in the real sense started after the end of the Second World War with the establishment of the United Nations (UN) on October 25, 1945 at the end of the San Francisco conference which was attended by 50 countries and the UN Charter was adopted. The United Nations is the global diplomatic and political platform for ensuring international peace, progress and security. The democratic form of governance, freedom, equality and dignity of humanity is the cornerstone of the modern era. In this regard, world leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King played a very vital role in ending colonial rule in Asia, Africa and other such countries. Since then world leaders swear by the power of the masses in democracy and the rule of the elected leaders. The UN Security Council assumes the role of overseeing the peace and security of the world, especially the five Veto yielding countries China, Britain, France, Russia and the United States yield enormous clout in the Security Council. However, the Veto power in practice and particularly is used by these powers for thwarting any issue if one of them does not like it due to their geo-political interests and international alliance. More than 80 years after the establishment of the UN, the world is still in the grip of intense conflicts and the noble objectives of the UN for ensuring world peace and security are lost in the realpolitik of big powers which smacks of hypocrisy and inherent bias. There are several examples of the derailing of the true democratic edifice of the world's governments, especially in third-world countries by the United States and Western powers. A recent example is dethroning of Sheikh Hasina Wazed's government in Bangladesh a classical example of hypocrisy by America and its allies. Similarly, in dealing with terrorism the white race has double standards. I can kill



MORE THAN 80 YEARS AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UN, THE WORLD IS STILL IN THE GRIP OF INTENSE CONFLICTS AND THE NOBLE OBJECTIVES OF THE UN FOR ENSURING WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY ARE LOST IN THE REALPOLITIK OF BIG POWERS WHICH SMACKS OF HYPOCRISY AND INHERENT BIAS

my terrorist anywhere in the world like America did to Osama Bin Laden and Khalistani terrorists and protagonists are provided with a platform to bash up India recently when the American President and Bill Clinton former President hosted and hailed Muhammad Yunus as a savour of democracy and human rights a few weeks ago with the promise of full support. Mr Yunus heads the puppet interim Government of Bangladesh as Chief Advisor. The world is asking America the lone super power is it permissible to oust a government by engineering well-orchestrated violent agitation. When the Indian Prime Minister was in the USA last month the Khalistani leaders were hosted by the white house. Every such thing is done in the name of democracy. If this is allowed at the international level then any government can be ousted by the frustrated opposition in league with foreign powers. Is it, not neo-colonialism being practised under the nose of the United Nations itself? Though the Hasina government might have committed some blunders after all, it was an elected government and the world should not support such illegal seizure of power by students origin well-planned violent agitations. United States, China and the Western block have been supporting such regimes routinely in African countries and Pakistan and Bangladesh for the past several decades. The anger against such hypocrisy of world leaders is growing and if the modern era has to survive the third world war which in any case is undergoing a different pattern in Europe and the West Asia, the people have to junk this system of the United Nations which is becoming a talking machine, a burden on its resources and sub-serving the

geo-political undemocratic stance of powerful countries making a mockery of the lofty UN Charter. The democracy Western leaders in UN practice can aptly be termed as 'Fashionable Democracy'. This fashionable democracy is a tool to perpetuate and support all kind of undemocratic regimes that comes to power in the name of democracy, human rights and liberty. These lofty goals are being pooh-poohed by the powerful countries. There are talks about deep states interfering in the affairs of the countries to upset the ruling regimes that do not fall in line. In this regard, the non-state actors play a significant role though the national governments may not be promoting it directly but in the name of democracy, many outsiders do influence the government. The Indo-US relations built steadily after the end of the cold war during the last 25 years are a shining example of two democratic governments ensuring a global alliance of strategic importance to thwart the attempts of Chinese ambitions to browbeat other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. But the Cold War psychology of the white house is still promoting countries inimical to democratic values in the Indian sub-continent especially Pakistan which is ruled by the Army with a proxy government. This may derail the India-USA strategic relationship. Even Sheikh Hasina opined that her government was toppled after she refused to part with San Martin Island to the United States. China instead of supporting India, with which it has cultural affinity as well as trade interests, supports and aids Pakistan and has been fomenting trouble in the North-East and Ladakh for a long time with its expansionist vision and is a poten-

tial threat to world peace. Thus, it is a clear indication that the geopolitics of the world needs a serious rethink. If one analysis the sequence of events over the past 80 years or so the main reason for such behaviour of powerful countries is due to the patently undemocratic nature of assigning the Veto power to winners of the Second World War. As for democracy, I would appropriately call it fashionable democracy to fool the people around the world in the name of democracy and liberty and this disease is also spreading in most of the countries all over the world including India where democracy has given way to Dynastic Democracy. The state of present day democracies was aptly forecasted by Socrates the ancient Greek Philosopher who said more than 2000 years ago that 'Democracies would elect Demagogues'. India is a glaring example of such leaders in states who pander to this and skilfully use democracies to perpetuate their family interests in power games and practising vote bank politics. The Father of Athenian democracy was Cleisthenes who lived from 570 BC to 508 BC and who as Chief Magistrate successfully imposed democracy in the Athens assembly against the nobles hence is appropriately called as Father of World Democracy must be weeping in his grave seeing how democracy is being run by the world leaders and thus people of the modern era in the 21st Century. Is it, not food for thought for all of us who believe in true democracy because there is no alternative to true democracy like the ancient Indian panchayat system? At least India should reform from within and then lead the rest of the world. (The writer is a former civil servant; views are personal)

## One Nation, One Ration: Revolutionising food security with 24/7 grain ATMs

These grain ATMs are a major step in India's fight against hunger. Biometric authentication and Aadhaar-linked portability ensures streamlined distribution

Since June 1, 2020, under the Modi administration, the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system has been implemented across India, marking the beginning of a revolutionary scheme. Its purpose is to provide food grains to the poor, particularly those who migrate from one state to another, through a single ration card.



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

Initially, the system was launched in two clusters comprising four states (Andhra Pradesh-Telangana and Maharashtra-Gujarat). Even then, work was underway on inter-state ration card portability in other states. The government claimed that the common people would benefit most from this scheme.

Previously, ration cards were issued by the government to provide food grains and other rations to the poor at subsidised rates. However, when workers moved to another state, they often lost access to these benefits, particularly in more developed states like Gujarat. With this new system, that issue is resolved, adding another significant chapter to this revolutionary initia-

tive. Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, Nimuben Bambhaniya, recently inaugurated Gujarat's first grain ATM in Bhavnagar, facilitating 24/7 ration distribution under the Central Government's Public Distribution System (PDS). The grain ATM, called Annapoorti, was installed in the Karchaliapara area of Bhavnagar city to free the poor from India's outdated, bureaucratic ration distribution system. According to Minister Bambhaniya, the grain ATM represents a global success story. She expressed pride in the Annapoorti scheme, a globally awarded solution developed in India, which is set to be operational in multiple states. Based on a year-long pilot program, the Annapoorti technology, developed by WFP India, is an important step toward improving food security and ensuring that people receive their rations efficiently and accurately. The new system allows people to obtain their ration from any PDS shop, reducing dependence on shop owners and minimising corruption.

After the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system, the biggest beneficiaries of grain ATMs will be migrant laborers and disadvantaged communities who live outside their home states for extended periods or are unable to reach grain shops. For



instance, if someone from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh trav-

els to Delhi or Mumbai for work, they will be able to easily access ration from PDS shops or ATMs in those cities. The 2011 census reported that about 4.1 crore people had migrated to other states for work. The Aadhaar numbers of family members on over 85 per cent of the country's ration cards are registered, enabling them to use the ATM system. India runs one of the world's largest food-based safety nets, providing subsidised grains to around 813 million people every month through a network of over 500,000 fair price shops (FPS). This initiative is key to the partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme to enhance food

security. ATMs will be installed across the state, offering 24/7 access to food grains under the National Food Security Act. The Annapurna Yojana allows anyone with a valid PDS ration card, regardless of their state or union territory, to access their entitlements. The ATM can deliver up to 50 kg of grain in just five minutes, reducing waiting time by 70 percent. Once biometric authentication with an Aadhaar card is complete, users will have continuous access to their entire ration. The modular design of the ATM allows for easy assembly based on the available space. Additionally, Annapoorti is energy-efficient and can be connected to solar panels for automa-

tic refilling. The grain ATM is designed to distribute wheat and rice and includes a tank with a capacity to hold 2,500 kg of grains, according to an official release. Officials explained that individuals covered under the National Food Security Act can visit the grain ATM at any time, punch in their ration card, authenticate their identity using the fingerprint scanner, and collect their monthly ration. However, there is speculation that the grain ATM in Bhavnagar could also be used to attract migrant voters in the upcoming assembly elections. (The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are personal)



# Boat capsizes in Congo, killing at least 50 people: Witnesses

AP ■ GOMA

A boat carrying scores of passengers capsized on Lake Kivu in eastern Congo on Thursday, killing at least 50 people, witnesses told The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear exactly how many people were on board or how many perished but witnesses said they saw rescue services recover at least 50 bodies from the water. They said 10 people survived and were taken to the local hospital.

The boat, overloaded with passengers, sank while trying to dock just metres (yards) away from the port of Kituku, the witnesses said. It was going from Minova in South Kivu province to Goma, in North Kivu province.

Local authorities said the rescue efforts continued and the death toll remained unknown for the moment. In February, the majority of the 50 passengers aboard a wooden boat were presumed dead after

the vessel capsized on Lake Kivu. "This boat was carrying about a hundred people when it had the capacity for about thirty passengers," the governor of the province of South Kivu Jean-Jacques Purusi told a local radio station following the accident.

It was the latest deadly boat accident in the central African country, where overcrowding on vessels is often to blame. Maritime regulations also are often not followed.

Congolese officials have often warned against overcrowding and vowed to punish those violating safety measures for water transportation. But in remote areas where most passengers come from, many are unable to afford public transport for the few available roads.

In June, an overloaded boat sank near the capital of Kinshasa and 80 passengers lost their lives. In January, 22 people died on Lake Mai-Ndombe and in April 2023, six were killed and 64 went miss-

ing on Lake Kivu.

Witnesses said the boat that capsized on Thursday was visibly overcrowded.

"I was at the port of Kituku when I saw the boat arriving from Minova, full of passengers," Francine Munyi told the AP. "It started to lose its balance and sank into the lake. Some people threw themselves into the water."

"Many died, and few were saved," she added. "I couldn't help them because I don't know how to swim."

The victims' families and Goma residents gathered at the port of Kituku, accusing authorities of negligence in the face of growing insecurity in the region.

Since the fighting between the armed forces and the M23 rebels made the road between the cities of Goma and Minova impassable, forcing the closure of the passage to trucks transporting food, many traders have resorted to maritime transport on Lake Kivu. It's an

alternative considered safer than road traffic, which is threatened by insecurity. But according to Elia Asumani, a shipping agent who works on this line, the situation has become dangerous: "We are afraid," he told the AP. "This shipwreck was predictable." Bienfait Sematumba, 27, said he lost four family members.

"They are all dead. I am alone now," he said, sobbing. "If the authorities had ended the war, this shipwreck would never have happened."

The survivors, about 10 of them, were taken to Kyeshero hospital for treatment. One of them, Neema Chimanga, said she was still in shock.

"We saw the boat start to fill with water halfway," she recounted to the AP. "The door of the boat opened, and we tried to close it. But the water was already coming in, and the boat tilted." "I threw myself into the water and started swimming," she said. "I don't know how I got out of the water."

AP ■ KYIV

New NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte visited Ukraine on Thursday in his first official trip since taking office and pledging the alliance's continued support for Kyiv in its war with Russia.

Rutte met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv as air raid sirens twice went off in the Ukrainian capital.

