



**OPINION 6**  
NATO'S EASTWARD MARCH  
THREATENS ASIAN STABILITY

**WORLD 8**  
JAPAN'S NEW LEADER VOWS  
STRONGER DEFENCE

**MONEY 10**  
ABOUT 1 PER CENT FALL IN SENSEX,  
NIFTY AMID TENSIONS IN WEST ASIA

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## Iran's Ali Khamenei adds fuel to West Asia fires



PTI/AP ■ TEHRAN/ BEIRUT

Iran's supreme leader on Friday praised the country's recent missile strike on Israel and said it was ready to do it again if necessary, state TV reported. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in his first appearance as leader, in about five years, at Friday prayers, called the missile strike a "shining" job by Iran's armed forces. On the other hand Israel carried out a series of massive airstrikes overnight, hitting suburbs of Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing Israeli bombardment. The Israeli military said Friday

### Peace crucial for global economy: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made oblique reference to the widening conflicts in the Middle East and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, saying the two regions were crucial for the global economy and energy security. His comments came amid fears of further escalation of conflict in the Middle East if Israel were to retaliate and attack Iran, potentially

its nuclear and oil facilities. "India is more than 85 per cent dependent on the import of crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel, and about half of its gas needs. A bulk of these come from the Middle East, and in scenarios of Israel-Iran getting into prolonged conflict, the supplies could be impacted," PM Modi said.



that a strike in Beirut the day before killed Mohammed Rashid Skafi, the head of Hezbollah's communications division. The military said in a statement that Skafi was "a senior Hezbollah terrorist who was responsible for the communications unit since 2000" and was "closely affiliated" with high-up Hezbollah officials. On Tuesday, Iran launched at least 180 missiles at Israel, the latest in a series of rapidly escalating attacks between Israel and Iran and its allies that threaten to push the Middle East closer to a region-wide war. Israel said it intercepted many of the missiles, and officials in Washington said US destroyers assisted in Israel's defence. Iran said most of its missiles hit their targets. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Khamenei, 80, said in a 40-minute speech to thousands of people at the Mosalla mosque, the main prayer site in Tehran, that the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel nearly a year ago on Oct 7, 2023, was a legitimate action by the Palestinian people. He said Tuesday's missile barrage was based on international law, the country's law and Islamic beliefs.

## 30 Naxalites killed in Bastar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ DANTEWADA/NEW DELHI

In the largest such operation in Chhattisgarh's 24-year history, at least 30 Maoists were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Abujhmad, Dantewada district, on Friday. The gunfight broke out at around 1 pm in the forest between Thulthuli and Nendur villages in Abujhmad on the Narayanpur-Dantewada inter-district border, when a joint team of security personnel was out on anti-Naxal operation. According to the police, the Districts Reserve Guards (DRG) from Dantewada and Narayanpur, acting on specific intelligence inputs on the presence of Maoists in the area, set out on an operation from different police camps. The DRG is a specialised force that includes Maoists who have

surrendered. Along with the 30 bodies, a cache of weapons, including an AK-47 rifle and one SLR (self-loading rifle), were also recovered from the encounter spot. Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai told the media that around 30 Naxalites were killed in the gun battle. Abujhmad straddles between Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, and is called the 'unknown hill' as the 6,000 sq km thick forest has not been surveyed since the British era. The jungle is the epicentre of Maoist activities and about a dozen senior cadres of CPI (Maoist) are said to be still camping there. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said the 'double engine' (BJP government in the state and at the Centre) is determined to eliminate the menace.

In a post on X, CM said, "There is news of 28 Naxalites gunned down in an encounter with security forces in the border area of Narayanpur-Dantewada districts. The great success achieved by the soldiers is commendable. I salute their courage and valour. Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will end only after reaching its conclusion. Our double engine government is determined for this. Eliminating Naxalism from the state is our aim."

According to police, with this latest encounter, 185 Maoists have been gunned down by the security forces in separate gun battles in the Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur, so far this year. The last big encounter from the state was reported on September 3, when nine Maoists, including six women, were killed on the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts. On April 16, as many as 29 Naxalites, including some higher-ranking cadres, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Chhattisgarh in August had said India will be free from Left Wing Extremism (LWE) by March 2026, and a strong and ruthless strategy was required to launch the final assault against the menace.



### Bizarre protest at Mantralaya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

In a dramatic development, tribal leaders, including Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, protesting against the demand to include the Dhangar community in the Scheduled Tribe list, on Friday jumped from the third floor of Maharashtra State secretariat Mantralaya on the safety net just a floor below. The protestors said they did this act for not getting appointment with Chief Minister. No injuries were reported in the incident that saw tense moments unfolding at the six-storey Mantralaya complex. The incident occurred around 12.40 pm. Zirwal, his fellow Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislator Kiran Lahamate and BJP tribal MP Hemant Savara were among those who jumped from the third floor onto the safety net installed on the second floor, a precaution taken in response to previous suicide attempts at the site.

## PUNE HORROR College student gangraped

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ PUNE/MUMBAI

A 21-year-old woman was gang-raped by three unidentified men. The accused attacked the woman after tying her male friend to a tree in the desolate Bopdev Ghat area in the outskirts of Pune late on Thursday night.

The victim, said to be a college student hailing from Gujarat, is being treated at the State-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune.

The attack took place around 11 pm in the poorly lit and secluded area of Bopdev Ghat. The police came to know about the incident around 5 am on Friday.

With the incident having sparked a major public uproar in Pune, the local police swiftly arrested one person, a 36-year-old resident from Pune's Kondhwa area, in connection with the incident and launched a hunt for the two remaining suspects.

The Pune police have formed 10 teams from the Crime and Detection branches to look out for the two remaining suspects. On



Friday evening, the police released the sketches of two of the three suspects involved in the alleged gang-rape. The sketches were drawn on the basis of a statement made by the victim girl to the police at the hospital. Talking to media persons, Pune's Additional Commissioner of Police Ranjan Kumar Sharma said, "As per preliminary details, the woman and her male friend had gone to the Bopdev Ghat area on late Thursday night where three unidentified persons allegedly raped her". The preliminary investigations have revealed that three suspects, posing as activists, approached the victim and her friend in a car. They asked the couple what they were

doing in that "prohibited" area. They also took photographs of the couple. After threatening them with dire consequences, one of the suspects forced the girl into a car. They tied the young man to a tree, and took turns to rape the young woman inside the car. The suspects also assaulted the victim's friend before fleeing the crime scene. The injured young man managed to take the victim to the Sassoon General Hospital for treatment. A complaint was lodged with the Kondhwa police Station at around 5 am on Friday. Happening as it did in the run-up to the State Assembly polls, the incident has snowballed into a political controversy.

## Court not to be used as political battleground: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday set up a five-member Special Investigation Team under supervision of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director to probe into the allegations of use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will comprise two officials each from the CBI and the Andhra Pradesh Police besides a senior Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) official. "We clarify that we will not permit the court to be used as a political battleground. However, in order to assuage the feelings of crores of people, we find that the investigation should be conducted by an independent SIT consisting of representatives of the state police, the CBI and a representative of the FSSAI," the Bench said. "We don't want this to be



turned into a political drama. There are sentiments of crores of people throughout the world," Judges observed during the hearing. The order was on the PILs filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board (TTD) former Chairman YV Subba Reddy asking for a court monitored probe on the allegations by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The CM had accused the former regime led by Jagan Mohan Reddy for the adulterated ghee used in making of laddus.

## WINGS OF GLORY



People watch the final rehearsal of Indian Air Force (IAF) aircrafts ahead of its 92nd anniversary celebrations, in Chennai PTI



## Historic Kashmere Gate is now a traffic battlefield This stretch is notorious for being a bottleneck 24x7

BY RAJESH KUMAR

Situated close to Civil Lines, where residences of the Chief Minister, Lieutenant Governor and Delhi Cabinet ministers are located, Kashmere Gate has heavy traffic congestion daily. This stretch is notorious for being a traffic bottleneck 24x7.

Lala Hardev Marg is the main road in front of Kashmere Gate metro station and the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) where the flyover coming from East Delhi areas, such as Shahdara and Dilshad Garden, merges. Netaji Subhash Marg connecting Kashmere Gate to Chandni Chowk and Daryaganj always choked due to encroachments and narrow lanes. Another major congestion point on the stretch comes between ISBT Kashmere Gate and the Chandni

Ram Akhara junction. Nityanand Marg stretch connecting Tis Hazari court is another bottleneck here. Interestingly, as the number of vehicles on roads surrounding Kashmere Gate has increased manifold, the condition of roads and traffic management remains the same.

In 2018, Delhi traffic police had identified the area around Kashmere Gate as an 'accident-prone' zone due to heavy pedestrian movement and traffic congestion. The situation has worsened since 2018. The authorities seem to be clueless here. The area has illegal parking lots, which have an unregulated private vehicle flow, huge encroachments, that add chaos to the already heavy volume of traffic on the roads. Rajni Kant Verma, former Transport Secretary of Delhi



A Traffic Jam Vehicles move on road at isbt kashmiri gate Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

government, said that traffic congestion is the major problem at Kashmere Gate, due to heavy traffic and illegal parking of auto rickshaws and buses. "Besides,

there are also encroachments surrounding the ISBT Kashmere Gate Metro station, leading to traffic jams here", he said. According to Verma, the problem

will be solved if encroachment is removed and regulate the auto rickshaw and private vehicles. According to transport department's officials, the Delhi

government has taken steps to reduce traffic congestion in the vicinity of the ISBTs by implementing new policies. Under it, parking and bus-bay usage fees for private and govt interstate buses will now be the same to discourage private buses from parking illegally on the roadside which congests traffic. Furthermore, buses will be assigned a fixed parking time slot of 25 minutes at a predetermined rate. If a bus exceeds this allotted time, additional charges will be levied. To ensure compliance, buses without FasTags will not be permitted to enter the terminal. Delhi has three ISBTs - at Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan. Raj Niwas officials said that traffic congestion outside the ISBTs is visibly lower now, and a report from the traffic police has

also been sought to ascertain the impact of reduced turnaround timings on traffic and pedestrian movement outside the ISBTs. At ISBT Kashmere Gate, the average turnaround time has dropped from 45 minutes in August to 29 minutes after the new order, averaging 19 minutes since then. The number of buses to and from the terminal was 1,373 per day on average in August and is now 1,644 per day. Notably, the Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI) has proposed several long-term modifications to the traffic diversion plan to decongest the area around Kashmere Gate Interstate Bus Terminus (ISBT). The CRRRI has now suggested reducing the width of the footpath under Yudhishir Setu, which will create more space for buses.



# University convocation an important stage in students' life

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the university convocation ceremony is an important stage in any student's life. Those who are limited to just the curriculum can be called teachers, but those who pay attention to the overall personality development of the student, are respectfully addressed as Guru. Universities provide the necessary environment, facilities, and guidance for the overall personality development of students, hence the Vice Chancellor of the University of the State is now addressed as Kulguru as per Indian tradition.

The enthusiastic atmosphere of educational institutions and the dignity of the convocation ceremony instill self-confidence

in the students. Chief Minister Yadav was addressing the 5th annual convocation of VIT Bhopal University at Kothrikalan district Sehore. He also dedicated the Women's Hostel Block-2 and Men's Hostel Block-6 on the university campus. Yadav said that Vellore Institute of Technology is one of the best educational institutions in the country. The placement of students who are admitted here is assured. Here the universities of Amaravati, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, along with Bhopal are preparing the Indian youth for the future, which aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision. Under his leadership and guidance, the country is continuously moving forward with confidence. Prime Minister Modi, the leader of the world's

largest democracy, has established India's reputation in the world. His life is dedicated to the country, he is active every moment for the development of the country and public welfare. Prime Minister Modi is dedicated to the goal of enabling the young generation of the country to keep pace with global standards using updated technology. As per his intention and spirit, Vellore Institute of Technology is also playing an important role in this direction. Yadav said that today foreign students are also coming to study in our institutions. The youth power of the country is the flag bearer of the India of the future. The tradition of scientific thinking and knowledge in India has been quite rich since ancient times, ample examples of it are found in our

ancient texts. In struggling with the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 period, India introduced its strength and intellectual capacity to the entire world. India has shown its potential in all forums like G-20, ASEAN, etc. The Indian economy was ranked 11th in the world in 2014, which is now in fourth position. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India will become the third-largest economy in the world in the next 5 years. Yadav called upon students to move forward by connecting everyone and working with dedication for their family, society, and country. We are fortunate that the students from different parts of the country studying in the institute have connections with Madhya Pradesh. He gave his

blessings and best wishes to the students for their bright future. The Chief Minister was welcomed with Angavastram. He also planted a sapling. At the outset, information was given regarding the establishment, academic activities, achievements of the students, and expansion plans of Vellore Institute of Technology. Revenue Minister Karan Singh Verma, Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare (Independent Charge) Krishna Gaur, MLA Sudesh Rai, MLA Gopal Singh Engineer, Founder cum Chancellor of VIT group Dr. G. Vishwanathan and President of Reliance Jio and Reliance Retail, Ravi P Gandhi, along with senior officials and public representatives were present.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurates Girl's Hostel Block-2 at Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), on Bhopal-Indore Highway on Friday. Pioneer photo

## Man booked for raping his ex-wife promising remarriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Aishbagh police have booked a man for sexually assaulting his ex-wife for three years on the pretext of remarrying her, police have started investigation, no arrest has been made so far in the case.

The victim woman had divorced her husband five years ago. Later, the victim married another man. However, the ex-husband remained in touch with her and lured her for remarriage and kept the ex-wife with him. When he did not marry her again even after sexually exploiting her for three years, the woman complained about the matter to the police. The police have registered a case under rape sections and started investigation. The police said that the 35-year-old woman lives in the

**The victim married another man but her ex-husband remained in touch with her and lured her for remarriage and kept her with him**

Aishbagh area. She got divorced from her husband about five years ago. After this, she married another youth living in Qazi Camp and started living there. She had two children from her ex-husband. After the divorce, the ex-husband used to come to meet the children and kept in touch with the woman. During the frequent meetings, the ex-husband told the woman to leave her present husband and marry him again.

After marriage, he will live with the woman and the children like a family. The woman, influenced by her ex-husband, divorced the man with whom she had second marriage. After this, she started living with her ex-husband and children in the Aishbagh area. The ex-husband said that he will marry the woman again as per the customs and rituals in front of the society and give her the status of a wife. The ex-husband kept sexually abusing the woman for three years but did not marry her. Every time he used to postpone the matter by making some excuse or the other. Frustrated, the woman complained about the matter in Aishbagh police station yesterday. The police have registered a case of rape against the divorced husband and started investigation.

## Watchlist goon abducts youth from Gautam Nagar, assault video surfaces

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A watchlist goon and his accomplice assaulted and stripped down a youth who was also made to bow down at their feet by opening fire at Industrial Area, Ashoka Garden police area, Ashoka Garden police have started investigation. A video of a youth being kidnapped and assaulted has surfaced in Ashoka Garden area, it is alleged that Deepak Thakur and Rohit Kabadi, who are included in the goon list of Ashoka Garden police station, along with their associates kidnapped the youth from in front of Gautam Nagar police station, then took him to a closed factory in the industrial area in a car. Here he was stripped naked and beer was poured on him. The accused made him bow

down at their feet. The incident was on August 13. The victim's mother has complained about this matter to the Police Commissioner's office on October 1. Earlier, a complaint had been made to the DCP office, Additional DCP office demanding action against the accused. But, the FIR was not registered. The victim's name is Gaurav Mishra he lives in Nizamuddin Colony Piplani police station area and works as contractor providing labourer for work. On the night of August 12, there was a friend's birthday party in a restaurant located in the Bilkhriya area. Here all the friends were dancing and singing. Accused Deepak Thakur was sitting at a nearby table. Deepak Thakur started abus-

ing them for making noise. There was a minor altercation over this. Then there was a scuffle between the two sides. Deepak Thakur complained about this in Bilkhriya police station. The next day, on August 13, Gaurav was sitting with his friends in front of Gautam Nagar police station at DIG Bungalow area during which the accused Rohit Kabadi and with four others arrived on the spot, Gaurav tried to escape. He hid in a nearby house, the accused forcibly dragged him from this house and made him sit in the car and took him to a closed factory in the industrial area. Deepak Thakur was already sitting in the car. There were 10-12 other people present in the factory. There the accused stripped Gaurav naked. He was beaten up with pipes,

sticks and belts. To create pressure, two youths fired three rounds in the air. After this, Deepak was asked to bow down at his feet. He was beaten and forced to touch his feet. Meanwhile, Gaurav's mother was informed about the kidnapping by his friends. His mother reached the nearest police station, Piplani but her complaint was not heard, the police sent her away from the police station, asking her to go to Gautam Nagar. During which the accused kept beating Gaurav in a car from the factory located in the industrial area to Katara Hills, AIIMS hospital. He was left in the Katara Hills area at around 6 am on August 14. One of the accused had booked Ola from his own mobile. He was taken home

in this car. Gaurav's mother has complained to all the officials since this incident, but no FIR was registered. Gaurav's mother is a teacher in a private school, his father does a private job. Five cases of assault have been registered against him in the past. While serious cases like assault, robbery and attempt to murder are registered against Deepak Thakur in Ashoka Garden and other police stations. Accused Rohit Kabadi has recently been released on bail in a murder case. Rohit is also a monitored goon of Ashoka Garden police station. According to TI Hemant Srivastava, he is not aware of the case. No such complaint has been received in the police station yet. Action will be taken after investigation on receiving the complaint.



Social activists, NCC volunteers, students and forest officials during an awareness rally to Save Tigers, organised under Wildlife Week celebration, in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

## AIIMS Bhopal successfully organizes National Nutrition Month 2024

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Department of Dietetics of AIIMS Bhopal celebrated National Nutrition Month from September 1 to 30, 2024. Throughout this period, various community and school-level programs were organized in Bhopal to promote healthy dietary habits and sustainable lifestyle changes.

On October 3, 2024, a Continuous Nutrition Education (CNE) session was held where guests, keynote speakers, and winners of the poster competition were honored.

During this event, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh remarked, "National Nutrition Month reminds us that sustainable dietary habits can significantly improve the health of individuals and communities. At AIIMS Bhopal, we are committed to promoting nutrition awareness and education, so that everyone, especially the younger generation, can be empowered to make healthy choices."

Throughout National Nutrition Month, the department provided nutrition and health information to a total of 1,771 adults and 240 children

**A CNE session was held where guests, keynote speakers, and winners of the poster competition were honored**

through outreach activities. The campaign aimed to encourage behavioral changes that promote long-term health and wellness. A special low-cost millet-based recipe book containing nine healthy recipes, utilizing locally available ingredients, was distributed during the event. Additionally, lecture sessions were conducted for primary and secondary school students. A food safety and nutrition awareness program was also organized under the Swachhata Hi Sewa Abhiyan, where participants were educated about safe food practices, the importance of nutrient-rich foods, and proper handwashing techniques. Furthermore, a tree plantation drive titled "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was conducted to promote environmental conservation.

## DTG of BHEL Bhopal awarded

Bhopal: Digital Transformation Group (DTG), BHEL Bhopal, has been honored with the "Cyber Express Cybersecurity Excellence Award (Government) 2024" for its outstanding contributions to cybersecurity and information security governance in the public sector. The award recognizes DTG's leadership in securing IT infrastructure and safeguarding critical digital assets. The prestigious award was presented on behalf of DTG, to Vivek Pathak, AGM (IT), by Lt Gen (Dr) Rajesh Pant, Former National Cyber Security Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office & Chairman, CSAI, during the 4th Edition of World CyberCon held the other day, at Mumbai. SM Ramanathan, Executive Director, BHEL, presented the Award, in the presence of Gautam Majumdar, General Manager (CMG, PMG, CC & DTG) to N P Sanodia, AGM (IT) and Vivek Pathak, AGM (IT) at BHEL, Bhopal. The Cybersecurity Excellence Awards, organized annually by Cyber Express, honor the best-in-class cybersecurity initiatives globally, evaluating organizations based on their performance, innovation, and leadership in protecting digital ecosystems.

## Juvenile can't be denied bail in absence of male family member: MP HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In an appeal under the Juvenile Justice Act, The Madhya Pradesh High Court granted bail to the appellant, stating that the absence of a male family member to supervise the applicant cannot serve as a sole reason for denying bail or suspension of sentence. The Court was presided over by Justice Vijay Kumar Shukla who stated, "This Court finds prima facie the case for grant of bail because the appellant is more than 21 years and he cannot be denied bail/suspension of sentence only on the ground that there is no male member in the family to have control over him." The Court directed that the appellant should be released on bail under strict supervision of the Probation Officer, Women and Child Development Department, Shajapur. The juvenile was convicted of murder under Section 302 of the IPC and is currently 21 years old and has been denied bail. The court clarified that the seriousness of the offence alone cannot justify the denial of bail to a child in conflict with the law (CICL). "The discretion to deny the bail/suspension of sentence is only in exceptional cases where

the safety or justice interest are involved. The report of Probation Officer shall be relevant consideration for considering an application for bail/suspension of sentence and the application shall not be rejected only on consideration of seriousness or manner of commission of offense in the case of a child who has attained the age of 21 years during the pendency of the trial/appeal." The court made observations about the application of juvenile justice provisions and in context to Section 12 of the Juvenile Justice Act, the court stated, "The discretion to deny bail/suspension of sentence is only in exceptional cases where safety or justice interests are involved." Further while considering the appellant's circumstances, the court noted that the Probation Officer had not filed an adverse report against him on his conduct. The appellant was located in a car with a dead person, but the evidence did not show that he was aware of the body's presence. The conviction was largely based on circumstantial evidence, and the court ruled that the appellant could not be remanded in continuing detention simply on these grounds.

## BJP govt in the State deceptive, directionless: Jitu Patwari

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari, on Friday, described the BJP government in the State as a deceptive, directionless and chaotic government. He alleged that the character of BJP is to deceive, their Chief Minister himself does not fulfill his promises, the promises made by the State Government to the farmers and sisters have not been fulfilled even today, he said, adding that at present there is a situation of social emergency in the State with which the people of the State are struggling. While talking to media persons at Gwalior, Patwari slammed BJP saying, when Mohan Yadav took charge as the Chief Minister, the BJP had made several promises to farmers. These promises included

**Patwari informed that every 17 minutes, a rape occurs. Instead of addressing these critical issues, the government files FIRs against those who raise their voices on social media.**

setting the price of paddy at Rs 3100, wheat at Rs 2700, and soybean at ₹6000 per quintal. They also said farmers would get profited this time. The government also vowed to regularise guest lecturers and teachers, to secure their votes with this promise. However, none of these promises have been fulfilled. Patwari also took a jibe at Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, saying, "Scindia had once said he would take to the streets, but instead of doing that, he went straight to the Ministry." Patwari informed that a

rape occurs in the state, every 17 minutes. "Instead of addressing these critical issues, the government files FIRs against those who raise their voices on social media, like Mitenendra did. He further accused the BJP government of taking loans worth ₹100 crore daily and wasting the money on advertisements and unnecessary events, all of which ultimately burdens the common man and the future generations. The Congress President said that the dignity of sisters is in danger in the state, one rape is taking place every 17 minutes, when our Youth Congress President

Mitendra Singh raised the voice of the people through social media, an FIR was lodged to suppress the voice. The government is not doing the work of the people. It is taking a loan of Rs 100 crores daily and wants to spend wastefully on advertisements and events and the burden is falling on the people of the state. On the upcoming Vijaypur by-election, Patwari expressed confidence in Congress' victory. He said that Congress workers had been working tirelessly in the region, and there was strong public sentiment against the BJP candidate, Ramniwas. "The BJP plans to misuse money, government machinery, and administration in this election, but the people want change. Congress will win Vijaypur not just by 100 percent but by 100,000 percent," he added confidently.



Ex-students of Sri Sathya Sai College for Women during alumnae meet Millaap-2 at the institute campus in Bhopal on Friday.

## Aditya's father casts aspersions over MANIT suicide

Bhopal: Days after MANIT student, Aditya Sohane, committed suicide inside his hostel room, his father BN Sohane has cast serious aspersions over goings on at the engineering college. In a written complaint to the police, BN Sohane—an accounts officer with the PWD—has said that there was no reason for his son to commit suicide as he was good at studies, and the family had no financial difficulties. Sohane further wrote that his

deceased son had mentioned the open supply of drugs on the campus to him and added that MANIT authorities had recently caught students using illicit substances recently. He claimed that the errant students were imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 each while alleging that the possibility his son's death due to drug suppliers and users on campus cannot be ruled out. The bereaved father, in the complaint, further said that the

deceased had spoken to his family on video call a day prior to the discovery of his body from hostel no. 5 at the reputed institution. The police have confiscated the mobile phone and laptop belonging to the deceased and investigations are underway to solve the mystery surrounding his death. Deceased's friends have said that they have no clue of why he would take such an extreme step. No suicide note was found.

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# Will Shivraj's son Kartikeya shine at Budhni by-election?

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

Shine? The question is doing the rounds in political circles in the state capital amid speculations of former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's son, Kartikeya, being fielded as the BJP nominee for the Budhni Vidhan Sabha by-election. The Budhni assembly seat, a stronghold of the Chouhans, fell vacant after the Union Agriculture Minister was elected from the Vidisha parliamentary segment in the 2024 general elections. Besides the tribal-dominated assembly seat of Vijaypur, the contest for the Budhni constituency is being widely regarded as a must-watch battle between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition Congress. Budhni has remained a BJP bastion and

is served as the chief ministerial seat since Shivraj Singh Chouhan successfully contested after being appointed chief minister in November 2005. Chouhan resigned after being elected as a member of the 10th Lok Sabha a year later. Both major political parties started preparations for the by-election nearly a month ago. While Kartikeya Singh is being regarded as a strong contender from the BJP side, the Congress is mulling several names to put up a challenge in the constituency. Without giving away much, BJP insiders say that there are possibilities of the young Kartikeya being fielded from the area, which has seen massive development during his father's reign as chief minister. They say that Chouhan continues to hold sway in the state, as he managed to secure a surefire victory for his

friend Alok Sharma by ensuring his candidature from the Bhopal parliamentary seat in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year. To his credit, party sources say Kartikeya has done a lot of work in the constituency with his father, and even after his father became Union Minister, so his candidature could be considered by the party. However, factually, the state unit of the BJP has already sidelined Shivraj after he was forced to quit as CM. After winning the Vidisha Lok Sabha election with record votes, when he reached there for the first time, a huge crowd gathered to welcome him. However, the state unit of the party did not release his visit programme and did not issue any press release regarding this. On other occasions, too, Shivraj's Madhya Pradesh tour programmes have not been issued to

media outlets. State BJP spokesman Rajneesh Agrawal informs that candidate selection is the domain of the party's Central Committee and maintains that it would proceed smoothly. Regarding the election preparations, he claimed that the saffron party has already knocked on every door in the constituency and thus no extensive efforts are required. "The BJP will emerge victorious with a margin of over one lakh votes. Our party workers are active at each booth," he claimed. Exuding confidence in a win, Agarwal further stated that the Congress may field anyone, but the BJP will elect one MLA from Budhni and one minister from Vijaypur. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari has visited all the blocks of Budhni constituency four times so far. He has

conducted tiffin meetings at the blocks. A meeting of the party workers from the area was convened at PCC headquarters in Bhopal. Congress sources say that there are around a dozen local leaders in contention for the party ticket. However, the state-level committee, comprising the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Umang Singh, and former PCC Chief Arun Yadav, will decide the candidate. The Congress candidate in the 2023 assembly elections, Vikram Mastal, had lost by a margin of over one lakh votes. He had lost his own polling booth; however, he continues to be in ticket reckoning this time around as well. Listing out ticket hopefuls, Congress sources say the names of Rajkumar Patel, Vikram Mastal, Mahesh Rajput, Anand Jat, Ajay Patel, and Arjun Arya are being considered.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with newly posted Chief Secretary Anurag Jain during a meeting at State Mantralaya in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo



Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Vishwas Kailash Sarang inspects an under-construction international sports stadium at Nathu Barkheda, on the outskirts of Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

## Plan to develop Arera Hills for metro facility and road network: Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav instructed to comprehensively plan to construct office buildings in Arera Hills, including the Satpura-Vindhyaachal building area, in line with current requirements. He highlighted that the area will soon benefit from a metro facility and an improved road network. To enhance convenience for employees and the general public, Yadav called for developing the infrastructure with a focus on walk-to-work facilities near workplaces. He was addressing the meeting at Mantralaya, which reviewed various Public Works Department projects. Public

Works Minister Shri Rakesh Singh, Chief Secretary Shri Anurag Jain, and other officials attended the meeting. The discussions also covered Indore's Eastern Bypass Project and the Pothole-Free Road Campaign. **3 thousand 652 complaints resolved through Lok-Path app** Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the Eastern Bypass Project in Indore should be implemented with cooperation of local farmers and residents. He emphasized that the development should prioritize the welfare and interests of the area's population. Yadav also highlighted the need for road maintenance

## To enhance convenience for employees and the general public, Yadav called for walk-to-work facilities near workplaces

work to adopt the latest technology. During the meeting, it was reported that under the special road repair campaign conducted from August 7 to September 6, 35,995 kilometers of roads were repaired by the Chief Engineer, Roads, and Bridges. Additionally, 46,516 kilometers of roads are registered in the Lok-Path app, which allows citizens to report potholes. Over the past two months, 3,721 complaints have been received via the app, and 3,652 of them have been resolved.