The new head of NATO vowed when he took office on Tuesday to help shore up Western support for Ukraine, which has been fighting Russia's full-scale invasion since February 2022 and has for most of this year been on the defensive due to a relentless Russian army push in the country's eastern regions.

Rutte expressed confidence that he can work with whomever is elected president of the United States, the alliance's most powerful member, in November. That could be a key moment for Ukraine's effort to ensure continuing Western support.

# NATO chief visits Ukraine in his first trip since taking office

Zelenskyy said he discussed with Rutte elements of Ukraine's so-called victory plan, ahead of a NATO meeting at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany next week. The gathering draws together defence leaders from the 50-plus partner nations who regularly meet to coordinate weapons aid for the war. Rutte reiterated the alliance's unwavering support for Ukraine, insisting that "Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before".

He said recent steps taken by NATO "build a bridge to NATO membership" for Ukraine, including 40 billion euros (\$44 billion) of funding assistance, bilateral security agreements between allies, and the formation of a new NATO command to coordinate assistance and training. Rutte arrived after a Russian glide bomb struck a five-story apartment block in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, injuring at least 12 people, including a 3-year-old girl, local officials said Thursday.

The bomb hit between the third and fourth floors of the building on Wednesday night, igniting a fire, Kharkiv regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said. Firefighters searched for survivors through smoke and rubble.

The city of Kharkiv, around 30 km (18 miles) from the Russian border, has been a frequent target of aerial attacks throughout the war against Russia that is now deep into its third year. Increasingly common in the war, glide bombs have terrorised civilians and bludgeoned the Ukrainian army's front-line defences. Ukraine has no effective countermeasure for glide bombs, which are launched from Russian aircraft inside Russia. They were a key weapon in Russia's capture of the tactically significant town of Vuhledar on Wednesday, as Russian forces wreck destruction on the eastern Donetsk region and force weary Ukrainian troops to withdraw from obliterated towns and villages.

# 12 hurt as Russian bomb hits Ukrainian apartment

AP ■ KYIV

A Russian glide bomb struck a five-story apartment block in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, injuring at least 12 people including a 3-year-old girl, local officials said Thursday. The bomb hit between the third and fourth floors of the building on Wednesday night, igniting blazes, Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Firefighters searched for survivors through smoke and rubble.



Rescue workers clear the rubble inside a building damaged by a Russian airstrike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Thursday. AP/PTI

The city of Kharkiv, located around 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Russian border, has been a frequent target of aerial attacks throughout the war against Russia that is now deep into its third year. Glide bombs have become an

increasingly common weapon in the war. They have terrorised civilians and bludgeoned the Ukrainian army's front-line defenses. They were a key

weapon in Russia's capture of the tactically significant town of Vuhledar on Wednesday, as Russian forces wreck destruction on the eastern Donetsk

region and force weary Ukrainian troops to withdraw from obliterated towns and villages. Ukraine has no effective countermeasure for glide bombs, which are launched from Russian aircraft inside Russia. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the latest Kharkiv attack highlighted the urgent need for increased support from Ukraine's Western allies.

Zelenskyy recently held talks with officials in the United States in an effort to ensure further Western military support. Russia has had the battlefield initiative since late last year, when a Ukrainian counteroffensive petered out. Ukraine is grappling with a critical manpower problem on the front line and is straining to hold back Russia's grinding assaults.

Though Russia's battlefield gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is adding up as the Ukrainians are pushed backward and yield ground. Both sides have kept up regular cross-border aerial attacks, usually at night.

Ukraine's air force said Thursday that 78 out of 105 Shahed drones launched by Russia overnight were destroyed on Thursday as 15 regions of the country came under attack. The Russian military, meanwhile, intercepted 113 Ukrainian drones overnight, according to a statement by the Defense Ministry in Moscow.

The drones were destroyed over four Russian regions on the border with Ukraine — Belgorod, Bryansk, Kursk and Voronezh, it said.

# Votes against party lines can be counted, rules Pak's top court

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the votes cast by lawmakers in parliament against their party directions can be counted, in a major relief to the government seeking support for a constitutional amendment to tweak laws related to the judiciary.

The apex court's previous ruling had stated that the votes of parliamentarians who deviated from their party's directives were to be disregarded and not counted. The Supreme Court Bar Association had filed a review petition against the apex court's verdict related to the defection clause under Article 63-A of the Constitution.

Hearing the plea, a five-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa announced the unanimous verdict and approved the review petition with the top judge saying the detailed verdict would be issued later.

The bench comprising Chief Justice Isa and justices Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal issued the verdict after hearing the petition that the bench had started on Monday.

The court in its May 17, 2022 verdict had said that the votes of the lawmakers would not be counted but after granting of review petition, the vote would be counted but the person going against the party line would lose his seat.

The 2022 verdict was given in response to the presidential case filed by then-President Arif Alvi. It was then a 3-2 split decision, with then-chief justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar being the majority verdict authors. The development comes as the government is struggling to get support for its planned constitutional amendment to tweak laws related to the top judiciary.

# Imran Khan's party claims over 700 supporters held ahead of protests

Lahore (PTI): Over 700 supporters of the jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan were arrested from different parts of Punjab province on Thursday, a day before a major showdown in Islamabad by his party for the independence of the judiciary, release of the party founder and against rising inflation.

"Do or die — October 4th is the battle cry! No more waiting, no more silence. This is the final stand at D Chowk (Islamabad), where the brave gather and the weak fall behind."

We are unstoppable, unbreakable, and ready to fight for the soul of this nation. Either we win or we perish trying," Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said soon after the arrests started. It said the Punjab police arrested over 700 its workers and leaders in different districts including Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Mianwali and Jhang following its announcement to hold protests on Friday demanding independence of the judiciary, release of party founder Imran Khan and against rising inflation.

Punjab's provincial government had adopted similar measures to prevent PTI's Jalsa — the power show — at Lahore last month. Khan, 71, has been in jail since his arrest on August 5, 2023. Facing dozens of cases, he has been convicted in a few of them. His party has been staging protests demanding his release and claiming that the government should adhere to the constitution and the independence of the judiciary.

PTI's central information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram said the government led by

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had sealed the Red Zone in Islamabad and was taking similar measures in other cities to stop PTI workers from holding protests and public meetings.

"PTI's call for protests has panicked the government which is why it is sealing the cities," he said.

The Punjab police have deployed heavy contingents of police and put in place containers at the entry and exit points of all cities to stop the protesters' movement, he said. "The selected districts were turned into no-go areas for the residents of Punjab and those inside the cities were not allowed to go out."

Punjab's provincial government on Thursday also imposed Section 144 in Lahore banning all kinds of political assemblies, gatherings, rallies and protests.

On Wednesday, despite the restrictions, party workers including women, took to the streets, managed to cross hurdles and survived tear-gas shelling to stage rallies in different cities, the PTI said.

Chief minister Maryam Nawaz, daughter of Khan's arch rival Nawaz Sharif, said political activity is allowed in the province but not terrorism by the PTI. "We will deal with such elements with iron hands," she said. Khan's party held three major political events, including a rally each in Islamabad and Lahore, and a protest in Rawalpindi. The party had called for protests in Mianwali, Bahawalpur and Faisalabad on Wednesday, which would be followed by a power show at D-Chowk in Islamabad on Friday.

# Amid reshuffle, B'desh recalls envoy from India

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government has recalled five envoys, including its high commissioner in New Delhi, as it carried out a second phase of reshuffle in the diplomatic service alongside the domestic administration, an official said

on Thursday. The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus as the Chief Adviser has asked Bangladesh's envoys in India, Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to return immediately and report to the foreign ministry here as part of the latest reshuffle. "The recalling of the envoys is part of a government decision under which our High Commissioner to India, Mustafizur Rahman, has been asked to return to the foreign ministry in Dhaka," an official said on Thursday, preferring anonymity. Bangladesh High

Commissioner in London Sadia Muna Tasneem was asked to return to Dhaka four days ago. The foreign service witnessed a major change in late August, weeks after the ouster of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5 after a massive student-led

mass upheaval. The upsurge installed the Nobel Laureate's interim administration on August 8. Dhaka, at that time, ordered its ambassadors to the United States, Russia, Germany, Japan, the United Arab Emirates & Saudi Arabia and the High Commissioner to the Maldives to return home.

**SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs. GULFISHA CS (COMM) 4395/21	Make and Model- MARUTI SWIFT Vehicle No-DL2CAZ4264, Manuf. Yr 2018

Auction Date : 4-November 2024  
Venue: Godara Yard, Khewai No:166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram  
Contact Person- Rohit Shrivastava (8657476284)/ Vijay Sharma (9372730494)

**Terms of Sale**

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sole amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle

**ICICI Bank**

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**  
Builder Cancellation

**Public Notice:**  
This is to bring to your notice that ANKUR TYAGI/ SHWETA TYAGI (borrowers) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00003078610 located at FLAT NO 1123, 11TH FLOOR, FERRARA MAHAGUN MEZZARIA SIENA, PLOT NO GH-01/A SECTOR 75, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, NOIDA - 201301. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated June 02, 2021, informing that MAHAGUN INDIA PVT LTD, has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: October 04, 2024 For ICICI Bank Limited  
Place : Delhi/NCR

Case Ref. No. DIAC/566/11-22

In the matter of  
M/s Mihurisha Global Marketing Pvt. Ltd. ...Claimant

Versus  
M/s Anil Bhutani Products ...Respondent

**Notice to Respondent**  
M/s Anil Bhutani Products having Reg. office at H. No. 415, 1st Floor, Sector-22, Faridabad, Haryana-121005.

Whereas the above noted case is listed before Sole Arbitrator Smt. Kamalakhshi Singh Chauhan, The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Delhi High Court, 5-BLOCK, New Delhi on 09.10.2024 at 2p.m. Since despite the service, no one has appeared and represented the Respondent (M/s Anil Bhutani) on date fixed i.e., 23.09.2024. Consequently, the Ld. Arbitrator has directed the Claimant (M/s Mihurisha Global Marketing Pvt. Ltd.) to serve the respondent through publication as a precautionary measure before proceeding Ex-Parte against Respondent.

In pursuance to and compliance with the order dated 23.09.2024, we hereby serve upon you the present notice to appear before the person or through your Authorized Representative before the Ld. Arbitrator, DIAC in captioned matter on 09.10.2024 at 2p.m. Please note, in case no one appears on the said date, time and venue before the Ld. Sole Arbitrator, the matter will be heard and determined Ex-Parte in your absence.

Smt. Kamalakhshi Singh Chauhan (Sole Arbitrator)  
The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)  
Delhi High Court, 5-Block, New Delhi  
Tel: 011-23386492

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

Phone: 011-25611042, 25611043, 25611044  
Email: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com, Website: www.kangrabank.com

**APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 27-06-2023 calling upon the borrower Sh. Ganesh Gupta S/o. Sh. Kumar Pal Gupta R/o. RZ-82, Gali No. 1, Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046 and calling upon the Mortgagee/sureties namely: Smt. Sneh Lata, W/o. Sh. Kumar Pal Gupta, R/o. RZ-82, Gali No.1, Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.22,32,298/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Eight Only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The above mentioned borrower, mortgagor & surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor, surety and the public in general that the Bank has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

The borrower, mortgagor & surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of Rs. 22,32,298/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

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

DISCRPTION OF THE PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY
The property under consideration is entire built-up property bearing no. RZ-82, with roof rights, area measuring 24 Sq. Yds.	All that part and parcel of the BUILTUP PROPERTY BEARING NO. RZ-82, ON PLOT NO.82, LAND AREA MEASURING 24 SQ.YDS., WITH ALL THE ROOF RIGHTS, OUT OF KHASRA NO.2124, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE DABRI, DELHI STATE DELHI, ABADI KNOWN AS WEST SAGARPUR, NEW DELHI-110046. Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar IX, New Delhi/Delhi.

Bounded as under:-  
EAST : HOUSE OF OTHERS, WEST : HOUSE OF OTHERS, NORTH : NALA ROAD, SOUTH : PART OF PROPERTY NO. RZ-82.

(HARISH SHARMA)  
AUTHORISED OFFICER  
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.  
HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.  
DELHI.  
DATED : 27.09.2024

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

Phone: 011-25611042, 25611043, 25611044  
Email: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com, Website: www.kangrabank.com

**APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 27-06-2023 calling upon the borrower Sh. Ganesh Gupta S/o. Sh. Kumar Pal Gupta R/o. RZ-82, Gali No. 1, Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046 and calling upon the Mortgagee/sureties namely: Smt. Sneh Lata, W/o. Sh. Kumar Pal Gupta, R/o. RZ-82, Gali No.1, Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 22,32,298/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Eight Only), together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The above mentioned borrower, mortgagor & surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor, surety and the public in general that the Bank has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

The borrower, mortgagor & surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of Rs. 22,32,298/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

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

DISCRPTION OF THE PROPERTY	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY
The property under consideration is entire built-up property bearing no. RZ-82, with roof rights, area measuring 24 Sq. Yds.	All that part and parcel of the BUILTUP PROPERTY BEARING NO. RZ-82, ON PLOT NO.82, LAND AREA MEASURING 24 SQ.YDS., WITH ALL THE ROOF RIGHTS, OUT OF KHASRA NO.2124, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE DABRI, DELHI STATE DELHI, ABADI KNOWN AS WEST SAGARPUR, NEW DELHI-110046. Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar IX, New Delhi/Delhi.

Bounded as under:-  
EAST : HOUSE OF OTHERS, WEST : HOUSE OF OTHERS, NORTH : NALA ROAD, SOUTH : PART OF PROPERTY NO. RZ-82.

(HARISH SHARMA)  
AUTHORISED OFFICER  
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.  
HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.  
DELHI.  
DATED : 27.09.2024

# Singapore court jails Indian-origin ex-minister for 12 months

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's Indian-origin former transport minister S Iswaran has been sentenced to 12 months jail on Thursday by the High Court for obtaining gifts worth about SGD 403,300 over seven years, from two businessmen he considered his friends. The 62-year-old pleaded guilty to four charges relating to receiving gifts and one blocking justice on September 24, the first day of trial proceedings, cutting short what was set to be a protracted trial with 56 prosecution witnesses.

In sentencing, Justice Vincent Hoong said he had considered submissions on sentence from both prosecution and defence but was "ultimately unable to agree with both the positions taken". In his sentencing remarks, Justice Hoong emphasised that trust and confidence in public institutions are the bedrock of effective governance.

The judge added that the former minister abused the position to accept gifts worth about SGD 403,300 (USD313,200). He said, "This can all too easily be undermined by a public servant who falls below standards of integrity and accountability." The judge said it was significant that Iswaran had made public statements rejecting the charges as

false. "In a letter to the Prime Minister, Iswaran said he rejected the charges and was innocent, and believed he would be acquitted. Thus, I have difficulty believing that he was remorseful," The Straits Times quoted the Judge as saying. As Justice Hoong addressed the court, Iswaran looked down and took notes. The judge added, "The higher the office held by the offender as a public servant, the higher his level of culpability." He said such individuals set the tone of public servants in conducting themselves with high standards of integrity, and they must avoid any perception that they are susceptible to influence to financial benefits.



# Prosecutors lay out new evidence in Trump election case

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump laid the groundwork to try to overturn the 2020 election even before he lost, knowingly pushed false claims of voter fraud and "resorted to crimes" in his failed bid to cling to power, according to a newly unsealed court filing from prosecutors that lays out fresh details from the landmark criminal case against the former president.

The filing from special counsel Jack Smith's team offers the most comprehensive view to date of what prosecutors intend to prove if the case charging Trump with conspiring to overturn the election reaches trial.

Through a months-long congressional investigation and the indictment itself have chronicled in stark detail Trump's efforts to undo the election, the new filing cites previously unknown accounts offered by Trump's closest aides to paint a portrait of an "increasingly desperate" president who while losing his grip on the White House "used deceit to target every stage of the electoral process."

"So what?" the filing quotes Trump as telling an aide after being alerted that his vice-pres-



ident, Mike Pence, was in potential danger after a crowd of violent supporters stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.

"The details don't matter," Trump said, when told by an advisor that a lawyer who was mounting his legal challenges wouldn't be able to prove the false allegations in court, the filing states.

The filing was submitted, initially under seal, following a Supreme Court opinion that conferred broad immunity on former presidents for official acts they take in office, narrowing the scope of the prosecution charging Trump with conspiring to overturn the results of the election he lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

The purpose of the brief is to con-

vince US District Judge Tanya Chutkan that the offences charged in the indictment are private, rather than official, acts and can therefore remain part of the indictment as the case moves forward. Chutkan permitted a redacted version to be made public.

"Although the defendant was the incumbent president during the charged conspiracies, his scheme was fundamentally a private one," Smith's team wrote, adding, "When the defendant lost the 2020 presidential election, he resorted to crimes to try to stay in office."

Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung called the brief "falsehood-ridden" and "unconstitutional" and repeated off-stated allegations that Smith and Democrats were "hell-bent on weaponising the Justice Department in an attempt to cling to power."

"The release of the falsehood-ridden, Unconstitutional J6 brief immediately following Tim Walz's disastrous debate performance is another obvious attempt by the Harris-Biden regime to undermine American Democracy and interfere in this election."

The filing includes details of

conversations between Trump and Pence, including a private lunch the two had on November 12, 2020, in which Pence "reiterated a face-saving option" for Trump, telling him, "don't concede but recognise the process is over," according to prosecutors.

In another private lunch days later, Pence urged Trump to accept the results of the election and run again in 2024.

"I don't know, 2024 is so far off," Trump told him, according to the filing.

But Trump "disregarded" Pence "in the same way he disregarded dozens of court decisions that he had lost and that his specific fraud allegations were false," prosecutors wrote.

Trump's "steady stream of disinformation" in the weeks after the election culminated in his speech at the Ellipse on the morning of January 6, 2021, in which Trump "used these lies to inflame and motivate the large and angry crowd of his supporters to march to the Capitol and disrupt the certification proceeding," prosecutors wrote.

# Kamala Harris surveys Hurricane Helene devastation in Georgia

Augusta (AP): Vice-President Kamala Harris handed out meals, embraced a shaken family and surveyed Hurricane Helene's "extraordinary" path of destruction through Georgia on Wednesday as she left the campaign trail to pledge federal help and personally take in scenes of toppled trees, damaged homes and lives upended.

She visited Augusta, where power lines stretched along the sidewalk and utility poles lay cracked and broken. The vice-president spoke from a lectern erected in front of a house with a fallen tree teetering on its roof, acknowledging those who had died in the disaster while also trying to project a tone of unity and hope for communities now facing long and expensive rebuilds.

Harris and President Joe Biden, who visited the Carolinas on Wednesday, were seeking to demonstrate commitment and competence in helping devastated communities after Republican former president Donald Trump's false claims about their administration's response.

Harris said she wanted to "personally take a look at the devastation, which is extraordinary." She expressed admiration for how "people are coming together. People are helping perfect strangers."

The Democratic presidential nominee said that shows "the vast majority of us have so much more in common than what separates us," an echo of a line she frequently uses on the campaign trail.

Before delivering her remarks, Harris could be seen embracing and huddling with a family of five grappling with the storm's aftermath.

"We are here for the long haul," she said. Harris also toured a Red Cross relief center and received a briefing from local officials, praising those working to "meet the needs of people who must be seen and must be heard."

"I am now listening," she said.

Brittany Smith, an Augusta resident, walked away from the distribution centre with Styrofoam boxes of food and some fruit cups, beaming that she got a photo with the vice-president. She said there's a hole in her roof and she had to send her kids elsewhere to live because it wasn't safe.

Harris' visit, she said, "made it better" despite the hardship. Smith said she was encouraged that Harris travelled to the town instead of just appearing on television.

"She's a person. She's not just a voice." About 200 miles north in the Carolinas, Biden was also surveying the storm's aftermath. With many of the area's roads inaccessible, he flew by helicopter over toppled trees, twisted metal and towering piles of debris in the normally tourist-friendly downtown of Asheville.

From the air, Biden saw flooded roads, piles of shredded lumber and displaced sandbags, emergency trucks and downed power lines. In one area, homes were partly underwater, and it was hard to distinguish between lake and land. Visits to disaster zones are a familiar responsibility for Biden, who has frequently been called on to survey damage and comfort victims after tornadoes, wildfires and tropical storms. But this was Harris' first visit to a disaster area as vice-president.

Because of the destruction where Biden was on Wednesday, he was unable to walk

around and personally comfort people as Harris did in Georgia.

Biden wore a vest and boots and, before his air tour, he hugged and grabbed the hand of Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer, who was at the airport in Greenville, South Carolina, to meet him. The mayor, with visible emotion, said they could not close down the area's one operable road for Biden's motorcade.

Biden will be back in the region Thursday to visit Florida and Georgia, and Harris plans her own North Carolina trip in coming days — as Helene's aftermath continues to pose a political and humanitarian test for the administration.

Before leaving Washington, Biden made a point of mentioning how an ongoing dockworkers strike could make getting supplies to hard-hit areas more difficult.

"Natural disasters are incredibly consequential. The last thing we need on top of that is a man-made disaster that's going on at the ports," he said. "We're getting pushback already, we're hearing from the folks regionally that they're having trouble getting product that they need because of the port strike." Harris is being especially watched as her bid for the White House enters its closing stretch, and Helene's path included the battleground states of Georgia and North Carolina.

The vice-president last visited scenes of natural disasters as a California senator, including when she went to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017 and when she walked through charred wreckage in Paradise, California, after the camp fire in 2018.

# UK hands over Chagos Islands to Mauritius, holds on to military base

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Thursday announced a "historic" agreement that will see Britain hand over sovereignty of the remote Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius while it retains the joint UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) status of the disputed archipelago, made up of around 60 islands, has been in contention for many years and negotiations over its future began under the previous Conservative Party government in 2022. Under the agreement announced this week, the tropical atoll of Diego Garcia — which the West says plays a crucial role in the region's stability and international security — will remain under UK and US jurisdiction for at least the next 99 years.

"This government inherited a situation where the long-term, secure operation of the Diego Garcia military base was under threat, with contested sovereignty and ongoing legal challenges," said UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. "Today's agreement secures this

vital military base for the future. It will strengthen our role in safeguarding global security, shut down any possibility of the Indian Ocean being used as a dangerous illegal migration route to the UK, as well as guaranteeing our long-term relationship with Mauritius, a close Commonwealth partner," he said.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the pact struck with Mauritius demonstrates Britain's commitment to safeguarding global security and averting threats to peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean and wider Indo-Pacific. It will see Mauritius assume sovereignty over the islands, with the UK authorised to exercise the sovereign rights of Mauritius on Diego Garcia.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that my client Sri. Manoj Kumar Sharma R/O GF-1307B, Ram Nagar, Delhi-110032, and her husband have severed all their relations with their sons (1) Anand Kumar Sharma and his wife Praveen Sharma (R/O 11032, 2nd Floor, Ram Nagar, Delhi-110032), (2) Sumit Sharma and his wife Swati Sharma (R/O 1307B, 2nd Floor, Ram Nagar, Delhi-110032) due to their bad habits and violent behavior also disown and disinherit from her all movable and immovable properties they disowned and break down all the relationship, due to their unwarranted activities, misbehavior and misconduct towards my client's. My client has no concern with him in any manner whatsoever. If anybody will deal with the said sons and their wife, he/she will be responsible for the same and my client will not be responsible for the same.