Regarding the condition of roads, show cause notices were issued to 15 executive engineers, and notices were issued to 156 contractors, besides Rs 73 lakh 30 thousand was confiscated from 9 contractors and their registration was blacklisted. In the campaign, Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation withdrew toll rights from investors on three routes of OMT Yojana. Punitive action was taken against the contractors and a penalty of more than Rs 1 crore 30 lakh was imposed. The Road Development Corporation also

issued show-cause notices to 17 contractors and 6 officials in connection with poor maintenance of roads. **Roads to be repaired with white topping** It was informed in the meeting that a pilot project of white topping work is being undertaken on selected 41 asphalted roads in 21 districts of the state. Under white topping, concrete work of 6 to 8 inches thickness is done on asphalted roads. Additional Chief Secretary Rajesh Rajoura, Additional Chief Secretary General Administration Sanjay Dubey, Principal Secretary Shri Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Principal Secretary Finance Manish Rastogi, and departmental officers were present in the meeting.

## 3,876 homes electrified under PM Janman Scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The central region power distributor has electrified 3,876 homes in nine tribal-dominated districts of the region as part of the Prime Minister's campaign for tribal justice. According to a communiqué from the Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Limited, 355 homes in the region were electrified on 2 October to coincide with Gandhi Jayanti. The nine districts include Gwalior, Vidisha, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Datia, Guna, Raisen, and Bhind. The company stated that it plans to electrify the remaining 10,942 tribal beneficiary households by December 2024 under the "Prime Minister's Tribal Justice Campaign" (Prime Minister Janman Yojana). The scheme, among the key initiatives of Prime Minister

**The company stated that it plans to electrify the remaining 10,942 tribal beneficiary households by December 2024**

Narendra Modi, is progressing at a rapid pace in the region. Once completed, the scheme will energise a total of 1,158 villages and hamlets in the districts of Gwalior, Vidisha, Ashoknagar, Shivpuri, Datia, Guna, Raisen, and Bhind. Pursuing the vision of Prime Minister Modi, the scheme will not only provide children from tribal families with opportunities for education, household work, and employment but also improve access to drinking water, street lighting, and basic amenities.

## Jitu Patwari participates in farmers' rally at Vijaypur

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In an all-out effort to make a contest of the Vijaypur by-election, a host of Congress leaders led by state party unit chief Jitu Patwari participated in a farmers' protest rally in the election-bound constituency on Friday. Mincing no words, Patwari launched a tirade against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in general and state minister for forests, Ram Niwas Rawat, in particular. In his criticism of the BJP, Patwari targeted former chief minister and incumbent Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan while blaming him for the plight of farmers. The Congress leader said that the party had invested tremendous confidence in Rawat by giving him a party

ticket on ten occasions, of which he emerged victorious six times, but the leader had still betrayed the party and the people by joining the BJP. Addressing a massive crowd, Patwari said that the Vijaypur area is number one in poverty and malnutrition, while Rawat and his family are busy accumulating land, property, and businesses. "The tribals of Vijaypur remain impoverished and still collect firewood from the forests. Rawat, who became a cabinet minister in the BJP government after betraying the Congress, has not only betrayed the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan but has also deceived the entire electorate of Vijaypur by disrespecting their mandate," he continued, urging people to avenge the betrayal in the upcoming bypolls. In his address, former Union

Minister Arun Yadav said that the people of Vijaypur must extract revenge from Rawat for his betrayal in the by-elections. MLA Phool Singh Baraiya told voters that they need not fear as the Congress will respond decisively to any attempts to intimidate the people of Vijaypur. Former minister and area in-charge Jaivardhan Singh said that the enthusiasm of the people in the constituency is a harbinger of a Congress victory in the by-elections. Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Singh, along with MLAs Siddharth Kushwaha, Kailash Kushwaha, Devendra Sakwar, Babu Jandel, Suresh Raj, Yadeendra Singh, Lakhansingh Yadav, and Neetu Sikarwar, also addressed the gathering, which was attended by almost all party leaders in the region.

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India		Regional Office, Bhopal Rajgarh Branch, Distt. Rajgarh	
<b>POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) [Rule 8(1)]</b>			
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 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 mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.			
The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned in respective columns. The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India or an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon. 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 Account / Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property/Boundaries / Property Owner Name	Demand notice Dt. / Possession Date	Outstanding Amount As per demand notice
Borrower : <b>Mr. Devi Singh Verma S/o Mr. Ramcharan Verma</b>	Residential House No 2/245(1/2 ADF), Ward No 4, Kalakhet, Rajgarh, Tehsil and Distt Rajgarh (MP)-465661, Area- 1062.5 Sq.ft. In the name of Mr Devi Singh Verma S/o Mr Ramcharan Verma, Boundaries: North : Mangilal's House, South: Common Road, East: Private Street, West: Prabhulal's House	04/07/2024 04/10/2024	as on 04-07-2024 ₹ 1017368/- + Interest & Other Charges w.e.f. 04-07-2024
Place : Rajgarh, Date : 04.10.2024		Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India	

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.		Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.	
Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069			
Bhopal Branch: Office No. 1, Plot No. 200, 1st Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001 (Madhya Pradesh)			
<b>POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property)</b>			
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised 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 is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein 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 charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.			
S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount / Date of Possession
1	(Loan Code No.00610000060/Bhopal Branch) Rameshvar S/o Gangaram (Borrower), Babil Bai (Co-Borrower)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Flat No.T.04 Third Floor NA Brajdharm Apartment Swankunj Village Katara Ward No.85 Plot No.105 Bhopal Madhya Pradesh 462001. Boundaries: East- Prakosht - T-03, West- Other's Plot, North-Corridor, South - Other's Plot	13-05-2024 & 01-10-2024 ₹ 7,67,146/-
Place : Madhya Pradesh Date : 05-10-2024		Authorised Officer Aadhar Housing Finance Limited	

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda		Arera Colony Branch, Bhopal	
<b>POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)</b>			
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under 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 15.07.2024 to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices. The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 3rd day of October of the year 2024. 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. The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda Arera Colony Branch, Bhopal for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.			
Name of Account / Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Amount outstanding as per Notice	
Borrowers: <b>M/s Shree Malhar Associates</b> HIG-212, Bagmugaliya, Arvind Vihar, Bhopal Partner / Guarantor / Mortgagee : <b>Mrs. Manya Vats</b> Partner / Guarantor: <b>Mrs. Jayshree Grungalkar</b>	Equitable Mortgage on Residential Flat No. C-4, 1st Floor, Yashoda Apartment, Plot No.152, 2-B, Saket Nagar, Ward No. 57, Tehsil Huzur Bhopal, MP. Admeasuring 500 sq. ft. in the name of Mrs. Manya Vats w/o Prateek Vats, Boundaries : East - Plot No.167, West - Road, North -Plot No.151, South - Plot No.153,	as on 15.07.2024 ₹ 1,11,23,525.35/- + interest & Other charges	
Borrower/Mortgagee: <b>Mr. Rajeev Shrivastava</b> Co-Borrower/ <b>Mrs. Sangeeta Shrivastava</b> Co-Borrower: <b>Mr. Rahul Shrivastava and Mr. Ravi Shrivastava</b>	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Plot No. 08-A, part of khasra No.1801/1315 Situated at Raja Abdul Ali Gali (Teda Aatut) Near Agrawal Dharamshala Gaurjarpura, Jain Mandir Road, Ward No.21 District Bhopal M.P. Admeasuring Area 119.56 Sq.ft + 147 Sq.ft. +334.56 Sq.ft. Total 601.12 Sq.ft. in the name of Mr. Rajeev Shrivastava and Mrs. Sangeeta Shrivastava Boundaries : North- House of Babulal ji, South -House of Chunnial, East-House No.08 Owned by Pushpalata Shrivastava and 04 ft wide Gali, West- House of Prabhudayal	as on 15.07.2024 ₹ 19,18,587.57/- + interest & Other charges	
Date : 03-10-2024, Place : Bhopal		Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda	

## Mayor says no to meat shops in Pandal vicinity

**Bhopal:** Taking stock of preparations for the festive Navratri season, Mayor Malti Rai on Friday convened civic officials and told them to ensure that meat shops in the vicinity of pandals remain closed throughout the nine-day festivities. Mayor Rai directed health officials that meat shops should not open near the pandals during the Navratri festival. She also reviewed the special cleanliness campaign initiated to deploy the entire zone's workforce to one ward for cleaning in the afternoons and instructed that daily activities must be reported with photographs. Additionally, the Mayor sought information regarding the night-time cleaning arrangements.

Present during the review were Mayor Council member RK Singh Baghel, health officers, assistant health officers, and other officials. She instructed the staff on the vehicles collecting waste to ensure that the materials used for worship, such as flowers and garlands, are carefully taken to the disposal centres, and that the remnants of coconuts collected from temples are separately delivered to the disposal centre at Danapani. Mayor Rai instructed health officials and assistant health officers to discuss with the members of the pandal Samitis in their respective areas to ensure that offerings and community meals are organised without plastic.



A scene from the play 'Shivoham' based on the life journey of Adi Shankaracharya staged at Rang Sri Little Ballet Troupe Theater in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

## Awareness programme held at RNTU on Pharmacists Day

**Bhopal:** On the occasion of World Pharmacists Day, an awareness programme was held by RNT University in the village of Gokla Kundi in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. The programme, themed "Pharmacists: Global Health and Needs", was attended by Dr C.P. Mishra, Dean of the ISECT Group of Universities (AGU), and Dr Durga Pandey, Principal of the Institute of Pharmacy. In an attempt to promote health awareness and highlight the vital role of pharmacists, villagers were educated about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene through a street play. The university's NSS team conducted a rally to promote cleanliness and hygiene, and participants collectively cleaned the village. The success of the programme was ensured by Programme

Officer Dr Rekha Gupta and Gabbar Singh. In his address, Dr Mishra explained to the villagers how pharmacists play a central role in addressing various health challenges, including disease prevention, patient care, and access to medication, particularly in underserved communities. Dr Pandey praised the vital contributions made by pharmacists in tackling global health challenges during the street play and emphasised their significance in enhancing community health initiatives. Pharmacy teachers Disha Deshmukh, Rajendra Mina, and Pramod Kumar Patel played important roles in the event. A total of 70 students, including pharmacy students and state-level volunteers, actively participated in the programme.

## 7-year-old girl dies due to fear of canine

**Ujjain:** A seven-year-old girl lost her life as her heart rate shot up after being chased by a stray canine on Friday afternoon. Parents rushed the child to a hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. The unfortunate incident took place at Bohra Bakhal in the city. Family members later protested by bringing traffic in the area to a standstill. CCTV footage of the incident has been found. The deceased has been identified as Insiya, the daughter of Mustafa Lohawala, a trader in the Freeganj area. Residents said there were already over 150 cases of dog bites in the past month. Seventeen-year-old Sonu Sharma died of rabies after symptoms became apparent some 20 days after he suffered a canine attack in the Naghiri area. Family members say the girl started vomiting as she ran home after being chased by the dog and soon fainted as her heart rate shot up dangerously.

## District level competitions of Mowgli Bal Utsav begin in Madhya Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The district level competitions of Mowgli Bal Utsav of the School Education Department have started across the state from October 3. Earlier in the month of September, competitions have been successfully organised at the school, Jan Shiksha Kendra and development block level. Mowgli Bal Utsav is a message of biodiversity and environmental conservation. In Mowgli Bal Utsav, the School Education Department organises competitions in collaboration with various departments of the state government. Trekking, safari, quiz, film and cultural programmes are mainly organised in these. Through this festival, students are introduced to nature close-

ly. This festival has become famous not only in the state but also in the entire country. Children's competitions are organised by creating junior and senior categories. In these competitions, essay and speech competitions are organised on topics such as rising problems of water, forest and land, importance of nature conservation, green products, mineral wealth of the state, ozone layer depletion, ill effects of polythene, river conservation, scorching earth and why the forests are distressed. Two boys and two girls selected at the district level participate in the state level competition. The state level event of Mowgli Bal Utsav is organised in Panch Sanctuary, Seoni. This event is proposed to be organised on 7th and 8th November.



# Jaishankar to lead Indian delegation to Pakistan for SCO summit: MEA

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation to Pakistan mid-October for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced here on Friday.

The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

"The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the

SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. The spokesperson clarified that the external affairs minister is travelling to Pakistan only to attend the SCO summit.

In August, Pakistan invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO's summit. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it is seen as a major decision on New Delhi's part.

The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO which has been playing a key role in boosting regional security cooperation.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes

pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India on August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement.

The SCO council of heads of government conclave is the second-highest platform in the grouping. The SCO heads of state summit is the top



most forum in the grouping that is generally attended by the Indian prime minister. The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is

an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India was the chair of the SCO last year. It hosted the

SCO summit in the virtual format in July last year. India's association with the SCO began in 2005 as an observer country. It became a full member state of SCO at the Astana summit in 2017. India has shown a keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan became its permanent member along with India in 2017. Jaishankar's Pakistan visit will

take a place nearly a month after he called out the neighbouring country over cross-border terrorism at the United Nations General Assembly.

"Many countries get left behind due to circumstances beyond their control, but some make conscious choices with disastrous consequences. A premier example is our neighbour, Pakistan," the minister said on September 28.

"When this polity instills such fanaticism among its people, its GDP can only be measured in terms of radicalisation and its exports in the form of terrorism. Today we see the ills it sought to visit on others consume its own society. It can't blame the world. This is only karma," Jaishankar

added in a strong statement. Referring to Pakistani prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's address at the UNGA a day before, Jaishankar said, "We heard some bizarre assertions from it at this very forum yesterday.

So let me make India's position perfectly clear. Pakistan's cross border terrorism policy will never succeed, and it can have no expectation of impunity. On the contrary, actions will certainly have consequences."

Shehbaz Sharif while addressing the UNGA compared Jammu and Kashmir to Palestine. "Similarly, like the people of Palestine, the people of Jammu and Kashmir too, have struggled for a century for their freedom and right to self-determination."

## Former MP Ashok Tanwar officially inducted into Congress

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Former MP Ashok Tanwar was officially inducted into the Congress on Friday and urged all sections, especially Dalits and backward classes, in Haryana to ensure a "big mandate" for the party in the assembly polls to send a message to the entire country.

Tanwar had informally joined the Congress at Rahul Gandhi's rally in Mahendragarh district in Haryana on Thursday, dealing a setback to the BJP ahead of the October 5 assembly polls. Hours before joining the Congress, the former Sirsa MP was campaigning for the BJP candidate in Safidon assembly constituency and exhorting voters to bring it back to power for a third time.

Tanwar was officially inducted into the Congress at the AICC headquarters by party treasurer Ajay Maken.

Later, Tanwar, accompanied by party MP Deepender Hooda, also met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

"We are with 36 communities in Haryana. Our resolve is for everyone. We will always raise



the voice of Dalits, tribals, backward classes, minorities and the poor," Kharge said in a post on X.

He also shared pictures from the meeting.

Addressing a press conference, Tanwar said, "I began my political career with the Congress. In the last few months I was with the BJP, the environment that I saw, I was hurt over a number of issues, the faith that should be there in Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution is not there (in the BJP)."

"On the other hand, Rahul Gandhi is working on strengthening Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution and

ensuring that people get their rights and unity in the country is strengthened," he said. Tanwar credited the Congress for his political career.

"I request all Dalits and backward classes of Haryana that to make the state number one and to ensure people of Haryana get their rights... All sections, I request them to give a big mandate (to the Congress) to send a message to the country," he said.

The Dalit leader had on Thursday described his decision to return to the Congress as the "will of God".

"It's all circumstances, destiny and will of the people. Let bygones be bygones," Tanwar

had told PTI on phone.

"I am joining the Congress exactly five years after I left it. That was the will of God then, today also it is the will of God... Sometimes, there is not much in your hands," he had said.

Asked on Friday about allegations of opportunism and losing from Sirsa parliamentary constituency on a BJP ticket, Tanwar said, "If Ashok Tanwar was an opportunist, he would have gone to the BJP five years ago. So, from this platform, because today we want to start on a positive note, I would not like to say anything negative but the BJP itself knows that Ashok

Tanwar did not lose there, the BJP lost there and the BJP's policy lost there."

Tanwar accused the BJP of disrespecting the Constitution and Dalit leaders.

Asked if there was a guarantee that he would now remain with the Congress, Tanwar replied with a Hindi idiom which loosely translates to if a person who loses his way in the morning returns home in the evening, he is not called lost.

"When you also leave home, no matter where you go in the world, you will come back and stay at home. When a person leaves home, then he realises the value of home more... Now I have understood the entire political system 360 degrees and that is why today I am standing with Rahul ji," he said.

At the rally in Bhawaria on Thursday, Tanwar shook hands with Gandhi and greeted former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who welcomed him into the party fold and patted his back.

Congress leaders K C Venugopal, Bajrang Punia, Rao Dan Singh and political scientist Yogendra Yadav were also present on stage.

## Maldives President to visit India to restore strained ties

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu will pay a five-day visit to India beginning Monday with an aim to reset ties that came under some strain since November last year.

Though the Maldivian president attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June, it will be his first bilateral visit to India.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), announcing Muizzu's trip, said it is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people to people ties between the two countries.

"President of the Republic of



Maldives Mohamed Muizzu will be travelling to India on a state visit from October 6 to 10," it said.

During his visit, Muizzu will hold discussions with Modi on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, it said. Muizzu is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu.

Besides Delhi, he will also visit Mumbai and Bengaluru where he will be attending business events.

"The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and holds a special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's

"Neighbourhood First Policy," the MEA said in a statement. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to the Maldives in August that prepared the grounds for Muizzu's upcoming trip.

"The visit of President Muizzu to India after the recent visit of the external affairs minister to Maldives is testimony to the importance that India attaches to its relations with the Maldives," the MEA said.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male.

## Moon replica to be unveiled in Assam to commemorate success of Chandrayaan mission

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

A stunning 10-meter high replica of the moon is set to be unveiled in Guwahati in Assam to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan mission, coinciding with the four-day India International Science Festival (IISF) from November 30.

This 1:50,00,000 scale model will be prominently displayed in the city, crafted by British artist Luke Jerram, said a statement here by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Measuring seven meters in diameter, the moon features intricate 120dpi NASA imagery of its surface, with each centimeter of the illuminated sculpture representing five kilometers of the lunar landscape.



This is for the first time the Ministry is holding the IISF at the Northeast to be hosted at IIT Guwahati. The event is a testimony to the Government's commitment to the Northeast and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the region as a key player in India's growth story, said Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh here at a press conference.

He said that the festival aims to

celebrate India's achievements in science and technology. The much-sought after event will attract participants from around the globe, featuring discussions on visions for a developed India by 2047, specialized sessions on science and technology in the Northeast, workshops for educators. The event will also have a focus on nuclear energy for self-reliance, alongside a science literature festival.

## Rajnath Singh reaffirms Government's commitment to empower India's defence industry

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reaffirmed the Government's commitment to empower India's defence industry by working hand-in-hand with them, and realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making the country a global manufacturing hub.

Addressing the seventh annual session of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) here, he described the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as a reminder to build a strong defence industrial base, which can be bolstered and expanded with time.

The defence minister asserted that the Government, in its third consecutive term, will provide a renewed thrust to its ongoing efforts towards developing a robust, innovative and self-reliant defence ecosystem. He enumerated



the steps taken to attain 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, including creation of defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, issuance of positive indigenisation lists (PILs), corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board, handholding of private industries by DRDO, and unveiling of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020. On the 10 PILs notified with

over 5,500 items, he stated that the idea is to equip the Armed Forces with platforms/equipment manufactured on Indian soil. Terming the lists as dynamic & not static, he exhorted the industry to achieve complete self-reliance for these items within the stipulated time, and keep shortening the list. He also urged them to assess and identify products that

can be added to the PILs in view of the rapid changes being witnessed in the field of defence across the globe. The defence minister emphasised that due to the Government's efforts, an environment conducive to ease of doing business in the country has been created, and a target set for making India's defence industry export-oriented. While he lauded the major contribution of the private sector in taking the defence exports to a record high of over Rs 21,000 crore in Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, he called upon the industry to keep in mind the export and import figures, and strive to reduce the ratio between the two with a target-oriented approach.

Recognising the potential of small & medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups in the defence sector, he acknowledged the challenges they face in achieving ease of doing

business. He urged SIDM to work closely with the government to address ground-level issues & help these enterprises to play a larger role in defence manufacturing. "It is important to ensure that our policies translate into ease of doing business at the ground level. SIDM can help in identifying the practical challenges faced by start-ups and SMEs so that we can address them," he said.

Rajnath urged the industry to invest more in cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), cyber defence, & autonomous systems. "India's defence industry must keep pace with global trends and focus on high-end technology. There is a need to increase investments in areas like AI & autonomous systems, which will define the future of warfare. The government is ready to provide all necessary support," he said.

## Government introduces Ecomark certification to promote environment friendly goods

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

To promote environmentally friendly products, the Government has introduced the 'Ecomark' certification, aimed at a variety of categories, including cosmetics, food items, and electronics.

The move aims to empower consumers to make informed choices while encouraging manufacturers to adopt sustainable production practices, ultimately fostering the growth of green industries.

The initiative also aims to prevent misleading claims about a product's environmental impact, according to a statement from the Union Environment Ministry issued on Friday here.

"Eco-labelling of products enables consumers to make informed purchase decisions as well as encourage manufacturers to transition to the production of environment-friendly products, leading to the promotion of green industries," said the notification



signed by Union Environment Ministry Joint Secretary Nameeta Prasad.

The Ecomark initiative which aligns with the 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) principle, focusing on lower energy consumption, resource efficiency, and the promotion of a circular economy will cover a wide range of products.

"These include products that reduce pollution by minimising or eliminating the generation of waste and environ-

mental emissions; products that are recyclable or made from recycled material or both.

"...products that reduce the use of non-renewable resources, including non-renewable energy sources and natural resources; and products that reduce the use of any material that has adverse impacts on the environment," as per the notification issued last month.

These include cosmetics such as skin powders, tooth pow-

der, toothpaste, creams, oils, shampoos, soaps, nail polish, and lipsticks and soaps and detergents, food items will cover edible oils, tea, and coffee to name a few while electric/electronic goods include TVs, refrigerators, food mixers, geysers, irons, toasters, and fans. Textiles will cover sustainable fabric products.

Once granted, the Ecomark will remain valid for three years, with annual reports required from holders to ensure continued compliance. A dedicated Steering Committee, headed by the Union Environment Secretary, will oversee the implementation of the Ecomark rules, recommend products for certification, and periodically review the criteria to support ongoing research and development in sustainable practices.

While developing criteria for the grant of 'Ecomark' to a product, the production process, including the source of raw material, will be considered.

Apart from this, the use of natural resources, environmental impact, the effects and extent of emissions or waste arising from the production process, the utilisation of waste and recycled materials, the suitability for recycling, and the use of non-hazardous substances in place of hazardous substances will also be considered.

Talking about the implementation procedure, an official said that an application for 'Ecomark' will be required to be made to the CPCB. After that, the Board will, either by itself or through a verifier, verify whether the product complies.

Once this is done, a report will be prepared. Once the Board is satisfied that the product meets the conditions mentioned in the guidelines, it may grant 'Ecomark'. This mark will be valid for 3 years or until there is a change in criteria, whichever is earlier.

The certificate can be renewed, as per the notification.

## ICMR inks pact with NVVN to harness solar power across its institutes nationwide

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

In a move aimed to cut down carbon footprint and energy costs as the Government sets a target of Net Zero Carbon emission by 2070, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has inked a pact with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), aiming to harness solar power across its institutes nationwide.

Under the agreement, NVVN will provide, install, test, and maintain rooftop solar panels at 15 ICMR institutes, totaling a capacity of 4,559 KW. Additionally, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) will secure a fixed solar tariff for the next 25 years, enhancing long-term cost efficiency and sustainability for ICMR operations.

Last year's total electric unit consumption of ICMR institutes was 24,181,811 kwh, as per the ICMR official.

The move to empower these institutes with solar power is the part of the Modi-led



Government at the Centre to achieve the target of adding 50 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity every year for the next five years i.e. 2030.

A senior official from the ICMR said that the emphasis is on energy conservation and pollution-free environment aiming to reduce the dependence on conventional sources of energy, and replacing them with renewable sources.

Seven institutes are already benefiting from solar power under earlier projects, and the MoU with NVVN will extend solarisation efforts to additional facilities.

States are already stepping up

efforts to help significantly reduce their carbon footprint and energy expenditure. For instance, Rajasthan is expected to attract investments worth Rs 5 lakh crore in the energy sector over the next five years, Minister of State Heera Lal Nagar said recently at the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo 2024 organised by Informa Markets in India.

The Minister said that, "Rajasthan has transformed its geographic challenges into an energy boon. Currently, we produce 20,000 MW of solar energy, of which only 5,000 MW is used locally, while the rest is supplied across the country. Additionally, we have taken steps to further scale this, with planned investments of Rs 5 lakh crore in the energy sector over the next 4-5 years," Nagar said.

Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh has taken initiatives for 600 MW of solar and 880 MWh of battery storage, aiming to integrate renewable energy with energy storage solutions.



# Independent, nominated members can be kingmakers in J and K

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Ahead of the declaration of Assembly election results on October 8, speculations are going on as to who will form the next Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

While the Bharatiya Janta Party is hoping to come closer to the magic numbers the pre-poll alliance partners - the National Conference and the Congress Party are keeping their fingers crossed. However, the political

grapevine in the region suggested independent candidates along with five nominated members (with voting rights) are set to play a pivotal role in the Government formation in the region.

Rough estimates suggested more than half a dozen independent candidates and five nominated members are most likely to play the role of kingmakers along with small political parties after the poll results are declared in Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior leadership of the BJP and the National Conference are secretly maintaining a close watch on the independent candidates likely to emerge victorious in both regions.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has been granted powers to nominate five persons to the Assembly including two each Kashmiri Pandits (migrant) and Women and one PoJK

refugee with voting rights, taking the effective strength of the House to 95. Following this development, the majority mark in the Legislative Assembly will be 48.

to political pundits, the voters across Jammu and Kashmir are most likely to throw a fractured mandate. Since the 2002, Assembly polls no political party has won more than 28 Assembly seats. The National Conference and the PDP have won a maximum

number of 28 seats in the previous polls while BJP has touched the tally of 25 in the 2014 Assembly polls. Congress has touched 20 before hitting the lowest number of 12 seats in 2014. The like-minded political parties will have no other option but to join hands together to cobble up a majority.

Meanwhile, Congress has strongly objected to the move of the ruling BJP to get five of its leaders nominated to the Legislative Assembly,

from LG before the process of Government formation in J and K and termed any such move as undemocratic and against the mandate of people and asked the LG to desist from any such move. Reacting strongly to the media reports, JKPC has termed any such move as undemocratic, an attempt to defeat the mandate of the people. JKPC senior vice president and chief spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma told media persons on Friday that the power to

nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly should lie with the new Government, otherwise it would be an attempt to defeat the mandate of the people. Expressing hope that Congress - NC will get a comfortable majority to form the Government, but any such exercise would be contrary to the democratic norms and would be another betrayal of the mandate of the people, he added.

"The people have cast their vote to elect their

representatives to form the Government whosoever gets majority, in the elections should be given a chance to form the Government," Sharma said.

The Congress party had favored reservations in the Assembly for PoJK refugees, KPs, and other minorities through elections to give representation to them but it would be a misuse of the provision of nomination if it is used to defeat the mandate of people by the BJP, JKPC chief spokesperson added.



Smoke rises after bombs were allegedly hurled at the office-cum-residence of BJP leader Arjun Singh, in North 24 Parganas district, Friday, October 4, 2024. Singh alleged that a group of people threw stones, hurled bombs and fired multiple gunshots around 8.30 am on Friday

## Ex BJP MP's house attacked with bombs, bullets in Bengal

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Bombs were hurled and gunshots fired at the residence of former MP and senior BJP leader's Bhatpara residence in North 24 Parganas about 50 km off Kolkata, the politician on Friday alleged.

Claiming that he had received a bullet when it grazed past him, the former Trinamool Congress-turned-BJP MP said that a band of TMC criminals were behind the attack.

"At about 8.30 in the morning when the family members were busy preparing for Navaratri Pujas some criminals at the instance of local TMC councilor Namit Singh attacked my house-cum-office at Mazdoor Bhawan with brickbats, bombs and they even fired gunshots," he said adding, Namit Singh was a criminal whose name figured in the cases being investigated by the National Investigation Agency.

He also alleged that the police stood silent spectator when the gun-toting criminals stomped about the area. "Everything was done at the instance of the local TMC leadership and in connivance with the police who are acting like slaves of the TMC leaders," the leader often

referred to be a strongman of the area said. "They hurled about 15 bombs one after the other ... they terrorised the locals and the members of my family but the administration did nothing," he said.

Referred to as a mafia zone Barrackpore an industrial region dominated mostly by jute mills has been a hotbed of political clashes — resulting in several deaths — from the days of the erstwhile Left Front. Singh was a TMC MLA from the region in those days and a close follower of the then Opposition Leader and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

When asked to comment on the Friday's attacks local TMC MLA and archrival of Singh said Somnath Shyam said that his party was not involved in the attacks. "The police must be taking action if at all there is any incident ... but the TMC is not involved in anything," he said.