**Reader Soni, Advocate,**  
1/222, Shri Ram Nagar,  
GT Road, Shahdara, Delhi-32

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I informed that my client MRS. PREM CHHABRA wife of Mr. Pawan Kumar Chhabra, R/O 9A, SFS Flats, B-Block, E.O.K., N.D.-65 has debarred and disinherited her both sons (1) Aman Chhabra & his wife Mrs. Charu Chhabra and (2) Mr. Anshul Chhabra & his wife Mrs. Payal Maggo and their children from her all types of properties, bank accounts, movable and/or immovable properties. In future, if any one deals with him/her my client shall not be liable and responsible for the same.

**(M N SHARMA) Advocate**  
Ch. 83, A. K. Sen Block,  
Supreme court of India,  
New Delhi-110001  
9810002003

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Mr. Jahangir Alam S/o. Jafar Khan D.No. 124, 4th floor, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 and Tasmeem Bano W/o. Jahangir Alam have DISOWNED their son Mohd. Saquib from all his rights and entitlements from his properties since 16-09-2024.

They have also DISOWNED from any rights, title, interest which occurs in succession from his parents and other family members shall not be liable/responsible for any kind of act, deeds, transaction of any nature done by the Mohd Saquib with anyone and they shall be personally liable for any kind of deed.

**SHAHROZ Advocate**  
Enroll No. D-8627/2019  
Lawyers Old Chamber Block, Supreme Court, New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal had acquired First Floor without roof rights area measuring 90 sq. yds., built on property No. XX/148, situated at Elias Ganj Dava B-38, Old Rohatk Road, Delhi vide Release Deed Dt. 30.08.2024 executed by Mrs. Usha Goyal and Mr. Vivek Agarwal. Now Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance however or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

**Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H. No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, N. Delhi-110024.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed that I, Anand Prakash Gupta, S/o Late Badri Prasad Gupta, R/O B-175, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, not residing with daughter-in-law (Smt. Shweta Gupta), grandson (Master Dhanshet Gupta) and my son Sandeep Gupta, have severed all my relations with them due to the bad conduct and bad habits of daughter-in-law (Smt. Shweta Gupta), grandson (Master Dhanshet Gupta), I have disowned and debarred my said son Sandeep and his family from all my movable and immovable properties. They have no right, title and interest. My any self-acquired properties or ancestral properties or even otherwise.

**Anand Prakash Gupta**  
S/o Late Badri Prasad Gupta.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Sushila Jindal W/o Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jindal is the owner of the Entire 'Freeloid' Built up Property bearing No. 22/02 area measuring 120 Sq. Yds. i.e. 100.33 Sq. Yds., built on old Plot No. 35, situated in the area of Village Chokri, Mubarakabad, Ahadi known as Budh Nagar, in West Market, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26.07.2023, regd. at Doc. No. 12222. The above said property is to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e., Axis Finance Limited and she is the absolute owner of the property. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the above said property.

**Raghav Tiwari, Advocate**  
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001  
Mob. -91-9876183232

**कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून**  
पत्रांक-54 / मुंनि-2024-25 दिनांक 03.10.2024

सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत राजपुर रोड पर विभिन्न 7 स्थलों पर निविदा के माध्यम से पार्किंग संचालन हेतु अनुबन्ध की तिथि से कुल 02 बजे हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 19.10.2024 की अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक ई-0 निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है-

- (1) घन्टघर में मुख्य डाक घर के सामने पटेल पार्क के आगे-80 वाहन पार्किंग व्हीलर
- (2) पंजाब ज्वैलर्स के सामने से होटल पार्क व्यू तक राजपुर रोड तथा गांधी पार्क के आगे राजपुर रोड पर-80 व्हीलर तथा 35 फोर्सेड व्हीलर
- (3) जेन्जेन्टॉवर से एचडीएफसी बैंक तक राजपुर रोड-80 फोर्सेड व्हीलर
- (4) आनन्दम् स्वीट्स से स्यूटेन्सिल स्टोर तक, राजपुर रोड-40 फोर्सेड व्हीलर
- (5) वन विभाग के गेट से वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर तक राजपुर रोड। वर्ड टॉवर सेंटर की बाउन्ड्री के अन्दर की तरफ सिंचाई विभाग की नहर के ऊपर का क्षेत्र भी सम्मिलित है। 100-फोर्सेड व्हीलर व 100 व्हीलर
- (6) स्कॉलर होम गेट से आईएनसीआईएनसीआई बैंक तक राजपुर रोड-80 फोर्सेड व्हीलर
- (7) पैसेफिक हिल्स के आगे मर्सुरी डाईवर्जन पर मर्सुरी रोड पर 50 फोर्सेड व्हीलर पार्किंग।

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में निर्धारित धनराशि रु-4.00 लाख, डिमांड ड्राफ्ट/एफडीआर/तथा निविदा शुल्क का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो बरिष्ठ लिखित अधिकारी नगर निगम, देहरादून के नाम प्लेज होगी। निविदायें ई-निविदा के माध्यम से निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। निविदादाता को निविदा हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट/ एफडीआर को मूल रूप में दिनांक 18.10.2024 की अपराह्न 4.00 बजे तक निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा जिसका परीक्षण दिनांक 19.10.2024 की सांय 4.00 बजे गठित समिति के समक्ष किया जायेगा। तकनीकी निविदा के परीक्षण के उपरान्त तकनीकी निविदा में सफल निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें विज्ञापित प्रकाशन की तिथि से सूकेनो टैन्डर की वेबसाइट से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है अथवा किसी भी कार्यदिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा ई-0 निविदा के माध्यम से www.ukntenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, चम्पावत**  
पिन-262523 फोन : कार्यालय : 05965-230044 E-mail: executivechampaawat@gmail.com

पत्रांक - 1176/निविदा/109 दिनांक : 03.10.2024

**अल्पकालीन निविदा नोटिस**

अध्यक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निर्दिष्ट श्रेणी में उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम / उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से मुहुरबन्ध निविदायें दिनांक 18.10.2024 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन 2.00 बजे अपराह्न कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, चम्पावत में उपस्थित निविदा-दाताओं या उनके मनोनीत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष अधिशासी अभियन्ता द्वारा या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सांय 5.00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	कार्यक्रम का नाम	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	घरोहर धनराशि	निविदा विक्रय तिथि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	कठनौली (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, गुरुत्व प्रणाली, जलाशय, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	1500.00+18% GST	30,000.00	17.10.2024	1.5 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर
2	कांडा (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, गुरुत्व प्रणाली, जलाशय, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	2000.00+18% GST	48,000.00	17.10.2024	2 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर
3	दकना बडोला (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	500.00+18% GST	10,000.00	17.10.2024	1 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर

नोट :- बिना घरोहर धनराशि के कोई भी निविदा निर्गम नहीं की जायेगी तथा निविदा की अन्य शर्तें कार्यालय को नोटिस बोर्ड में देखी जा सकती हैं।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
(Fire Affected/Damaged Tracked Excavator - Make -JCB-JS-205-SC)  
E Auction terms are invited from interested buyers for disposal, strictly on "As Is Where Is" basis. Damaged Tracked Excavator - Make-JCB-JS-205-SC belonging to M/S Hari Dutt. Salvage of the above materials can be inspected at Village Mirzapur, BPTP, Faridabad, Haryana, between 04/10/24 to 11/10/24, after taking prior appointment from Mr. Manoj Nagar - 9873370804. E Auction to be held on 12/10/24. For E-Auction terms, Contact Mr. Neeraj Sadana at Mob. No. 8434340000

**E Auction Insights Private Limited (Auctioneers)**  
Address:-148, Street #11, Bhakhra Enclave, Near Gurudwara Sahib Malomajra, Tehsil and District Patiala, Punjab-147001. or for more details Email to: info@eauctionbharat.com Last date for submission of E-auction form is 11/10/24 before 05.00 PM

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRI.), SOUTHERN ZONE, BRAHMAPUR, RITE CAMPUS, RANGEILUNDA, GANJAM**  
No. 1055 //SE (Agril.) Date. 26.09.24  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
**e-procurement notice**

Bid identification number / Tender call notice no – SE (A) S/Z-03/2024– 25

The Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur who has been authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Southern Zone, Brahmapur is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil construction works under Southern Zone. The costs of the project is around 133.00 & 56.00 Lakhs (Excluding GST & LC) respectively. Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 04.10.2024 at 11:00 hours to 18.10.2024 at 17:30 hours. The bid will be opened on 21.10.2024 at 11:30 hours onwards in the O/o Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur, RITE Campus, Rangeilunda. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

**Superintending Engineer (Agril.) Southern Zone, Brahmapur**

OPR-01504/11/0003/2425

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा ( म.प्र. )**  
टाउन हॉल एम.जी. रोड, खण्डवा ( म.प्र. ) पिन कोड - 450001, टेलीफोन नं. 0733-2225523, Email ID- smokhandwa@mpurban.gov.in

क्रमांक/यांत्रिकी प्रक्रांक/या.प्र./ई-टेंडरिंग/2024/239,240 खण्डवा, दिनांक 01.10.2024

--: द्वितीय ई-निविदा विज्ञापित :-

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन पोर्टल के माध्यम से निविदा निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	देयक आईडी	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	घरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि	निविदा/निर्माता की श्रेणी	कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि
1	2024 UAD 373525.1	SUPPLY OF GARBAGE TYPPER 3.5 CUM ON VEHICLE CHASIS BS-VI ON ASHOK LELYLAND MAHINDRATATA OR ANY OTHER EQUIVALENT MAKE FOUR WHEELER WITH RTU INSURANCE & INCLUDING SOUND SYSTEM (28 No.)	168.00 Lakhs	84,000/-	10,000/-	प्रतिष्ठित निर्माता/कंपनी अधिकृत डॉलर	01 माह
2	2024 UAD 373538.1	SUPPLY OF GARBAGE TYPPER 2.2 CUM ON VEHICLE CHASIS BS VI ELECTRIC Vehicle (EV) ON ASHOK LELYLAND MAHINDRATATA OR ANY OTHER EQUIVALENT MAKE FOUR WHEELER WITH RTU INSURANCE & INCLUDING SOUND SYSTEM (28 No.)	168.00 Lakhs	84,000/-	10,000/-	प्रतिष्ठित निर्माता/कंपनी अधिकृत डॉलर	01 माह

- निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 16.10.2024 ( सायं 5.30 बजे तक )
- निविदा खोलने की दिनांक :- 18.10.2024 ( सायं 10.30 बजे तक )

निविदा संबंधी समस्त जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदा में यदि किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन किया जाता है, तो वह समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जावेगा।

आयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा

**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
Palika Kendra : Sansad Marg  
Electric Establishment-1, Personnel Department

**VACANCY CIRCULAR**

The New Delhi Municipal Council proposes to fill up 02 posts of Superintending Engineer (Electric) in the pay level 13 of Rs. 123100 - 215900 under 7<sup>th</sup> CPC pay matrix on deputation basis. The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions for the post may be downloaded from NDMC website i.e. [https://www.ndmc.gov.in/vacancy\\_new.aspx](https://www.ndmc.gov.in/vacancy_new.aspx).

The last date of receipt of applications completed in all respect is 31.10.2024 (Thursday).