Singh who had twice been an MP from Barrackpore, first on BJP ticket defeating TMC's Dinesh Trivedi in 2014 and then on TMC ticket winning in 2019 general elections. He finally joined the BJP after he was not given a ticket by the TMC in 2024 and contested against the sitting Bengal Minister Partha Bhowmick conceding the seat to him.

## Former Minister Harshvardhan Patil to quit BJP, join NCP (SP)

**T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The ruling BJP suffered yet another setback ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls on Friday, as former Minister and its senior leader from western Maharashtra Harshvardhan Patil announced his decision to quit the saffron party and join the Sharad Pawar-led NCP.

Patil's announcement came a day after he met NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's "Silver Oak" residence in south Mumbai.

Patil, it may be recalled, had quit the Congress and joined the BJP in the run-up to the October 2019 State Assembly polls.

Patil's decision to join the NCP (SP) stems from the realisation that he will not be able to contest from home constituency of Indapur, a seat he had represented for four consecutive terms from 1995 to 2009.

Welcoming Patil to his party, NCP (AP) chief Sharad Pawar said: "I welcome Harshvardhan Patil's decision. We expect many party workers to return to the party in the coming days. All those who believe in the ideology of the NCP (AP) are always welcome"

Patil had wanted to the contest the 2024 State Assembly polls on a BJP ticket from Indapur, a wish he had recently conveyed to deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis.

However, coalition compulsions within the ruling MahaYuti — comprising BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit



Pawar-led NCP - has made it impossible for Patil to contest the State Assembly polls from Indapur.

Because, NCP (AP) chief Ajit Pawar meanwhile, went ahead and announced sitting MLA Dattatray Vithoba Bharne — who had won the elections in 2014 and 2019 from the undivided NCP — as his party candidate for the Lok Sabha polls.

A four-time MLA, Patil — who had been elected to the State Assembly from Indapur constituency in 1995, 1999 and 2004 as an Independent and in 2009 as a candidate from the Congress — is likely to be fielded as an NCP (AP) candidate from Indapur in the 2024 Assembly polls.

Talking to media persons, Patil said: "I have been travelling across the Indapur constituency and meeting people from various sections for the last two months. People have been insisting that I should contest the Assembly election"

"I had a detailed discussion with Fadnavis...since the Indapur seat is going to the sitting MLA from Maha Yuti (Bharne), he (Fadnavis) assured me of another option. Though the option would have been feasible for me, it would not have been acceptable to my supporters and people from my constituency," Patil said.

"During my meeting with Pawar sahib yesterday, he told me that since my supporters want me to contest from Indapur, I should take a call... I spoke to my supporters and have decided to join the NCP (SP)," Patil said.

Welcoming Patil's entry to her party, Baramati MP and NCP (SP) Working President Supriya Sule said: "The family relations between Pawar family and Patil family go back to six decades... I welcome him to the NCP."

Patil is the Chairman of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories

Patil's entry to the NCP (SP) comes close on the heels of Raje Samarjeetsinh Ghatge, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Kolhapur, quitting the saffron party, joining the Sharad Pawar-led party.

Similarly, in a "ghar-wapsi" of sorts, three-time former MP and BJP leader from Gondia in Vidarbha region Gopaldas Agrawal had quit the saffron party on September 13, and joined the Opposition Congress.

Both NCP (SP) and Congress are constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVS).



The Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh at the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2024, in New Delhi on October 04, 2024

## Defence Minister reiterates India's stand for rules based on international order

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here reiterated India's stand on having a rules based international order and respect for international laws and said "India advocates for a peaceful resolution to disputes and seeks to promote cooperation among nations in Indo-Pacific."

These assertions were in apparent reference to China flexing its muscle in this strategically important region.

Addressing the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2024, he also said India's vision for Indo-Pacific is based on fostering partnerships through sustainable development, economic growth and mutual security.

"India's vision for the Indo-Pacific is based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) as we believe in fostering partnerships that prioritise sustainable development, economic growth and mutual security," Rajnath said.

engagement with its partners is guided by the understanding that true progress can only be achieved through collective action and synergy, and due to these efforts, it is now considered as a credible and preferred security partner and first responder in the region.

The Defence Minister reiterated India's unwavering resolve to a rule-based international order, respect for international law, and adherence to the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, describing them as the cornerstones of foreign policy.

"India has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution to disputes and has sought to promote cooperation among nations in the Indo-Pacific, with a strong emphasis on the centrality of ASEAN in fostering regional dialogue, stability and collective growth," he said.

Rajnath also underscored India's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the vital international maritime

routes. He added that the engagement with regional partners, including joint exercises and information-sharing initiatives, is aimed at strengthening the collective maritime security framework.

He underlined that the Indian Armed Forces, especially Navy, has been at the forefront of cooperative endeavours with countries of the region, and are continuously working towards building their capacity and capabilities.

"While India's endeavour for maritime cooperation continues, its interests are not in conflict with any other country. At the same time, interests of any other nation should not come in conflict with other nations. This is the spirit in which we must work together," he added.

Rajnath pointed out that the rapidly evolving global maritime landscape is shaped by shifting power dynamics, resource competition and emerging security threats. He added that the emergence of the Indo-Pacific theatre reflects a visible balancing of global power.

"The Indo-Pacific region has emerged as the world's most dynamic geopolitical zone and is the centre of gravity of the economic and strategic interests. It also carries a degree of pre-existing international tension, rivalry and conflict. While some challenges are of local nature, many challenges have global ramifications. With respect to marine resources, we are witnessing a significant increase in geopolitical competition. As populations continue to grow, the demand for marine resources has surged, leading to heightened tensions and competition among nations," he added.

Sharing insights on the subject of "Global Commons", the natural resources such as the ocean, outer space, climate, clean air, etc, which is shared by all of humanity, Rajnath stated that these are essential to maintain a sustainable planet. He stressed on the need to create a balance of competing interests, which can offer numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits transcending national boundaries.

## India matching up to China by improving airfields: IAF chief

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

China is rapidly developing infrastructure on its side across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and India is also matching up by improving its airfields in the border areas, IAF chief AP Singh said here on Friday.

He also said while India is ahead of China in terms of training, it lags behind in technology and rate of defence production and called for faster pace of developing and manufacturing weapon systems within the country.

The Air Force Chief said the aim of the IAF is to achieve total self-reliance by 2047.

The IAF Chief said India has the capabilities to intercept any incoming missile but lack the numbers. He made this observation when asked whether like Israel, which a few days ago intercepted most of the 200 missiles fired by Iran, India can also do the same.

He pointed out India is a much bigger country in terms of size compared to Israel and will prioritise in defending vital strategic installations if attacked by missiles.

Making these assertions here during the annual press conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, he said India is modernising its



Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh addresses a press conference at Akash Air Force Mess, in New Delhi on Friday

airfields along the borders with China and using advanced landing grounds (ALG) in central sector. Comparing the two countries, the Air Chief said India is better than China as far as human aspects and training are concerned but has lagged behind in technology and production rates of defence equipment.

"We have done our analysis. We don't have a design to go offensive unnecessarily. Only when we are pushed, we will do something... We have our plans in place. One place I can positively say is we are training much better than them. We have exposure much better than them. We get to know... how they train and how many

different Air Forces they interact with and how many do we interact with. As far as human angle is concerned, people behind the machine are concerned we are way ahead of them," he said. "As far as technology is concerned we may be not so good as of now, we have lagged. We were better than them in technology also sometime back, but we have lagged in that and we need to catch up. As far as production rates are concerned, we are way behind. We need to catch up. That will happen over a period of time, it cannot happen overnight."

Acknowledging the delay in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas programme with the MK-1A deliveries yet to begin, IAF chief said their first aim is not to let the fighter aircraft strength go down below 30 squadrons. In this regard, he said Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) must now stick to its promise of producing 24 aircraft every year to offset the delay. They have a third aircraft line in Nashik, it is yet to churn out an aircraft, he noted.

He stressed that private players have to come in to ensure the numbers. "We can't keep relying on one agency. Even HAL will have limitations," he stated, given the numbers involved.

## Thousands bid final farewell to Thomas Cherian

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

Thousands of people had gathered at Elanthur St Peters Church to bid farewell to Thomas Cherian, a craftsman in Indian Army's elite Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers who had laid down his life at the altar of the nation in an air crash on February 7, 1968 in Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh.

High ranking bishops and priests of the Orthodox Church led the prayers and other rituals prior to the funeral as his brothers and sister stood with sombre faces. Cherman was buried with full military honors as

onlookers shouted "Thomas Cherman Amar Rahen". His mortal remains were recovered from the crash site last week after a 56 year long search operation carried out by the rescue team of Indian Army. The body was flown to Thiruvananthapuram by a special IAF aircraft and was received by the officers and jawans of the Pangode Brigade of the Army, stationed in the suburb of the capital city, Thomas Cherman began his last journey to his village early Friday morning after the officers and jawans accorded him the customary send off at the Brigade head quarters. A motorcade accompanied the

special vehicle that carried the coffin which was draped in the national tricolors. The body was kept in his ancestral home for two hours before the cortege accompanied by hundreds of people left for the church.

Thousands had gathered to bid him good bye and for most of them Thomas Cherman was an unknown soldier till Monday. It was through the communication from Indian Army that they came to know about Cherman who had left the village at the age of 17 to serve the nation.

A team of officers and soldiers acted as pall bearers while the group of bishops and priests read out psalms

and prayers from Holy Bible. There was a message from Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi which was read out by the church representative. Wreaths were placed on behalf of the Kerala Government as well as the district administration.

Close relations of Cherman including his two brothers Thomas Varghese, Thomas Thomas and sister Mary kissed the coffin for the last time while the officers handed over the tricolour to Thomas Thomas. The casket was lowered into a special tomb near to the final resting place of their parents and elder brother.

"This is an emotional farewell

to Cherman who had come back from the snow clad Himalayas to the arid soil of this village. All we could offer right now is our tearful goodbye," said Gopalakrishnan, who was in attendance at the Thomas's Odalil Home from morning till the last post was sounded by the Army buglers. Cherman's name would figure in the record books for the feat of Dogra Scouts of the Indian Army and Tiranga Mountain Rescue for recovering a soldier after 56 years of search mission. Till date only nine bodies out of the 102 passengers who were on board in the ill-fated aircraft had been retrieved.

## Sedentary lifestyle main cause for heart disease, back pain, diabetes: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

As work from home becomes a common lifestyle particularly post-Covid pandemic, many of us find ourselves spending excessive hours sitting, whether at our desks or on the couch, often slouched over our laptops and phones.

A brisk walk and exercise is key, Jooa Norha, a doctoral researcher and physiotherapist at the University of Turku who conducted the study has focused on adults aged 40 to

65 with metabolic syndrome - a cluster of conditions that increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Flaggering the detrimental effects of a sedentary lifestyle on back pain, especially on the ones who are overweight and physically inactive, she said that the unhealthy habit can lead to serious long-term health issues.

The study targeted participants with metabolic syndrome — a combination of health conditions involving the risk of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes. The study was conducted on 64 adults

between 40 and 65 years-old who were overweight or obese. The participants were further divided into two groups — one group was asked to reduce their sitting time and include light exercise in their routine, while the other group was asked to carry on with their normal routine. The ones who included light exercise in their routine demonstrated stable back pain, while the inactive group showed a steep increase in the intensity of back pain. Hence, the study concluded that reducing inactivity can help fix back pain significantly.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## How secular is India?

As India grapples with internal strife and external criticism, the debate surrounding its commitment to secularism intensifies

India, a nation characterised by its rich tapestry of religious diversity, has long championed the values of secularism and pluralism. However, the landscape of religious freedom in the country has come under scrutiny, particularly with the recent designation by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) of India as a "Country of Particular Concern." This designation has ignited a contentious debate, leading to a sharp rebuke from the Indian government, which labeled the USCIRF a "biased organisation with a political agenda." In its 2024 report, the USCIRF highlighted alarming trends regarding religious freedom in India. The commission reported instances of violence against individuals based on their religious identity, citing cases of killings, beatings and lynchings carried out by vigilante groups. It also noted the arbitrary arrests of religious leaders and the demolition of homes and places of worship, characterising these actions as severe violations of religious freedom. The report further pointed to changes



in India's legal framework that, according to the USCIRF, target and disenfranchise religious minorities. These changes include the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the implementation of a uniform civil code. Such measures, the USCIRF argues, contribute to a climate of fear and marginalisation for non-Hindu communities. In response to the USCIRF's assertions, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs firmly rejected the report. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described the commission's narrative as a "motivated" misrepresentation of facts aimed at maligning India's image on the global stage. The ministry's statement emphasised that the USCIRF's reporting is unscientific and driven by an agenda that fails to reflect the realities of India's democracy.

It is true that no external agency or country has right to give us lessons in religious freedom and tolerance as we have practiced it since ancient times. Moreover, they have skeletons in their own cupboard which they would better take care first. The trigger happy policemen in the US don't think twice before shooting a black guy for not pulling over his car. But having said that it is time for us to reflect and introspect. To be fair, religious freedom has eroded in the recent years. There have been lynching incidents and that is not a made up thing. We may say that they are isolated incidents but they are enough to send a message to the community. Moreover, the attacks on churches and other religious places have been reported from across the country all this while the police looked the other way or just took mild action. It is time to ensure one and all that India is safe as it has been for ages for people of all religions and castes. And India as a State does not discriminate people for the religion they practice or food they eat. The concerns raised by the USCIRF may be exaggerated and they may make isolated incidents look mainstream but the government must maintain zero tolerance for such incidents so that no outside agency dare raise a pointing figure at us.

### PICTALK



A child looks at dolls depicting scenes from Ramayana during the Dussehra Doll festival, in Bengaluru

## Double-edged sword of social media: Impact on relationships

While it offers the promise of community and instant communication, the allure of curated perfection can lead to unrealistic expectations and strain relationships

Social media has become an integral part of modern life, connecting people from all corners of the globe. While it offers numerous benefits, such as facilitating communication and fostering community, it also poses significant challenges to relationships and mental health.

One of the most significant ways social media can impact relationships is by creating unrealistic expectations.

The carefully curated images and posts that people share online often portray an idealised version of their lives. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and comparison, as individuals may feel pressure to measure up to the perceived perfection of others. Additionally, the constant stream of information and updates can make it difficult to maintain deep and meaningful connections with loved ones.