Sd/-  
Director (Personnel - II)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRI.), SOUTHERN ZONE, BRAHMAPUR, RITE CAMPUS, RANGEILUNDA, GANJAM**  
No. 1055 //SE (Agril.) Date. 26.09.24  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
**e-procurement notice**

Bid identification number / Tender call notice no – SE (A) S/Z-03/2024– 25

The Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur who has been authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Southern Zone, Brahmapur is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil construction works under Southern Zone. The costs of the project is around 133.00 & 56.00 Lakhs (Excluding GST & LC) respectively. Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 04.10.2024 at 11:00 hours to 18.10.2024 at 17:30 hours. The bid will be opened on 21.10.2024 at 11:30 hours onwards in the O/o Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur, RITE Campus, Rangeilunda. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

**Superintending Engineer (Agril.) Southern Zone, Brahmapur**

OPR-01504/11/0003/2425

**कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, चम्पावत**  
पिन-262523 फोन : कार्यालय : 05965-230044 E-mail: executivechampaawat@gmail.com

पत्रांक - 1176/निविदा/109 दिनांक : 03.10.2024

**अल्पकालीन निविदा नोटिस**

अध्यक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निर्दिष्ट श्रेणी में उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम / उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से मुहुरबन्ध निविदायें दिनांक 18.10.2024 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन 2.00 बजे अपराह्न कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, चम्पावत में उपस्थित निविदा-दाताओं या उनके मनोनीत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष अधिशासी अभियन्ता द्वारा या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सांय 5.00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	कार्यक्रम का नाम	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	घरोहर धनराशि	निविदा विक्रय तिथि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	कठनौली (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, गुरुत्व प्रणाली, जलाशय, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	1500.00+18% GST	30,000.00	17.10.2024	1.5 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर
2	कांडा (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, गुरुत्व प्रणाली, जलाशय, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	2000.00+18% GST	48,000.00	17.10.2024	2 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर
3	दकना बडोला (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	500.00+18% GST	10,000.00	17.10.2024	1 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर

नोट :- बिना घरोहर धनराशि के कोई भी निविदा निर्गम नहीं की जायेगी तथा निविदा की अन्य शर्तें कार्यालय को नोटिस बोर्ड में देखी जा सकती हैं।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of VINAY MODI who is aware owner of Plot No. 28, having area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Khazra No. 654, situated at Pal Vihar colony at village Dharoti Khurd Pargana Loni Tehsil & District Ghazabad (U.P.), purchased the same from Manta Sharma vide Sale Deed dated 09.04.2024 bearing document no.6643 and intend to avail/availed mortgage against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40646316

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
M/s MMR SAHA INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED has been granted Environmental Clearance (EC) regarding Revision & Extension of Mix land use project at Plot No. E-1, Sector -52, Noida, District - Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh on 03.09.2024. E C Identification No. : EC24B3813UP5616165N, File No. : 9023-8935. The copy of the environmental clearance along with the conditions to be complied with is available on the website of the SEIAA i.e. <http://www.seiaaup.in>.

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)

- 27/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, Water Chlorination (Two Year Operation, Running and Maintenance of Chlorination Plant at UGR-20/62, 22/62, UGR-63, UGR-119, UGR-151 and UGR Bahloipur), Noida. Cost Rs. 96.05 Lacs
- 24/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Year Cleaning of OHT/UGR in Sector-8, 11, 12, 15 and 15A) Noida. Cost Rs. 32.53 Lacs
- 17/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, D/o Village (Two year Repairing, Raising, P/F Manhole Cover frame and Cleaning of sewer line Manholes in Village-Bahloipur, Chotpur, Nawada, Chhajjarsi, Hazratpur, Wazidpur), Noida. Cost Rs. 69.49 Lacs
- 32/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, Strengthening of W/s (Special repair of OHT Sector-70) Noida. Cost Rs. 77.89 Lacs.
- 33/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, Sewerage and W/s of Sector-136 & 137 (P/L Water line Sector-136 to UGR-90), Noida. Cost Rs. 94.44 Lacs.
- 34/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, Vill. Dev. (P/L of Water and Sewer Line for Village- Yakubpur), Noida. (Balance Work). Cost Rs. 59.88 Lacs.
- 35/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s Labour/Operation (Running & Operation of UGR and TWS for network sector-70 and 73), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 52.22 Lacs.
- 37/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (S/F of line shaft for TWS in network Sector-70, 71, 72, 73, 107, 90, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140 and 140A), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 99.84 Lacs.
- 14/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, D/o Village (P/F FRC Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line Manhole by Portable Re-cycler Jetting cum Suction Machine De-Sitter equipment in Village-Shahpur, Sultanpur & Raypur), Noida. (AMC for Two Year) Cost. Rs. 88.08 Lacs
- 21/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, D/o Village (Annual R/o PVC water lines & R/o Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve at different places in Network Village-Nayagaon, Illabans, Nagla Charandas, Kakrala, Sapera Basti & Bhuda), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 66.97 Lacs
- 22/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, D/o Village (Water line repair, repairing Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve, Repairing of Chamber etc. related Work in Village-Chamber etc. work in Village-Barolla & Raypur) Noida. (AMC for Two Years) Cost. Rs. 79



# Samsung workers protest continues to 4th week

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**  
Workers of Samsung India Electronics Ltd on Wednesday observed a token fast near the factory in Chennai on Wednesday, as part of intensifying their ongoing protest which entered the fourth week. Communist Party of India (Marxist) led Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) which is spearheading the protest by the employees said they would be meeting the Director of Factories in a day or two, alleging that the Korean electronics giant has roped in temporary workers to work in the shop floors in view of the strike. About 1,100 employees of Samsung India Electronics Ltd are on strike since September 9 pressing for various demands including wage revision and better work conditions. While several rounds of talks held in the presence of the Labour Department and company



officials failed, another tripartite meeting has been planned for next week, said CITU leaders. "We are observing a token fast today. We want the state government to come forward and resolve the issue fast. Our most important demand is to recognise the Samsung India Workers Union by the labour department at the earliest. "The temporary

Mansukh Mandaviya wrote to the Tamil Nadu government urging to resolve the issue amicably. On Tuesday, the CITU members staged a protest in some districts as part of extending their support to the Samsung India workers. They were detained by the police and were released later. Samsung India recently said scores of agitating workers have returned to work soon after it issued a show-cause notice. "The management has already indicated that all the issues can be resolved by discussions and has made various harmonious attempts to resolve differences and for your report to duty," Samsung had said. Due to the strike, Samsung India said the impact on the plant operations was minimal and added that the welfare of the employees is of top priority and would engage with them to address any grievances they may have.

# Government launches internship programme for youth

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The government on Thursday rolled out the internship programme that will provide financial assistance of Rs 60,000 per annum to 1 crore youth over a period of five years. In 2024-25, the total cost of the pilot project will be around Rs 800 crore and will look to provide internship to 1.25 lakh candidates during this fiscal, government sources said on Thursday. Announced in the Union Budget 2024, the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme in Top Companies will also provide insurance coverage to the interns. The scheme will be implemented through an online portal developed by the corporate affairs ministry. Subject to certain conditions, youth aged between 21 and 24 years will be eligible for the scheme, the sources said.



The internship programme will commence on December 2. The other company/ bank/ financial institution can participate in the scheme with the approval of the ministry, which will take into consideration factors like sectors and areas under-represented by the top 500 companies. The interns will be provided a financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per month and out of

provided to each individual intern under insurance schemes of the Union government, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana. The premium amount in this regard will be offered by the government. As part of the eligibility criteria, sources said, candidates enrolled in online/ distance learning programmes are eligible to apply. Candidates who have passed High School, Higher Secondary School, possess a certificate from an ITI, hold a diploma from a Polytechnic Institute, or are graduates with degrees such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, B.Pharm, etc. Are eligible, sources said. Partner Companies will have a dedicated dashboard on the portal where they can post internship opportunities, detailing location, nature, required qualifications, and any facilities provided. The total amount, Rs 4,500 will be disbursed by the government and Rs 500 will be paid by the company from its CSR funds. Also, a one time grant of Rs 6,000 for incidentals will be disbursed by the ministry to each intern, upon joining the place of internship. Expenses associated with the training of interns under the scheme will be borne by the company from its CSR funds. Insurance coverage will be



# Kia launches two new MPV

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Kia India today launched the second-generation of their Kia Carnival Multi-Purpose Vehicle (MPV) and the EV9 electric MPV for Rs

63.9 lakh and Rs 1.29 crore respectively. The Carnival sold 14,500 units in its first generation and Kia expects the new vehicles to help it climb into the luxury segment in India.

# SEBI lowers InvIT trading lot to ₹ 25 lakh



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Markets regulator Sebi has drastically reduced the trading lot size of privately placed infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to Rs 25 lakh in a bid to boost investors' participation and increase liquidity of such investment vehicles. The current trading lot for

secondary market trading for privately placed InvITs is set at Rs 1 crore. Further, if the InvIT invests at least 80 per cent of its asset value in completed and revenue-generating assets, then the trading lot is Rs 2 crore. "Trading lot for the purpose of trading of units on the designated stock exchange shall be Rs 25 lakh," Sebi said

in its notification dated September 26. The move came into effect the same day. The move will help increase the liquidity of privately placed InvIT units by permitting a broader base of investors to participate in the market and boost diversification of investment portfolios. In separate notifications, Sebi

has amended its rules on infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and real estate investment trusts (REITs) to reduce compliance burden and facilitate ease of doing business. Under this, Sebi has fixed the timeline for undertaking distributions to unitholders by the REIT and InvIT to five working days from the date of declaration. The move is expected to bring efficiency to the distribution process and will aid in making funds available to investors within a relatively shorter period of time. The markets regulator has allowed REITs and InvITs to call a unitholders' meeting after giving shorter notice (less than 21 days) if consent is granted by writing or in electronic mode. In case of an annual meeting, consent by at least 95 per cent of unit holders will be needed and in case of any other meeting, consent by a majority of unit holders will be required.



# Mahindra Thar ROXX sees 1.76 lakh bookings in 60 minutes

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Mahindra which in September overtook Tata Motors for the third position in India's passenger vehicle market and came extremely close to dethroning Hyundai from second position today claimed that their new Thar

ROXX SUV has bookings of 1,76,218 units in the first 60 minutes. The Mahindra Thar ROXX which is the five door variant of the very popular Thar off-road SUV was launched on August 14 and prices start at Rs 12.99 lakh going up to Rs 22.49 lakh for the fully-loaded AX7L 4x4 model.

# Coal production jumps 32 per cent in FY24-25

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The coal production from both captive and commercial coal blocks rose by 32 per cent to 79.72 Million Tonne (MT) in the April-September period of the ongoing fiscal. The coal output from both captive and commercial coal blocks was 60.52 MT in the first half of the previous fiscal. The coal dispatch rose by 34 per cent year-over-year, from 65.37 MT in H1 of FY'24 to 87.86 MT in H1 of FY'25.



There has been "a significant rise in coal production and dispatch from both captive and commercial coal

blocks during the first half of FY 2024-25, from April 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024, compared to the same period last year," the coal ministry said in a statement. The coal production in September rose by 32 per cent to 13.74 MT from 10.40 MT. Likewise, dispatch in the month of September has grown by 47 per cent year-over-year, from 9.68 MT in FY'24 to 14.27 MT in FY'25. The coal ministry said that it applauds the efforts of all stakeholders, including coal companies and

industry partners, for their invaluable support. The ministry, it said, is dedicated to helping all coal block allottees navigate challenges and optimise their operations. Its primary objective is to significantly increase coal production, ensuring a steady and reliable supply to meet the country's growing energy demands. Through collaborative initiatives and focused assistance, the ministry aims to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and output across the coal sector.