Social media can also contribute to the breakdown of relationships. The anonymity and lack of accountability that the internet provides



can create a breeding ground for cyberbullying, harassment and online infidelity. These behaviours can erode trust, damage relationships and have a devastating impact on mental health. Furthermore, the constant pressure to be online and connected can lead to feelings of anxiety and stress. The fear of missing out (FOMO) can drive individuals to spend excessive amounts of time scrolling through social media feeds, neglecting their relationships and other important aspects of their lives. This can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness and low self-esteem. The impact of social media on mental health can be particularly severe for young people, who are often heavy users of these platforms. Studies have shown that excessive social media use can be linked to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts. This is in part due to the exposure to negative content, such as cyberbullying and hate speech, as well as

# NATO's eastward march threatens Asian stability

For Asia, aligning with NATO's expansionist policies risks destabilising the region and eroding cultural values of peace and coexistence



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

NATO's expansion into Asia poses a monumental danger that threatens not only regional stability but also the core values of peace and coexistence that many Asian countries uphold. The recent change in NATO leadership, with Mark Rutte taking the helm, may suggest a potential for new strategies, but the underlying policies and militaristic attitudes of the alliance remain unchanged. The illusion of progress is merely that—an illusion—while NATO's intentions to maintain a prolonged battlefield in Ukraine serve as a reflection of its true objectives. As observed, the US weapons sales surged dramatically in 2023, reaching a record total of \$238 billion as the demand for arms skyrocketed due to the ongoing conflict. Profiting from the sale of weapons on one hand and exploiting the suffering of unarmed civilians across Europe and West Asia is becoming increasingly reprehensible. This reflects a strategic mindset where war is not an unfortunate circumstance but an industry. This is, however, not a new phenomenon. This is how we "civilisations" behave. The history of military alliances has consistently illustrated a paradoxical truth: nations often proclaim peace while simultaneously preparing for war and engaging in it.

The recent rise of Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who has advocated for an 'Asian NATO,' is nothing but a sign of a looming storm ahead. Ishiba's call for deeper ties among Asian nations and the establishment of a NATO-like grouping echoes sentiments that prioritise militarisation over diplomacy. This vision stands in stark contrast to the scepticism expressed by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who highlighted India's unique historical position and its reluctance to embrace the treaty alliances that such a framework would entail. Ishiba's proposition to station Japanese troops on the US soil and share control of nuclear weapons highlights the extreme lengths to which some leaders are willing to go in the name of security, yet it has not received significant backing from



the US administration, signalling the complexities and limitations of this vision. While NATO presents itself as a bastion of defence, its actions betray a far more sinister agenda.

The alliance has not only prolonged conflicts but has also turned them into battlegrounds for competing ideologies and geopolitical power plays. This relentless devastation not only lays waste to nations but also serves the insatiable appetites of the arms industry, which reaps substantial profits from the chaos of ongoing warfare. Evidence reveals that the US government perceives conflicts as lucrative ventures rather than humanitarian crises. Nations that align themselves with NATO risk becoming collateral damage in a power struggle that has little regard for their sovereignty or cultural identity. The allure of NATO's promises can be enticing, but history teaches us that aligning with powerful military alliances often leads to disastrous outcomes. Karl Marx posited that "history repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." NATO's past interventions, from the Balkans to Afghanistan, and today's Ukraine showcase a pattern of destruction that is all too familiar.

The question remains: will Asia fall into this trap once again, sacrificing its autonomy

for the sake of Western agendas? Moreover, the political discourse surrounding NATO often ignores the implications of its militarisation on social stability and development. This is particularly relevant as Asian nations find themselves increasingly pressured to align with NATO's militaristic strategies. The focus on military expenditure detracts from addressing pressing social issues, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The growing arms race in Asia, driven by NATO's expansion, threatens to spark regional conflict with catastrophic consequences, echoing the historical precedent set before World War I.

The belief that increased military presence fosters stability is fundamentally flawed, often leading to insecurity and competition as nations rush to arm themselves against perceived threats. This environment heightens the risk of miscalculations and unintended escalations, with incalculable costs in human lives and economic stability. Additionally, engagement in militaristic alliances under NATO's banner risks placing Asian nations in a moral quagmire, contradicting the region's philosophies that prioritise peace, harmony, and cooperation, as espoused by Confucianism, Hinduism, Islamism, and Buddhism. The very qualities that were undermined by colonialism, after

years of suffering and the sacrifices of millions, must be protected and promoted, as aligning with NATO may ultimately undermine these cultural values in favour of a destructive path centred on military solutions.

Moreover, the consequences of such an alignment are not limited to immediate military conflicts. Long-term geopolitical ramifications could destabilise the entire region, further entrenching power struggles that lead to conflict. Embracing a militaristic alliance may offer a temporary illusion of security but ultimately leads to self-inflicted wounds—akin to harakiri. The path toward a more peaceful and stable future lies not in militarisation but in diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect. Instead of succumbing to the pressures of NATO's warmongering agenda, Asian countries should seek to forge their paths, grounded in their cultural philosophies and values that prioritise harmony and coexistence. The rhetoric of security and defence masks a more insidious agenda—one driven by the military-industrial complex that thrives on conflict and arms sales. For Asian nations, the choice to align with NATO is a perilous one, fraught with the potential for self-destruction.

(The writer is a journalist and author; views expressed are personal)



THE HISTORY OF MILITARY ALLIANCES HAS CONSISTENTLY ILLUSTRATED A PARADOXICAL TRUTH: NATIONS OFTEN PROCLAIM PEACE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PREPARING FOR WAR AND ENGAGING IN IT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TEN YEARS OF SWACHH BHARAT

Madam — Swachh Bharat Mission, one of the first programmes announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he took office in 2014, completes 10 years on October 2. The aim was to equip all households with individual toilets, ensure communities have cluster toilets to eradicate the open defecation system followed in villages, and ensure that schools and anganwadi toilets have waste management systems for both solid waste and liquid waste. To achieve this, the government's assistance was increased from Rs 10000 to Rs 12000 under the SBM scheme. Amazingly, over 10 million toilets have been constructed in rural households in 6 lakh villages till date, benefiting 50 million people, and many of these villages have been designated as open-defecation-free, which is essential for a healthy environment. Before launching SBM, unsafe sanitation caused an estimated 199 million cases of diarrhoea annually, with 3 lakh deaths. Also, a UNICEF report indicates that women in Indian villages feel safer after the installation of toilets in rural households. Also in villages declared ODF, the risk of groundwater contamination due to human waste has been reduced a lot. Though villages benefitted a lot due to the Swachh Bharat Mission, a survey has emphasised the urgent need for action against plastic pollution and air pollution in rural and urban lands. Motivating the communities against air pollution and water pollution for adopting a proper sanitation model for a healthy life is the urgent need of the hour.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

### LAWRENCE'S FUNERAL CONTROVERSY

Madam—Apropos of the story 'The battle over CPI (M) leader M M Lawrence's final journey', October 3, 2024. The Communists globally are political chameleons with unequal rules for the comrades. Most of the Communists,

## Indian PhD system needs revamp



The Indian education system, especially the higher and research-oriented education system, has gone through so many structural changes from the past till now. But the research-oriented PhD programme still lacks somewhere to provide ease to the people vis-à-vis their admission to the doctoral program. There exist some of the undoubted systematic flaws in the UGC-NET examination score as a mandatory requisite

for taking admission in a PhD. The research work and PhD are all about deep understanding instead of memory strength of the very field of students' specialisation and interest area, in which root learning from UGC-NET could merely assist.

Already, the PhD course demands a minimum of a five-year time period for its completion, and mandating a UGC NET score as a prerequisite to taking admission in a PhD only extends the time period for aspirants interested in becoming research scholars. UGC needs to make either systematic changes in its examination pattern or needs to enhance critical thinking and innovative thinking tests for the students interested in doing PhDs from the reputed academic institutions of India. Otherwise, India will continue to bear the cost of losing some fantastic minds to non-Indian universities that offer research ease, especially at the time of admission.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

though they claim to be non-believers in God in public, may be passionate believers in God in private. The unfortunate Lawrence episode points to the chaos the Communist ideology can create in a Communist family by vertically dividing its members into two warring factions. It also shows that even the deceased Communist may not be allowed to rest in peace by the comrades merely to accommodate their political ideology, what may be to the grieving family. Once an individual is bitten by the Communist ideology, there is no escape from it, even if she/he desires to change his ideology after being convinced about the utopian Communist goals. If the die-hard comrades learn a lesson or two from the unfortunate Lawrence episode and the Party's insensitive handling of the entire episode, it would be better for the Comrades.

Bichu Muttathara | Pune

### STARVATION AMID GROWTH

Madam — India is the fifth-largest economy in the world. At the same time,

the Global Hunger Index-2023 ranked India 111th out of 125 countries, with the level of hunger falling in the serious category. Though the Union government had rejected this index as erroneous, it cannot be rejected altogether, as evidently West Bengal agricultural migrant labourer Samar Khan, 35, died of starvation in Chennai as he reportedly did not have money to buy food. He was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital after he collapsed owing to starvation. He had not eaten for six days.

His colleague, another agricultural labourer, Satya Pundit is still in the hospital. Even having a buffer stock; people dying of starvation is a slur on the country, especially when we are talking of the fifth largest economy in the world. Besides, hollow slogans of the government that nobody will be allowed to die of starvation are belied.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

### THE POWER OF INTELLIGENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM

The human mind should be open to positivity and confidence, to harness intelligence and knowledge



RAVI VALLURI

Two thousand five hundred years ago, a prince from the formidable Sakya dynasty, in the quest for reality and truth, discarded his monarchical apparel to adorn ochre robes and went on to become Gautama the monk. He and his mind incessantly wandered till the attainment of truth and insight. Upon attaining enlightenment after performing arduous tapas, Gautama the monk became Buddha the Enlightened and Compassionate One. The mind of the prince turned Bhikkhu had become hollow and empty from within and without realise the pristine verisimilitude. There is also the story of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Once a young evangelist who cast away the traditions and rituals of the Catholic order, only to serve the poor and infirm (particularly those afflicted by leprosy), she was first to become a sister, then Mother Teresa, after rendering selfless yeoman service to the populace of Kolkata (then Calcutta) and humanity at large. She was the fourth Indian to be canonised on September 4, 2016, and was set in stone as St Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis for the phenomenal work and the miracles that have taken place. Buddha and St Teresa were not confined to monasteries and convents respectively to live their lives as ascetics in contemplation, meditation, chastity and poverty. Both were prototypical individuals who transcended boundaries to carve a niche for themselves by providing an alternative ideology.

Meanwhile, way back in the year 1943 a young Swedish national, Ingvar Kampard set up a company called IKEA. IKEA is an acronym for Ingvar Kampard Elmtaryd at Agunnaryd. Today it is one of the largest ready-to-assemble furniture companies in the world. These are individuals, who with their mettlesome moves hold the ordinary traveller's gaze in askance. What differentiates them from the rest of the pack? It is not the opaci-



ty of their thought process, but looking for out-of-the-box solutions. While IKEA sets up furniture in our households, and Jio and WhatsApp provide the necessary seamless connectivity in communication, it is intriguing to decipher the letters of the acronym IKW.

I stand for Intelligence, K signifies Knowledge and W represents Wisdom. Intelligence, Knowledge, and Wisdom need to be harnessed by humans in ample measure to metamorphose our minds and lives to become true achievers. In the wired world today, we are girdled with far superior technology in comparison to a few decades ago and are surrounded by a plethora of gizmos at our disposal. The product and service should necessarily be flexible, adaptable, and positively meant for the public good. Only in such a scenario will the longevity of the article in question be ensured and assured.

Siddhartha with his superior intelligence grasped that he was encumbered by misery and suffering; he gained knowledge through the various techniques of pranayama and meditation and ultimately wisdom dawned on him in the form of enlightenment. Today a seeker without living in the monastic order, living like any ordinary individual could attain and experience bliss and enlightenment by practising the technique of Vipassana.

Similarly, in the Art of Living, through the regular practice of the Sudarshan Kriya, a seeker can live in the present moment by banishing antipathetic thoughts. St. Teresa of Kolkata too possessed enormous intelligence, knowledge, and wisdom to establish the order of the Missionaries of Charity to serve the distressed sections of humanity. The human mind should be developed into a sacred place, which is malleable to embrace positivity and confidence to harness the skills of intelligence and knowledge so that the Gods bestow us with a bounty of wisdom.

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

# Bangladesh's interim Govt's crackdown on secularists



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Shahriar Kabir's arrest, amid controversial charges linked to his long-standing fight for secularism reflects Bangladesh fundamentalists working behind the interim government



It is important to examine in some detail Shahriar Kabir's arrest in Dhaka on September 17, 2024, and the subsequent related developments, to understand the forces driving Bangladesh's interim government and direction in which it is taking the country. To start with, one must briefly look at who Kabir is. Author, journalist, film-maker and an internationally respected champion of human rights, secularism and democracy, he has also been at the forefront of the struggle to bring to justice those who had collaborated with the Pakistanis during Bangladesh's liberation war of 1971 and were their accomplices in the perpetration of crimes against humanity including mass murder and rape. He played an important role in the formation of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (Committee for the Uprootment of the Killers and Collaborators of Seventy-One) under the leadership of Jahanara Imam whose husband and one of whose sons were savagely killed by the Pakistanis in 1971. Kabir, who subsequently became the organisation's president, was, at the time of his arrest, president of its advisory committee. Second, one needs to look at the circumstances of his arrest, the charges against him and his accusers and their ties with the interim government. According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune, datelined September 17, 2024 and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir arrested in Dhaka," Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat), filed, on August 20, 2024, a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka, against Sheikh Hasina and 23 others—one of them being Kabir—accusing them of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013. Further, according to a report in The Daily Star, datelined September 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir placed on 7-day remand", Kabir, along with Mozammel Babu, was produced before the court with a 10-day remand plea by the police, in a case concerning the death of a domestic help, Liza Akter, during the quota



TO START WITH, ONE MUST BRIEFLY LOOK AT WHO KABIR IS. AUTHOR, JOURNALIST, FILM-MAKER AND AN INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SECULARISM AND DEMOCRACY

reform protests. The report cited a sub-inspector of police present in the court as saying that Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Md Sanaullah, passed the orders remanding him custody for seven days.

A report datelined September 17, 2024, and published in *Prothom Alo* English under the heading, "Shahriar Kabir, Nurul Islam arrested," cited sources as saying that Kabir was an accused in several murder cases filed with Jatrabari and other police stations in Dhaka. According to information available with this writer, seven murder cases have so far been levelled against him besides the one the ICT. The levelling of murder charges against a person of Kabir's stature is not only laughable but suggests, as in a number of other cases, planned and coordinated behind-the-scenes effort.

As seen, the case before the ICT has been filed by Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat) accusing Sheikh Hasina and 23 others, including Kabir, of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013.

According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune (August 19, 2024) under the heading "Hefazat rally in Shapla Chattar: Odhikar publishes list of killed people," Odhikar, a human rights organisation, published on Monday (August 19) a list of people allegedly killed during the Awami League-led government's crackdown on the Hefazat's rally on May 5-6, 2013, at Shapla Chattar in Dhaka. The list, originally published in 2013, had led to action against the organisation by the Awami League government.