# BPCL signs pact for green fuel ecosystem at Mumbai port

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
State-owned BPCL has inked an initial pact with Mumbai Port Authority and Mumbai Port Sustainability Foundation (MPSF) for setting up a green fuel ecosystem at the port. The MoU is a pivotal step towards driving India's transition to cleaner energy solutions. By focusing on green fuel innovations, this initiative aims



to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to the country's climate change goals, a BPCL statement said. Additionally, the pact outlines an exploration into the conversion of diesel-powered vessels to cleaner fuel alternatives, further enhancing the port's green infrastructure and reducing its carbon footprint, it said. The agreement was formalised during the launch of the Cruise Bharat Mission by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal at Mumbai Port earlier this week, according to BPCL. As part of the initiative, the two partners will jointly set up EV charging stations at Mumbai Port, promoting green energy adoption for port users and the general public, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) said. "This MoU is consistent with BPCL's plans towards a sustainable tomorrow alongside our own aspiration to achieve net zero emissions in Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2040. Enabling sustainable energy solutions like LNG and EV for the maritime sector is part of our endeavour to demonstrate social responsibility and partnering for our sustainable growth with that of the communities we serve," said G Krishna Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, BPCL. The agreement also includes provisions for waste management, as BPCL and MPSF will work on systems for source segregation, storage, and handling of recyclable and non-recyclable solid waste at Mumbai Port, it said, adding this initiative promotes socially responsible practices, ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable operational environment. "Our partnership with MbPA is a testament to BPCL's strategic vision of advancing the sustainable fuels business. By leveraging LNG and green energy infrastructure, we aim to reshape the future of maritime operations.

Limited (BPCL) said. "This MoU is consistent with BPCL's plans towards a sustainable tomorrow alongside our own aspiration to achieve net zero emissions in Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2040. Enabling sustainable energy solutions like LNG and EV for the maritime sector is part of our endeavour to demonstrate social responsibility and partnering for our sustainable growth with that of the communities we serve," said G Krishna Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, BPCL. The agreement also includes provisions for waste management, as BPCL and MPSF will work on systems for source segregation, storage, and handling of recyclable and non-recyclable solid waste at Mumbai Port, it said, adding this initiative promotes socially responsible practices, ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable operational environment. "Our partnership with MbPA is a testament to BPCL's strategic vision of advancing the sustainable fuels business. By leveraging LNG and green energy infrastructure, we aim to reshape the future of maritime operations.

**बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra**  
JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE, WRIGHT TOWN, JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 13.11.2024, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Date of Auction	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increase Amount
1) Branch - Sanjeevani Nagar, Jabalpur Mob. - 7052792222 Borrower - Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Add: H.No.2014, Kiran Kuti, Vijaynagar, Jabalpur-482001	Rs.18618136/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand One hundred Thirty Six only plus applicable interest and penal interest thereon + Others Charge w.e.f. 30.05.2024	Property 1: Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 25-A on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhara S.No. P C No. 22/24 R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1250 Sqft. Property 2: Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 24 on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhara S.No.4 P C No. 22/24 R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1000 Sqft. Property 3: Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 25 on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhara S.No.4 P C No. 22/24 R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1150 Sqft.	Physical	13.11.2024	Rs.23,12,000/- Rs.2,31,200/- Rs.10000/- Rs.18,50,000/- Rs.1,85,000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.21,27,000/- Rs.2,12,700/- Rs.10000/-
2) Branch - Katni Mob. - 8605593596 Borrower: M/s. Subh Associates Prop. Shri Nilesh Agrahari Satyanarayan Mandir Ke Samne Katni-483501	Rs.1073416/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Only)(Ledger Bal:Rs.1036367/- + Unapplied interest Rs.36991/-@11.80% p.a at monthly rest + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses w.e.f. 22.12.2023	All those piece & Parcel of property with construction & fixture thereon being & lying at vill. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Ward, Mouza: Chhaparwah, Tq. Katni Dist: Katni, Khasra no.09/1, PH.no. 41/44, NB no. 407, Area known as Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Ward admeasuring 1748 sq.ft.	Physical	13.11.2024	Rs.13,00,000/- Rs.1,30,000/- Rs.10000/-
3) Branch - JHRC Mob. - 8888390379 Borrower: M/s Mahi Earth Movers Prop. Mr. Arshad Khan,Address: Jawahar Ward, Saray Mohalla, Sihora, Jabalpur 483225 Madhya Pradesh Guarantor: Mr.Arshad Khan Address: Mr.Ward No 5, Saray Mohalla, Sihora, Jabalpur, M.P.483225	Rs.2064064/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Sixty Four only)(Ledger balance Rs.1984805/- plus unapplied interest Rs.66524/- and penal interest + Others Charge w.e.f.13.06.2024	All those pieces and parcel of land situate being and lying at village Mouza Mansakra, (1)Ph no- 06 admeasuring 2360 sq.ft and bearing CTS/Survey no. Khasra No. 408/2/1/2, (2) Ph no- 73/06, admeasuring 1800 sq.ft bearing CTS/survey no. Khasra no.408/2/2, (3) Ph. no.06, admeasuring 2812.5 sq.ft bearing CTS/survey no.Khasra no.408/2/2,Combined all khasra 6972 sq.ft in the Registration Dist: Jabalpur, Sub dist: Sihora,	Physical	13.11.2024	Rs.3138000/- Rs.3,13,800/- Rs.10000/-

**Inspection of Properties by bidder: 07.11.2024 to 08.11.2024 between 11.00 a.m to 05.00 p.m**  
**Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 11.11.2024**  
**Date & time of E-auction with auto extension for 5 minutes-13.11.2024 from 12.00 p.m to 04:00 p.m.**

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://ebikray.in/eauction-psb>, email-support. [ebikray@psballiance.com](mailto:ebikray@psballiance.com). Mob. - 8291220220 The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days.

For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofmaharashtra.in/asset-for-sales-search> and <https://ebikray.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials **Vishal Kanoje - 8956503136**

Date: 04/10/2024  
Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

# Tata Power-DDL conducts Extensive Safety Awareness Drive

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited organised an extensive safety drive for its consumers and field staff to reduce the chances of electricity-related incidents. Under this drive, more than 2.28 Lakh installations including plain cement and concrete (PCC) poles, street lights, stay wires, towers, rail poles, fencing of sub stations, feeder & service pillars, PWD Poles, MCD Poles, ATMs & lights installed in parks were checked for any unsafe situation / hazard and rectifications thereof. Tata Power-DDL is dedicated to supporting Ramlala, Durga Puja, and other festive events by providing temporary connections within 24 hours. While the discom is committed to offering tatkal connections during the festive season, the safety of people in mass gatherings remains of utmost priority. Tata Power-DDL's operations and maintenance teams would remain on high alert to handle any safety-related issues that may arise during this time. Additionally, consumers are advised to take due precautions with their wiring and avoid any loose connections, as these can lead to accidents. It is also crucial to install an ELCB (Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker)/RCCB to protect both people and equipment from electrical shocks.

# INBRIEF

**GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY RELEASES SCHEDULE**  
AMRITSAR: The online examination form submission and fee payments for December 2024 exams of Law FIP/TPP, B.Ed., B.A.-B.Ed., B.Sc.-B.Ed., B.Com-B.Ed and B.Ed-M.Ed Sem-1 for Regular students through online portal have been scheduled.

**GNDU NSS UNIT ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON E-WASTE MANAGEMENT**  
AMRITSAR: The NSS unit of Guru Nanak Dev University, successfully organized a comprehensive E-waste management drive under the banner of "Swachhata Hi Sewa." The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the pressing issue of electronic waste.

**ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL OF "GCA ZONE" KICKS OFF**  
AMRITSAR: The three-day Zonal Youth Festival of "GCA Zone" of Guru Nanak Dev University began here today with great enthusiasm and energy, marked by an impressive inauguration ceremony presided over by S. Charanjit Singh Sohal, IPS SSP Amritsar (Rural). The festival will be concluded on October 5, 2024.





## WORLD ANIMAL DAY: OCTOBER 04, 2024

# A HOME FOR EVERY HEART

As we observe *World Animal Day 2024*, we embrace the theme, "The World is Their Home Too" This day serves as a powerful reminder that animals share our planet and deserve our care and protection. Let's come together to ensure that every creature feels safe and loved in the world we all inhabit, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Collage: Satish C Jakhmola

On *World Animal Day*, we are reminded of a simple yet profound truth: animals share our world and in many ways, they reflect the best parts of ourselves. As we go about our lives, it's easy to forget the loyalty, grace and beauty that animals bring to this planet. Whether it's the silent strength of a tiger in the wild or the trusting eyes of a stray dog, animals have a way of touching our hearts. As the author **Anthony Douglas Williams** once said, "We have more to learn from animals than animals have to learn from us." Their unconditional love, resilience and ability to live harmoniously with nature offer us lessons in compassion, humility and care. October 4th, *World Animal Day*, is a time to highlight the pressing issues that animals face across the globe. The theme for this year, "The World is Their Home Too," is a powerful call for all of us to recognise the rights of animals, whether they are roaming freely in the wilderness or wandering the streets as strays. This day is a chance to reflect on how we treat the creatures that share our planet and to realise that they, too, deserve safety, respect and love. From the majestic *Royal Bengal Tiger* to the critically endangered *Indian Rhinoceros*, the wildlife in India is under constant threat.

Habitat destruction, poaching and human-wildlife conflict have left these species teetering on the edge of survival. The tiger, once a symbol of untamed power, now roams in small, fragmented patches of forest. The *Indian Rhinoceros*, whose numbers were once decimated by hunting, faces the constant pressure of habitat loss and illegal poaching for its horn. Similarly, the Asiatic Lion, which now has a population of approximately 600 individuals confined to the Gir Forest, faces an uncertain future in its last remaining natural habitat. This small population survives in a limited area, making them vulnerable to catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or forest fires, which could wipe them out forever. These creatures, emblematic of India's natural heritage, are not merely animals, they are vital parts of ecosystems that sustain life, including our own. Yet, it's not only the rare and exotic species that require our attention. Animals that live closer to us, whether they are stray dogs, cattle, or even birds, also face significant challenges. *Stray dogs*, in particular, bear the brunt of urban neglect. But beyond the dogs, there are countless other animals like cows left to fend for themselves on the streets, often injured or malnourished. Birds, too,

### BOOKS TO CELEBRATE WORLD ANIMAL DAY

**The Gopi Diaries** is a charming series for children by **Sudha Murty**, published by *Harper Children's*. The series follows Gopi, a lovable pup. In *Coming Home*, Gopi is adopted by a loving family and quickly learns about his new world. In *Finding Love*, he grows stronger and cheekier, facing new challenges and meeting exciting dog companions. Finally, in *Growing Up*, Gopi matures and welcomes a new friend, Nova, into his life. **Warrior Queens of Ranthambore** by **Manish Kalani**, is a unique coffee table book that captures the journey of five generations of tigresses in Ranthambore National Park. Featuring over 500 photographs taken over eight years, wildlife photographer **Manish Kalani** tells the story of the legendary tigress Machhli and her descendants, highlighting their beauty, strength and emotional bonds. The book emphasises the importance of tiger conservation and serves as a significant addition to wildlife literature in India. **Mountain Mammals of the World** by **M.K. Ranjitsinh**, published by *Penguin Ebury Press*, is a definitive guide that explores the larger mammals inhabiting mountainous regions globally. The book features

detailed profiles of approximately 62 species and 78 subspecies, highlighting their behaviour, ecology and conservation status. This work serves as an essential resource for understanding these majestic animals within their breathtaking mountain habitats. **Wildlife Chronicles** by **Adit Jain** (Publisher: Rupa) is a travelogue and guide to India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The book showcases the country's diverse landscapes and wildlife, featuring travel tips, must-see places, and captivating photographs. **Jain's** personal anecdotes aim to inspire interest in conservation while providing practical advice for travellers. **Wildlife India @ 50: Saving the Wild, Securing the Future** by **Manoj Misra** (Publisher: Rupa) commemorates 50 years of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The book chronicles India's wildlife conservation journey, reflecting on successes and missed opportunities through contributions from various experts. With a focus on the impact of colonial hunting practices and the need for wildlife legislation, it highlights the progress made and the challenges ahead in protecting India's biodiversity.



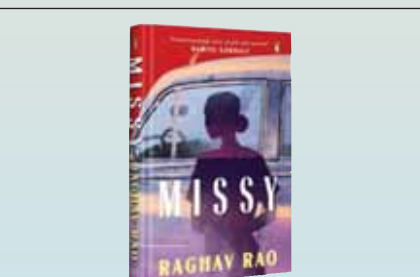
Rather than purchasing pets, adopting from shelters not only saves lives but helps reduce the suffering caused by overpopulation. We must also push for stronger laws against animal cruelty and promote humane population control measures for stray animals, such as spay and neuter programmes. On this day, let's broaden our perspective. Let's not just think about the wild animals in distant forests or the pets in our homes. Let's consider all the creatures that make up our world: the birds, the cattle, the marine life and the strays and how each one plays a vital role in the delicate balance of life on Earth. Every action we take, no matter how small, contributes to creating a better world for them. As we observe *World Animal Day*, let's remember that the answer for stray animals begins with a simple yet profound action: adopt, don't shop. Every stray dog on the street is a potential companion, waiting for a family. By adopting a stray, you give an animal a second chance at life and the warmth of a loving home. This small act not only transforms their lives but also enriches yours with unique love and companionship. Every life saved reflects our compassion for these deserving souls. The world is their home too and together, we can ensure that every animal feels safe, loved, and valued.

### NEW ARRIVALS



**First Flood**  
By **KALKI**, TRANSLATED BY **GOWRI RAMNARAYAN**  
(PRICE: ₹799, PAGES: 544)  
Penguin Random House

In *First Flood*, the first installment of Ponniyin Selvan, **Kalki** delves into the political intrigue of tenth-century Tamil Nadu. As Emperor Sundara Chozha lies unwell in Tanjavur fort, a sinister plot unfolds to dethrone Crown Prince Aditta Karikalan. Entrusted with a critical message, Vallavaraiyan Vandiyatevan faces perilous challenges as he navigates betrayal and ambition. Beautifully translated by Gowri Ramnarayan, this timeless tale of loyalty and intrigue captivates readers with its rich storytelling and complex characters.



**Missy**  
By **RAGHAV RAO**  
(Price: ₹699, Pages: 312) Vintage Books

In *Missy*, **Raghav Rao** follows Savi, a gifted young woman from St. Ursula's Convent in Madras, who dreams of escape. After a night of trauma forces her and her lover, Ananda, to flee to America under new identities, Savi transforms into Missy, a pillar of the South Asian community in Chicago. As she raises her two daughters, Mansi and Shilpa, the arrival of Varun, a charming doctor, threatens to unravel her carefully built life. This extraordinary debut delves into themes of identity, love, and the inescapable nature of the past, showcasing a woman's resilience and courage.

# Hindus and the Modern Struggles of Religious Persecution

Anand Ranganathan's book, *Hindus in Hindu Rashtra*, offers a scathing analysis of the plight of Hindus in modern India, drawing parallels to historical persecution and raising crucial questions about religious dynamics in the country.

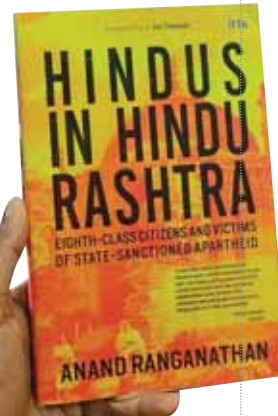
BY **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

Sufferance is the badge of our tribe," Shylock, the Jewish money lender, says in the Shakespearean play "The Merchant of Venice." Had Shylock been around now, he would certainly have added Hindus too as the victims of hatred and cruelty perpetrated by the Abrahamic religions. History, as well as modern times, substantiate what Shakespeare made Shylock say in this path-breaking play. In October 2023, the dreaded Hamas organisation let loose one of the most barbaric attacks ever reported in history on the innocent Jewish residents of the Gaza Strip, kidnapping more than 300 of them and subjecting them to vicious torture. The Hamas terrorists were celebrating in style as their colleagues recounted how they raped young girls in front of their parents and tore them apart, a la Nirbhaya incident that shook India in 2012. It was only when Israel retaliated (like any other nation would) in a bid to release their brethren from the torturing cells of Hamas, that liberals, secularists and pseudo-intellectuals came out extending their open-hearted support to Hamas. The Israeli Defence Force was portrayed as the aggressor while the Hamas terrorists were seen as angels in the eyes of these paid intellectuals. The history of the Jewish people is packed with stories of persecution faced by them and their struggles for survival. No other community, other than Hindus, has faced the kind of cruelty to which the Jewish were subjected by their tormentors. To lambast Israel and eulogise the Arabs as well as Palestinians became the measure of one's intellectual dexterity. This is what the Hindus in India face now. Though 80 per cent of the Indian population are Hindus, they face the

same kind of torment and cruelty at the hands of the minorities. In the land of the Sanatana Dharma, the aggressors claim ownership of more than 70 per cent of the land. A cleric was heard claiming the other day that Antilia, the 27-storey personal residence of Mukesh Ambani in Bombay and valued at \$4.6 billion, has been constructed on Waqf land. It is for Mukesh Ambani to give clarification to this claim, while the day is not far off when the same people are likely to come forward claiming that Rashtrapati Bhavan as well as 7 Lok Kalyan Marg belong to them. Forget about these things. The Hindus have become eighth-class citizens and victims of State-sanctioned apartheid in their own country, according to Dr **Anand Ranganathan**, scientist, author and political critic who works in the Communist citadel Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU for short). Dr Ranganathan speaks and writes with conviction and articulation. True to his profession as a genetic engineer and biotechnologist, **Dr Ranganathan** has found out the basic reasons behind the plight of the Hindus in the country, and he has made it unambiguously clear with his latest book *Hindus in Hindu Rashtra*, published by BluOne Ink. The book of 128 pages is a power-packed punch from this frail professor, which the rivals would not be able to counter. The author has made his intention clear from the word go. "To those who claim we are now living in a totalitarian Hindu Rashtra, one must ask: What kind of a Hindu Rashtra is this where a billion-strong Hindus have been, through our parliament, courts, education system and our Constitution, reduced to not just second-class but rather, eighth-class citizens? What kind of a Hindu Rashtra is this where Durga Puja and Garba celebrations are stoned with impunity, where a sitting Prime Minister claims minorities have the first right to



**ABOUT THE BOOK**  
**Book :** *Hindus in Hindu Rashtra*  
by **ANAND RANGANATHAN**  
**Publisher :** BluOne Ink  
₹399



resources?" Even as I write about the book, TV channels scroll news headlines about Ganapati statue immersions in Karnataka and Maharashtra being stoned by a group of people. The Marxist-Mullah-Congress axis held State-wide protest rallies in Kerala to express solidarity with the terrorists and extremists of Hamas and Hezbollah. A TV channel and newspaper owned by Jamaat-e-Islami laments 24x7 that there is no freedom of expression and religion in India since 2014. The channel beams anti-India news round the clock, forcing the viewers to complain to the ministries of home and information and broadcasting about the hidden agenda behind the channel and the newspaper. The Supreme Court comes to the help of the channel by blasting the Centre for its high-handedness. This is the kind of privilege enjoyed by the minority communities in India, only in India. A Hindu cannot be blamed for feeling compelled to convert to Islam, but what prevents most of the Sanatanis from doing so is the severe pain it may cause in the process. **Dr Ranganathan**, I feel, is lenient in his words. He explains through eight chapters the state of abyss the Hindus find themselves in. The powers that be, whether it is the Congress, BJP, or the motley crowd of the Third Front, do not have any answer for the questions posed by him in the opening chapter, "State Control of Hindu Temples". In Kerala, from where I hail, the most coveted post for which politicians who fail to make it to the assembly or parliament vie with each other is for the post of the chairman of the Devaswom Boards (Travancore, Kochi, and Malabar). Even rationalists and atheists in the CPI(M), CPI, and RSP turn believers to occupy the chairmanship and to

swindle the hundis (treasure boxes in which the devotees make offerings to the presiding deities). "The Hindus have no right to question the injustice meted out to them in the form of adding pig fat to laddus, a divine offering to God. If you dare to question the act, the Lordships would come down on you like an avalanche with the claim that 'Secularism is in danger.'" The term secularism has become the most nauseating one in India, as a jurist was heard asking the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to keep quiet over the affair with the Tirupati laddu. To those who do not care about the ground realities facing the Hindus, we have to ask, "What happened to the Veda Patasalas and Gurukulas, which were the landmarks along the banks of Krishna, Godavari, Kaveri, Ganga, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra?" It is an unpardonable sin in the Hindu country to ask the questions posed by the likes of **Anand Ranganathan**, R Vaidyanathan, Rajiv Malhotra, Sandeep Balakrishna and of course Arun Shourie. India may be the only country in the world that keeps its citizens from the real history (the XI volumes of the *History and Culture of the Indian People* edited by that wonderful historian Prof R C Majumdar). It is a "crime" in this country to pinpoint the directives given by the one and only Prophet that the idolaters only are unclean (Surah 9, ayat 5) and the disbelievers are an open enemy to you (Surah 4:101) (Quotes from *The Calcutta Quran Petition* authored by Sita Ram Goel). If the Hindus fail to take note of the observations by **Anand Ranganathan**, they are doomed to be Pappus and village idiots. In this era of religious hegemony, scholars like **Ranganathan**, **Vaidyanathan**, and **Rajiv Malhotra** are beacons of hope. Please do not miss out on what they speak and write.



# INDIA NEED TOP GUNS FIRING IN UNISON AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

**PTI ■ DUBAI**

A stellar effort by senior stars would be mandatory when India take on New Zealand in their opening Group A match of the women's T20 World Cup here on Friday, aiming for a strong start in their quest to wipe off the memories of past near-misses.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who in all likelihood, will be appearing in her last T20 World Cup, has been witness to several near misses and disappointing moments from close quarters, including India's capitulation to Australia in the final at Melbourne in 2020.

As has been in the past, this Indian line-up is rich in talent and, arguably, only Australia have a similarly well-oiled unit.

But the reigning champions have six titles in their cabinet, and India's is still dust-laden.

So, what pegs India back in global events? It seems more a case of mental fragility at clutch moments, and the Women in Blue tried to address that during a preparatory camp at the NCA (National Cricket Academy) with a few counselling sessions.

But such external measures can only be of limited help in big tournaments, as it boils down entirely to flawless execution of strategies on a given day.

In that context, India will not get a

better opponent than New Zealand, which is not a fancied side like its Trans-Tasman neighbour. But the two-time runners-up are as tough as nails.

A victory against them could well be counted as a sign of being in fine shape — tactically and mentally — and that's a pre-requisite for India in a group that also has Australia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

To start with, India will require heavy contributions from their top guns — the 35-year-old Harmanpreet, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma.

Among them, Shafali and Mandhana have been in excellent touch, making runs in their last international outing in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in July even though India lost to the hosts in the final.

In fact, Mandhana's last five T20I innings include three fifties.

But Harmanpreet and Shafali have been a tad underwhelming and the duo finding range is imperative for India's charge at the top and middle order.

It is critical to India's chances as the pitches in the UAE, going through a harsh heat wave, might not be a treasure trove of runs, particularly deep into the tournament.

However, the expected weariness of the track, in one way, will cater to India's strengths in the bowling department — spin.