Citing persecution by the latter government, Odhikar, according to the

report, urged the interim government to immediately form an independent inquiry commission headed by a Supreme Court judge and conduct an impartial investigation into the extrajudicial killings committed on May 5 and 6 of 2013 and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The *Dhaka Tribune* report did not mention whether Odhikar had named the perpetrators. As seen above, Hefazat's complaint was filed on August 20, 2024, the day after Odhikar's post. Three questions arise here. What was the number of people killed? Was the rally peaceful?

What was the context in which it was held and what were the Hefazat's demands? Against the Odhikar's figures, a BBC report, datelined May 6, 2024, stated that at least 27 persons had been killed and dozens hurt in the clashes. It also said that at least two of the dead were policemen. Also, the fact that the police, according to the report, "used stun grenades and rubber bullets" to disperse the protestors indicates an effort to keep the casualties to minimum.

The rally was extremely violent. The report cites one witness as saying that the demonstrators "were very aggressive, some people were throwing stones and the situation quickly become violent... the police had no option but to respond". The witness further told the BBC, "Rioters vandalised markets and set fire to bookshops where the Holy Koran is sold. Thousands of Koran and religious books burned. They also attacked the ruling party's political office and national mosque."

The Hefazat's 13-point programme includes the enactment of an anti-blasphemy law with provision for death penalty, exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam," cancellation of

Bangladesh's policy for women's development, bans on the erection of sculptures in public places, the mixing of men and women in public, candlelight vigils, and "shameless behaviour and dresses," besides declaring Ahmadiyas as "non-Muslims." Nadia Sarmin, covering its rally for ETV, was mercilessly beaten for daring to be a woman "in a men only" event. Grievously injured, she was rescued by other journalists.

It is not surprising if all this reminds one of the Taliban's agenda, a DW report (May 9, 2013) by Graham Lucas under the heading "Bangladesh Chaos," cited Maulana Habibur Rahman, one of the Hefajat leaders, as boasting of his role in the 1980s Afghan war and his support to the former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

The interim government has close and warm relations with the Hefazat. It has lifted the ban on the organisation. The advisor for religious affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is the latter's Nayeb-e-Amir. Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus had a long and cordial meeting on August 31, 2024, with Mamunul Haque, the organisations head. The Hefazat is holding rallies and processions all over the country.

It is in this context that one has to see Shahriar Kabir's arrest and continued detention, in the teeth of demands for his release by international human rights activists and organisations.

The idea is to send a clear message to people in Bangladesh: do not champion secular democracy and humanism and oppose Islamic fundamentalism. If we can send Shahriar Kabir to jail, we can also send you there.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

# Legal tussles over EWS quota violations undermine RTE Act in Delhi

The violation of the Economically Weaker Section quota under the Right to Education Act continues to plague India's education system

The consistent violation of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota under the Right to Education (RTE) Act has become a troubling issue across India, particularly in major cities like Delhi. Despite clear legal mandates, several private schools continue to deny admissions to children who rightfully qualify under this provision, creating a barrier to equal educational opportunities for underprivileged communities.

Recent legal proceedings in the Delhi High Court have once again brought this issue to the forefront, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of the law to safeguard the rights of EWS students. A case in point is Master Ayan



B K JHA

Saifi, a 4-year-old son of Shahid who had been allotted a seat through a computerised draw of lots conducted by Delhi's Directorate of Education (DoE) for the academic year 2024-25. But, a leading private Senior Secondary School in Rohini denied the admission and that ensued a legal tussle. Shahid approached to Delhi

High Court with his plight and sought justice. It is misconception that lawyers are reluctant to take up such cases especially for people coming from lower strata of society. Credit goes to a young Delhi lawyer Aman Sharma who took up the case for the kid and secured provisional admission for Ayan Saifi to the school. The Delhi High Court, under the guidance of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, acknowledged the violation of the RTE Act and in an interim order granted provisional admission to the child, emphasising the school's legal obligation to comply with the EWS quota. The RTE Act 2009 is a landmark legislation that ensures free and compulso-

ry education for all children aged 6 to 14. One of its key provisions mandates that 25 per cent of seats in private unaided schools be reserved for children from EWS and disadvantaged groups (DG). This quota is intended to promote inclusive education and bridge the gap between socio-economic disparities. However, despite the importance of this provision, its implementation has been met with resistance from many private schools, not only in Delhi but schools across the country. The refusal of admission highlights the ongoing challenge in enforcing this law. It violates a child's fundamental right to education under Article 21-A of the Constitution. "Denying chil-



dren from economically weaker sections the education they are entitled to, despite a confirmed allotment, not only goes against the spirit of the Right to Education Act but also creates unnecessary hurdles for families already facing socio-economic challenges," argues advocate Sharma.

A pattern of non-compliance

can easily be seen and unfortunately, it has become pervasive across private educational institutions. Ayan's case is not an isolated incident. Private schools in Delhi have repeatedly been found guilty of disregarding the EWS quota, prompting legal battles that seek to restore the rightful educational opportunities for

underprivileged children. In March 2024, the Delhi High Court revised the income threshold for EWS admissions, reinforced eligibility criteria and offered clearer guidance. However, schools have continued to evade their responsibilities. A similar ruling in 2022 in the case of Rameshwar Jha v. Principal Richmond Global School set a precedent for punitive action against schools that refuse EWS admissions.

The Delhi High Court had then warned that schools could face severe consequences under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, for non-compliance with the RTE Act. Yet, schools still engage in tactics that delay or deny admission to EWS

students, forcing families to take the matter to court. The larger issue at hand is the erosion of trust in educational institutions and the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional rights. Advocate Sharma urges the Directorate of Education (DoE) and the Judiciary to take stringent actions against schools that defy the RTE Act, calling for penalties and stricter enforcement measures.

It becomes imperative for policymakers, educators, and civil society to collaborate in upholding the principles of the RTE Act and to work towards a more inclusive education system.

(Author is a senior journalist; Views expressed are personal)



# Malaysia's Anwar in B'desh for talks

AP ■ DHAKA

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Bangladesh's capital on Friday to meet with interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who took over in August after the former prime minister fled during a mass uprising. Anwar's hours-long visit will focus on trade and investment, migrant workers and the Rohingya refugee crisis, officials and media reports said. Yunus received Anwar in Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport where he was welcomed with gun salutes and a red carpet reception. It is the first visit by a foreign leader to Bangladesh since



This photo provided by Bangladesh Press Information Department shows Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, left, speaking with Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Friday.

Yunus took over on Aug 8 after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India. It is also the first state visit by a Malaysian leader to Bangladesh in 11 years. Anwar, who is arriving from Pakistan, is leading a 58-member delegation. Next year, Malaysia will chair the Association for Southeast Asian Nations, and Bangladesh is eager to increase its trade with that region. Bangladesh is also pursuing a policy of increasingly involving ASEAN in resolving the Rohingya refugee crisis. More than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar live in camps in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is Malaysia's second-largest trad-

ing partner in South Asia in 2023, with total trade reaching \$2.78 billion, according to official figures. Malaysia is also one of the leading destinations for Bangladeshi migrant workers. About 800,000 Bangladeshi workers are employed as low-skilled workers in Malaysia's construction, manufacturing, plantation and services sectors. But the recruiting process is often corrupt, and allegations of rights violations by Malaysian employers and Bangladeshi recruiting agencies are rampant. More than 6,000 Bangladeshi students study at Malaysian higher education institutions, according to 2023 figures.

# EU to impose duties on Chinese EVs

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union countries on Friday voted to impose duties on imports of electric vehicles from China, as talks continued between Brussels and Beijing to find an amicable solution to their trade dispute before an end-of-October deadline. Electric vehicles have become a major flash point in a broader trade dispute over the influence of Chinese government subsidies on European markets — which has forced the undercutting of EU industry prices — and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology to the bloc. The European Commission, which manages trade on behalf of the 27 member countries, welcomed their majority approval of its plan to impose the duties, even though EU automotive powerhouse Germany and Hungary voted against it. Those duties will come into force on Oct 31 unless China has a solution to end the standoff. Commission spokesman Olof Gill said that any solution proposed by Beijing would have to be fully compatible with World Trade Organisation rules, remedy "the injurious subsidisation" by China, and be "monitorable and enforceable". Beijing opposes the duties. "China firmly opposes the EU's unfair, non-compliant and unreasonable protectionist practices in this case, and firmly opposes the EU's imposition

of anti-subsidy duties on Chinese electric vehicles," a spokesperson at China's Commerce Ministry said in comments posted online. Still, it means that the EU and the Chinese government have four more weeks to negotiate. Talks have already been held between Valdis Dombrovskis, the EU commissioner for the economy, and Chinese Trade Minister Wang Wentao, as well as at the level of technical experts. The China-EU technical teams are due to resume negotiations on Oct 7. The duties on Chinese manufacturers, if applied, would be 17% on cars from BYD, 18.8% on those from Geely and 35.3% for vehicles exported by China's state-owned SAIC. Geely has brands including Polestar and Sweden's Volvo, while SAIC owns Britain's MG, one of Europe's bestselling EV brands. Other EV manufacturers in China including Western companies such as Volkswagen and BMW would be subject to duties of 20.7%. The commission has an "individually calculated" rate for Tesla of 7.8%. The retaliatory duties have run into opposition in Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy and is home to major automakers. Germany's auto industry association, the VDA, said the German government sent the "right signal" by voting against them. Hildegard Müller, who chairs the group, called the decision "a further step away from global cooperation."

# EU tariffs on EVs part of an 'economic cold war': Orban

Budapest (Hungary) (AP) — The European Union risks entering an "economic cold war" with China, Hungary's prime minister said on Friday, pledging to vote against an EU plan to impose higher tariffs on the import of Chinese electric vehicles. EU countries are set to vote on Friday whether to finalise the tariffs, part of a broader trade dispute over Chinese government subsidies and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology to the 27-nation bloc. The tariffs are expected to pass the vote. But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Friday that his country will oppose them, and warned that Europe's tendency toward economic protectionism would destroy the EU's economy. "What they're making us do, what the European Union is doing, is an economic cold war," Orban told state radio. "This is the worst thing that can happen to Europe... If this continues, the European economy will die," he said. The EU in July imposed the provisional tariffs of up to 37.6% on EVs made in China, saying they unfairly benefit from government subsidies. Beijing, in response, filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization in August, saying the tariffs violate WTO rules and undermine global cooperation on climate change. China also launched retaliatory investigations into French cognac exports and European pork in what some analysts fear could develop into an economically harmful trade war with the EU. Hungary under Orban has pursued close ties with China and Russia while its Western partners increasingly seek to distance their economies from those countries. Moscow's war in Ukraine and fears that a flood of inexpensive Chinese products could disrupt Western markets have accelerated those efforts.

# Japan's new leader vows stronger defence

AP ■ TOKYO

New Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba opened his first policy speech in office Friday by expressing deep regrets over the governing party's slush funds scandal that dogged his predecessor. Ishiba replaced Fumio Kishida on Tuesday with the paramount mission of quickly pacifying public anger over financial misconduct in the Liberal Democratic Party and regaining support ahead of an Oct 27 parliamentary election. "I will achieve politics that is not for politicians but for the peo-

ple," Ishiba said, pledging to provide sincere explanations and ensure that lawmakers abide by the rules. He set five policy pillars to uphold, including security, economy and disaster resilience. Ishiba said he will bolster Japan's military capability to defend itself from threats from China, Russia and North Korea under the framework of the Japan-US security alliance. He did not mention two goals he advocated before taking office — making the Japan-US security alliance more equitable and establishing a NATO-like collective defence system in Asia —

apparently to avoid controversy ahead of the election that the LDP must win. Omitting those goals also saves him from possibly irking Washington, but may disappoint those who saw him as willing to speak up even when he risked disagreement with his own party. Ishiba noted violations of Japanese airspace last month by Chinese and Russian warplanes and North Korea's advancing missile technology and testing as examples of the worsening security environment that Japan faces and stressed the need for a further buildup of Japan's military.

He said he will promote a "strategic, mutually beneficial relationship" with China and increase communication on all levels to build "stable and constructive" ties. He also said he will further strengthen and expand Japan's ties with South Korea and the trilateral cooperation Japan has with it and the United States. He called the Japan-US security alliance a cornerstone of Japanese diplomacy and security as well as the foundation of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and international society. The first public support ratings

for Ishiba as prime minister were around 50% or even lower, the lowest levels for a new leader, according to Japanese media. Opposition leaders have criticised him for rushing to hold an election after only adding a new face and fresh image to the party without any concrete results. He plans to dissolve parliament next Wednesday for an election on Oct 27, allowing only a few days of debate on his policies. On the economy, Ishiba said in his speech that he wants workers to have sustainable salary increases that exceed inflation, and will promote investment to create "a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution". He promised economic support for low-income households and measures for regional revitalization and disaster resilience.

**APPENDIX - IV**  
(Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the INDIAN BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 AND 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20.05.2024. Calling upon the Borrower M/S SINGHAL TRADING COMPANY PROPRIETOR YOGESH KUMAR SINGHAL S/O RAJ KUMAR SINGHAL & GUARANTORS (1) YOGESH SINGHAL S/O RAJ KUMAR SINGHAL (2) CHITRA JAIN W/O YOGESH SINGHAL (3) KRISHNA DEVI SINGHAL with our NARAINA Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 23, 54,882/- (Rupees twenty three lakh fifty four thousand eight hundred eighty two only) within 60 days from the date receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on This 03<sup>rd</sup> Day of OCTOBER of The Year 2024. Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the INDIAN BANK for an amount of Rs. 23,54,882/- (Rupees twenty three lakh fifty four thousand eight hundred eighty two only) and interest thereon.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE ASSET**

All that part and parcel of the Property consisting of Plot No. C-100 M, 3RD FLOOR (WITH ROOF RIGHTS) SAINIK NAGAR, NAJAFGARH ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 IN THE NAME OF CHITRA JAIN & KRISHNA DEVI SINGHAL BOUNDED: On the North by PLOT NO C - 99 M On the South by PLOT NO C - 101 M On the East by LANE 10 FT On the West by LANE 30 FT

Date: 03.10.2024 / Place: New Delhi. Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

**APPENDIX - IV**  
(Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the INDIAN BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 AND 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 27.06.2024. Calling upon the Borrower (1) M/S AD SERVICES PROP. VISHAL GUPTA S/O JAG MOHAN GUPTA (2) AGGARWAL PACKERS SERP. Mrs. VINITA GUPTA W/O VISHAL GUPTA & Guarantors (1) Mrs. VINITA GUPTA W/O VISHAL GUPTA (2) MR. MUKESH AGGARWAL S/O JAG MOHAN GUPTA (3) VISHAL GUPTA S/O JAG MOHAN GUPTA with our NARAINA Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 41,11,822/- (Rupees forty one lakhs eleven thousand eight hundred twenty two only) within 60 days from the date receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on This 03<sup>rd</sup> Day of OCTOBER of The Year 2024. Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the INDIAN BANK for an amount of Rs. 41,11,822/- (Rupees forty one lakhs eleven thousand eight hundred twenty two only) and interest thereon.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE ASSET**

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of FLAT NO 102 UPPER GROUND FLOOR BUILD ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. C/35, MEASURING 100 YRDS, OUT OF KHASRA NO.12, MUSTAIL NO.10, MANSA RAM PARK, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI 110059. BOUNDED :- On the North by PLOT NO 34 On the South by PLOT NO. 36 On the East by FLAT NO. 101. On the West by ROAD 10 FT.