They have only three pacers in their squad — Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar and Arundhati Reddy. In all likelihood, India will only play two of them, while depending on a plethora of spinners in their line-up. India have exceptional variety in that department. The attack will be marshalled by off-spinners Deepti and Shreyanka Patil, leg-spinner Asha Shobhana and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav.

But the Kiwis have a good blend of experienced and young players, who can lift them above such obstacles.

Their talismanic skipper Sophie Devine, experienced all-rounder Suzie Bates along with veteran pacers Lea Tahuu and Leigh Kasperek form the crux of this New Zealand side.

Add the exciting young all-rounder Amelia Kerr to the mix, and they have the wherewithal to spring a surprise or two in this tournament.

But beyond them, the Kiwis are a bit green behind the ears and that could be their Achilles Heel.

**TEAMS:**

**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Yastika Bhatia (subject to fitness), Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Dayalan Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil (subject to fitness), Sajana Sajeevan

**Travelling reserves:** Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer, Saima Thakur

**New Zealand:** Sophie Devine (c), Suzie Bates, Eden Carson, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Fran Jonas, Leigh Kasperek, Melie Kerr, Jess Kerr, Rosemary Mair, Molly Penfold, Georgia Plimmer, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuu.



## Khushi seals dramatic bronze, takes India's tally to 15 at ISSF Jr Worlds

**PTI ■ LIMA (PERU)**

Khushi secured a hard-fought bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions at the ISSF Junior World Championship here, dramatically qualifying for the final before rallying to claim the third spot.

Her medal on Wednesday took India's tally to 15, including 10 gold, one silver, and four bronze medals, keeping the country at the top

of the standings.

The youngster shot 447.3 in the final to finish behind Caroline Lund of Norway who won silver with 458.3. Caroline's compatriot Synnoeve Berg won gold with 458.4.

However, Khushi's path to the podium was far from easy. She narrowly made it to the medal round, rallying brilliantly in the final standing position in qualifying to clinch the

seventh spot with a score of 585.

It got so tight that there were four others on the same score. However, Khushi and Italian Anna Schiavon clinched the final two qualifying spots, scoring 29 inner-10 shots, while two Swiss athletes — Alexa Tela and Emely Jaeggi — managed 27.

Khushi finished ahead of Anna on countback.

In the eight-woman final, Khushi was fourth at the end

of the first two positions — Kneeling and Prone.

A strong finish in the Standing position allowed her to pip Norwegian Pernille Nor-Woll after the 40th shot to move up to third.

Synnoeve and Caroline were having their own battle for top-two throughout the 45-shot final.

Khushi wobbled again on the 41st shot with 9.1 which put her back down to fifth, but a brilliant 10.7 in the 42nd and

10.4 in 43rd ensured the bronze.

In the team competition in junior women's 3P, the trio of Sakshi Padekar, Melvina Joel Gladson and Prachi Gaekwad, finished fifth with a tally of 1757.

Anoushka Thakur also shot 585 in qualification, but 26 hits in the inner-10 ring meant she ended 11th.

Sakshi, Melvina and Prachi finished 24th, 32nd and 41st respectively.

## Biggest challenges for India in Women's T20 WC will be Australia, SL: Harbhajan

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India's World Cup-winning spinner Harbhajan Singh said the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will face a tough challenge from Australia and Sri Lanka in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

The global showpiece gets underway in the UAE from Thursday, and India are placed in Group A alongside Australia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and New Zealand.

"I think India needs to be very careful when playing against Australia. Looking at this group, India has Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. But one match that I think will be a little tough is the India-Australia match," Harbhajan told Star Sports.

"Australia is a good team, even though these matches are being played in Dubai, on subcontinent pitches that might not suit them as much as their home conditions. But Australia, no matter where they play, are hard to beat. So,

the biggest challenge for India may be Australia," he said.

Harbhajan's fears were not entirely misplaced as the Australia have beaten India 23 times in 32 T20Is with the 'Women in Blue' winning seven of them.

However, the 44-year-old warned India of another potential hazard on its way - Sri Lanka.

The Islanders had recently trumped India in the Asia Cup final with Chamari Athapaththu and Harshitha Samarawickrama producing match-winning efforts.

"Sri Lanka, too, after their recent series win against India, will be confident when they play against India. So, that will also be a good contest," But Harbhajan had little doubts that India have the skill sets to land their maiden ICC title.

"Team India will be the team to beat in this tournament. They have both experience and youth. Harman (captain Harmanpreet Kaur) is in good

form, Smriti (Mandhana) is in good form, and Deepti (Sharma) is an unbelievable spinner.

"They are a very capable team and have been playing very good cricket. The unit looks solid. If India plays good cricket overall, I believe they will win this tournament," he noted.

The off-spinner, who has 711 international wickets, also advised the Indians to take it one match at a time, without succumbing to the big-moment pressure.

"You have to try to give your best and not take pressure. At this stage, the only thing that matters is to know yourself, and play as a unit. Results will follow.

"Don't think about the big picture; just take small steps with each match and focus on the process. I hope if they follow these things, our team will perform very well," he added.

India open their campaign against New Zealand on Friday.

## Weight management is athlete's responsibility: Mary Kom

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

No stranger to the physical toll of weight management during a competition, six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom Thursday waded into the debate surrounding wrestler Vinesh Phogat's Olympic heartbreak for being 100gm over, saying that to be within the prescribed limit is an individual responsibility.

The 42-year-old mother of four, who is India's only woman boxer with an Olympic medal (a bronze in London, 2012), was in the city to promote Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, which named her as its brand ambassador.

Speaking for the first time on Phogat, who was disqualified on the day of her 50kg finals in the Paris Games for being marginally over the prescribed limit, Mary Kom said weight management is an athlete's responsibility.

"I felt so disappointed in the sense that I have also done the same (weight management) for the last so many years. Weight is important, that is my responsibility. I cannot blame anyone," she said.

"I do not want to say this in her case. I am saying this in my case only. If I do not cut the weight properly then how will I play? I am there to win a medal and that is what I think," she continued.

Mary Kom, in the past, has spoken about her weight cut routines and how difficult the process can be.

The Manipuri started out as a pin-weight (46kg) category boxer before settling for the flyweight (51kg) division in her amateur career.

Phogat, who was being seen as gold medal contender in Paris, skipped meals and fluids, worked out an entire night and also cut her hair to be within the requisite category but the effort fell short eventually.

She challenged her disqualification, calling the rules inhumane, but her appeal was rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The wrestler retired to join politics after the heartbreak and is contesting the Haryana assembly elections on a Congress ticket.

**WANT TO DISCUSS INDIAN BOXING WITH SPORTS MINISTER:** Mary Kom was also quizzed about India's boxing campaign in Paris and she was still perplexed by how poor the performance was.

She said she wants to have a meeting with the national federation and sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya to understand "what is lacking" and clear her "doubts".

The Indian boxing contingent, which included two reigning world champions in Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain, cut a sorry figure



situation demands. If the sports minister has the knowledge (about the issues) I want to discuss that also," she said.

Refusing to share her exact concerns, Mary Kom said she would rather discuss them in the meeting with Mandaviya and BFI brass.

"The federation has provided all the coaches. But I have a few doubts as well. But what is the point in saying them now, the Olympics are done. Now there is no point in saying all that, but I want to discuss it with them in the meeting," said the former Rajya Sabha MP.

"(The) sports minister is doing whatever he can do from his side, infrastructure, facilities or whatever (other) needs are there. But how did the federation handle the training? Was it done systematically or not? What happened exactly, I do not know," she wondered.

"If I do not meet them and not discuss, how will I know about them?" Mary reiterated that she wants to participate in professional boxing.

"I have not retired yet but I want to compete. I am trying to get opportunities, waiting for my chance to fight pro. I just want to come back."

"I can continue for another three-four years, that is my will. I have the passion and hunger. I want to continue," she added.

## Lionel Messi, Inter Miami win MLS Supporters Shield with 3-2 win at Crew

**AP ■ COLUMBUS (OHIO)**

Lionel Messi and Inter Miami have another trophy, along with home-field advantage throughout the Major League Soccer playoffs.

Messi scored twice in the final minutes of the first half, goalie Drake Callender stopped a penalty kick in the 84th minute and Inter Miami beat the defending MLS Cup champion Columbus Crew 3-2 on Wednesday, wrapping up the Supporters Shield given annually to the team with the best regular-season record.

It was Messi's 46th major trophy won for club or country, extending his record for the most by any men's soccer player in history. And it is the second he has won with Inter Miami, this Supporters Shield being added to the Leagues Cup trophy the Herons claimed shortly after Messi joined the club in 2023.

"We knew this was a group that could fight for this," Messi said.

Luis Suarez also scored for Inter Miami, which will open a best-of-three first-round playoff series in the final weekend of October. If the team wins that series, it would have the right to host every match it plays the rest of the season - an Eastern Conference semifinal (scheduled for

Nov. 23 or 24), the East final (Nov. 30 or Dec. 1) and the MLS Cup final on Dec. 7.

"We have a nice opportunity to go down in history ... And now we think about what is coming," Messi told Apple TV after the match. "We have a great advantage in that we play all the games at home, which was what we were looking for. I think that we are very, very strong at home."

Also still within reach for Inter Miami: the best MLS regular-season mark ever. Wednesday's win pushed Inter Miami's record to 20-4-8 this season, giving it 68 points. If the club wins its final two matches - Saturday at Toronto and Oct. 19 at home against New England - it would finish with 74 points.

New England has the single-season points record, finishing with 73 in 2021.

Messi opened the scoring in the 45th minute, taking a long pass from Jordi Alba - his longtime teammate at Barcelona, the club with which Messi won 35 of his trophies - and splitting two defenders before somehow getting the ball past Columbus goalkeeper Patrick Schulte for a 1-0 lead.

And about five minutes into first-half stoppage time, Messi struck again on a free kick from about 30 yards out.



Schulte seemed fooled, and Messi squeezed the ball between the goalie and the near post for a 2-0 lead.

"Dominant," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said.

Diego Rossi scored in the first minute of the second half for Columbus to cut the lead in half, but it didn't take long for Inter Miami to restore the two-goal cushion. Almost immediately after play resumed, Schulte was upended by one of his own defenders and Suarez sent a header into an empty net for a 3-1 edge.

Juan "Cucho" Hernández's penalty kick in the 61st minute got Columbus within 3-2. But once again, the momentum didn't last for long. Rudy Camacho was sent off for his second yellow card in the 63rd minute, meaning the Crew had to play with 10 men the rest of the way.

Didn't matter. Columbus still created some big chances down the stretch.

A deflected ball in the 76th minute got across the box and onto the right foot of Mohamed Farsi - but his shot was blocked by Callender, who was perfectly positioned to protect the lead.

Then came more drama, when Inter Miami was called for its second handball inside the box - an automatic penalty kick - of the

second half. Hernández picked the left side of the net, but Callender made the save look almost easy.

That save helped finish what Messi started.

It was the fifth two-goal game of the MLS season for Messi, who now has 17 goals in 17 league matches this season. He's missed 15 of Inter Miami's MLS matches in 2024, either because of commitments to Argentina's national team or the two-month absence that he needed to recover from a badly injured ankle - an injury that happened during his nation's run to the Copa America title in July.

Inter Miami, in MLS play this season, is now 10-1-6 with Messi in the lineup. "Throughout the year we had many, many injuries, where we couldn't all be together ... But the group was getting the most out of every tough game," Messi said.

The Crew and the LA Galaxy entered Wednesday still with a mathematical hope of passing Inter Miami in the race for the Supporters Shield, and Cincinnati was nine points back with nine points still possible.

But now, they're all playing for second. "Dec. 7 is what we want," Martino said, referring to the date of the MLS Cup final.