Date: 03.10.2024 / Place: New Delhi. Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

**Presale Notice for Vehicle**

**\*Without Prejudice\***  
**\*Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited\***  
KMBL/RARDW/DEL3924805/Pre-Sale Date: October 4, 2024 To  
Sheela Pannu (Borrower)  
ADD: D-38 RAJDHANI PARK DELHI 110041

**\*Subject - Presale Notice for Loan Contract No. LADEL00003924805**  
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited hereby issues this presale notice regarding the vehicle TATA INDICA DLS with Registration No. HR12G6165, associated with Loan Contract No. LADEL00003924805 previously held with ICICI Bank Limited.  
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, having acquired the loan account and rights through a Deed of Assignment dated December 31, 2007, has taken over the outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 13,41,171/- till dated 04.10.2024, which includes interest. This amount is due to non-payment of instalments despite previous reminders.  
The vehicle has been repossessed as of February 27, 2011, due to continuous defaults. The Mrs. Sheela Pannu are urged to remit the total due within 7 days of this notice to reclaim the vehicle. Failure to comply will result in the vehicle being sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, with proceeds applied to the outstanding amount.  
If proceeds exceed the debt owed, the balance will be refunded to the legal heirs, while any shortfall must be settled promptly. This notice does not waive any further rights or remedies KMBL may pursue as per the loan documents or applicable laws.  
For queries or assistance, please contact Mr. Vipin Goswami at Kotak Mahindra Bank, Agra, at phone number 95822795982

**\*Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited\***  
Registered Office: 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051  
Branch Office: G-9, VIKASPURI NEW DELHI-110018

**Presale Notice for Vehicle**

**\*Without Prejudice\***  
**\*Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited\***  
KMBL/RARDW/AGR7145040/Pre-Sale Date: October 4, 2024 To  
The Legal Heirs of Mrs. Geeta Solanki  
C-306, Shiv Puri, Kedar Nagar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282010

**\*Subject - Presale Notice for Loan Contract No. LAAGR00007145040**  
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) hereby issues this presale notice regarding the vehicle Hyundai Santro with Registration No. UP80AV8823, associated with Loan Contract No. LAAGR00007145040 previously held with ICICI Bank Limited.  
KMBL, having acquired the loan account and rights through a Deed of Assignment dated December 31, 2007, has taken over the outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 17,18,900 till dated 4.10.2024, which includes interest. This amount is due to non-payment of instalments despite previous reminders.  
The vehicle has been repossessed as of February 11, 2016, due to continuous defaults. The legal heirs of Mrs. Geeta Solanki are urged to remit the total due within 7 days of this notice to reclaim the vehicle. Failure to comply will result in the vehicle being sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, with proceeds applied to the outstanding amount.  
If proceeds exceed the debt owed, the balance will be refunded to the legal heirs, while any shortfall must be settled promptly. This notice does not waive any further rights or remedies KMBL may pursue as per the loan documents or applicable laws.  
For queries or assistance, please contact Mr. Vinod Sharma at Kotak Mahindra Bank, Agra, at phone number 7302980350.

**\*Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited\***  
Registered Office: 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051  
Branch Office: E-12/8, 5th Floor, Shree Vrindavan Tower, Sanjay Place, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282002

**Office of the Superintending Engineer**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Circle, Public Works Department, Almora**  
Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com  
Letter No. : 4502(I)/Nivida-01/2024-25 Dated : 28/09/2024  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)**  
**Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Superintending Engineer, 1<sup>st</sup> Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 05/10/2024 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	<b>PD PWD Almora</b> Development work of Nanda Devi Temple in district Almora under Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission (Civil work).	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.21 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Building work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking.

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल**  
**केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)**  
**निविदा सूचना**

भोपाल, दिनांक 03.10.2024

नगर निगम भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा लाईट व्हीकल हेतु विभिन्न साईज के टायर ट्यूब क्रय किये जाने हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. निविदा क्र.	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	भरोहर राशि	निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य	प्रदाय अवधि
1. 2024_UAD_373509	REGARDING PURCHASING VARIOUS SIZES TYRE TUBES OF LIGHT VEHICLE AT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL	13938414/-	69692/-	12500/-	07 दिवस

BID SUBMISSION END DATE 29.10.2024 TIME 5:30 PM  
BID OPENING DATE 30.10.2024 TIME 5:30 PM

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट [mptenders.gov.in](http://mptenders.gov.in) पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

**अपर आयुक्त**  
**परिवहन शाखा, नगर निगम भोपाल**

फि. क्रं. 539/24/25

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank**  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 22B, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata - 700020 CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Description of Secured Asset to be enforced	Date of Notice sent/Outstanding ps on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Pravin Kumar Bhattacharya/ Anindita Bhattacharya/ Mig 2 - 2971, Housing Board, Chhanoanivard No. 26, Industrial Estate Bhalidastind Durg Chhattisgarh-490026/ LBLI100006749648/ TBLLI00006714977	Khasra No. 25/ 199, Ward No. 50, Borsi (East) Ward, P.H. No. 39, R.N.M. Kasaridih, Mouza Borsi, Tahsil And District Durg, Chhattisgarh Admesuring An Area of 0.0220 Hectare = 2400 Sq. Ft. = 223.04 Sq. Mtr.	August 08, 2024 Rs. 43,50,653.16/-	03/06/ 2024
2.	Rupam Rani/ Shambhavi Enclave, Flat No. E4 Bhoonath Road, Near South Of Amarnath Temple Kumbhar, District Patna Bihar Patna- 800026/ LBPNT00004941958	Apartment No. 40129, 4th Floor, Block P, "Gaur City 2", 14th Avenue, Plot No. Gh-03, Sector 16C, Greater Noida, U.P. (Admesuring An Area of 1175.000 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area	August 16, 2024 Rs. 23,61,841.38/-	24/06/ 2024

These steps are being taken to substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: October 05, 2024  
Place: Delhi/NCR

Sincerely, Authorised Signatory  
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

**THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
Head office at, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058.  
Phone: 011-25611042, 25611043, 25611044  
E-mail: legel@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com, Website: www.kangrabank.com

**[APPENDIX IV-A]**  
**[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]**  
**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of below mentioned immovable Secured Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with proviso to rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the below mentioned borrower, Co-mortgagor & Legal heir of Co-mortgagor & Surety that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS THROUGH "SALE BY e-auction (under SARFAESI Act & Rules, 2002)" as per brief particulars given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower, Mortgagor & Branch.	(a) Date of Demand Notice (b) Possession Type/Demand Notice Amount	Description of Property	Reserve Price	(a) Earnest Money Deposit. (b) Bid Increment amount. (c) Date & Time of Inspection. (d) Last date/Time of EMD & KYC Submission. (e) Date/ Time of E-Auction.
1	Smt. Jyoti Bajwa W/o. Sh. Late Sh. Ajay Bajwa, JP/17/946 (50683) JK Loan account no. 000281100067311, 000281100067326, 00028070008598, 00028210000006.	(a) 13-10-2023 (b) Physical / 02-06-2024. (c) Rs. 17,11,814/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-09-2023 till the date of payment.	Built Up Shop On Ground Floor, Upto Ceiling Level, With All Fixtures And Fittings Fitted Thereon, With Connection Of Electricity In Running Condition With Meter, Together With Proportionate, Impariable, Undivided Ownership Rights Of The Land Thereunder, Built On Portion Of Property Bearing No. A-7/2B, Measuring Area Of Plot 14.86-sq.mtrs., (8 X 20') Having its Plinth Covered Area 14.86-sq.mtrs., Situated In The Abadi Of DLF colony Known As Krishan Nagar, In The Area Of Village Ghondli, Itlaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110051 And Bounded As East: Gali, West: Portion Of The Said Property, North: Property Of Others, South: Shop Of Others Built On Portion Of The Said Property.	(Rs. 21,75,000/-) Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Only	(a) Rs.2,17,500/- (b) Rs.20,000/- (c) 23-10-2024 11.00 am to 4.00 p.m. (d) 12-11-2024 upto 5:30 p.m. (e) 14-11-2024, 3:00 p.m. To 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

This notice also considered as a notice to the above named borrower/mortgagor of said loan, to pay the dues in full before the date of sale, failing which the property will be sold on the above mentioned Sale/Auction date. This publication is also 30 day's notice to the above named borrower & mortgagor.

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

DATED : 03-10-2024  
PLACE : NEW DELHI

# Kim threatens to destroy South Korea if provoked

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported on Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms. The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests. Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders. During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday, Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons"; if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. "If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name. Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday. Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the Kim government because Kim would face "the resolute and overwhelming response" of the South Korean-US alliance.



Dockworkers' pause strike until Jan 15

Detroit (AP): Some 45,000 dockworkers at East and Gulf coast ports are returning to work after their union reached a deal to suspend a strike that could have caused shortages and higher prices if it had dragged on.

Shortages could have driven up prices and reignited inflation. The union went on strike early Tuesday after its contract expired in a dispute over pay and the automation of tasks at 36 ports stretching from Maine to Texas.

Boston College, said the agreement to halt the strike means that the two sides are close to a final deal. "I'm sure that if they weren't going anywhere they wouldn't have suspended (the strike)," he said.

Melania says she supports abortion rights, putting her at odds with GOP

Melania Trump revealed her support for abortion rights on Thursday, ahead of the release of her upcoming memoir, exposing a stark contrast with her husband, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, on the crucial election issue.

individual freedom. What does 'my body, my choice' really mean? The video appears to confirm excerpts of her self-titled memoir reported by The Guardian on Wednesday.

Nobel Prizes to be announced next week

Wars, a refugee crisis, famine and artificial intelligence could all be recognised when Nobel Prize announcements begin next week under a shroud of violence.

Perhaps it would be right to draw attention to that by withholding the peace prize this year." Withholding the Nobel Prize announcements begin next week under a shroud of violence.

Peace is not new. It has been suspended 19 times in the past, including during the world wars. The last time it was not awarded was in 1972.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED
Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. USCL/352 Tender ID: 2024\_UAD\_374105\_1 Dated 04.10.2024

SRF LIMITED
Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor Mayur Vihar Phase, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No. MD/ACCTS/MOR-08/2024/1217 Date: 27.09.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Anis Ahmed, is the owner of Built-up Property bearing House No. C-85, area measuring 50 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 536, situated at C-Block Raju Park, Delhi-110029

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that Shama Mathura W/o Late R. K. Mahotra R/o 57-A, GF, P/4/BLK-83, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi out of DDA MIG Flat No. 57-A/G.F.P/4/BLK-83, Lawrence Road Keshav Puram, Delhi has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from leasehold to freehold vide application No. DDH/47634401 dated 20.09.2024 in DDA.

COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE CONTRACT
E-Tender Notice No.: EL\_TRD\_19\_24-25; Dated: 01-10-2024; Tender No.: EL\_TRD\_19\_24-25; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Vinod Kumar Vats S/o Sh R.D. Sharma, H no. 235, Nimri Colony, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-52, hereby declare that my original documents Diploma of A. Pharma including its mark sheet having Roll No. 5276 and original high school certificate including mark sheet having Roll No. 36160 and Original intermediate certificate including mark sheet having Roll No. 262779 has been lost. If found kindly contact: 9910486112.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED
(Case No. 445/2018)
RAM KISHAN ARORA VS AMJAD ALI To, AMJAD ALI V-441, GALI NO. 28, VIJAY PARK, MAJJPUR, DELHI

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadhji Road, Faridkot - 151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-tender is invited for the following Service upto 28.10.2024

PROPERTY FOR SALE
2BHK, Area 50 sq. yds, First Floor in Naraina Village, Lal Dora Property to be Sold by Auction. Contact: 9871012559 for T & C and other details PD(822)A

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Shubda Seth, Mr. Sanjay Seth & Mr. Rakesh Seth, are claiming to be the owners of Property No. 08, (300.96 Sq. Mtrs.), Block-A, Ministry of Housing, Working and Supply Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., Nirman Vihar, Delhi-110092

MECHANISED CLEANING OF NEW JALPAIGURI RAILWAY STATION
GeM Bid Number: GEM/2024/B/5416689, Dated: 01-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Item Category: Custom Bid For Services-Mechanised cleaning of New Jalpaiguri Railway Station for the period of Three years. Estimated Bid Value: ₹15,37,09,840/-; EMD Amount: ₹9,18,548/-; Bid End Date/Time: at 13:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024. Bid Opening Date/Time: at 13:30 hrs. on 28-10-2024. Tender has already been uploaded in GeM portal.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Sushila Sharma claims to be owner and in possession of Ground Floor of Prop No. H-19/F927, in Vaishali Ghaziabad, U.P (herein after called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed dated 06.06.2009, Doc. No. 12990 and said Sushila Sharma agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd, IOB Branch, any persons' having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby invited to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that House/Flat No. 845/GF, Sector-11-14, Palwal was Allotted/transferred in the name Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Chatter Singh Through G.P.A. Sh. Shiv Kumar S/o Sh. Mani Ram R/o H.No. Village-Baghola, Tehsil & Distt-Palwal Palwal (Haryana) vide letter No. 2658 dated 16-8-2016

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that House/Flat No. 845/GF, Sector-11-14, Palwal was Allotted/transferred in the name Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Chatter Singh Through G.P.A. Sh. Shiv Kumar S/o Sh. Mani Ram R/o H.No. Village-Baghola, Tehsil & Distt-Palwal Palwal (Haryana) vide letter No. 2658 dated 16-8-2016

PUBLIC NOTICE
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Notice is hereby given to the General Public that House/Flat No. 845/GF, Sector-11-14, Palwal was Allotted/transferred in the name Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Chatter Singh Through G.P.A. Sh. Shiv Kumar S/o Sh. Mani Ram R/o H.No. Village-Baghola, Tehsil & Distt-Palwal Palwal (Haryana) vide letter No. 2658 dated 16-8-2016

PUBLIC NOTICE
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Shubda Seth, Mr. Sanjay Seth & Mr. Rakesh Seth, are claiming to be the owners of Property No. 08, (300.96 Sq. Mtrs.), Block-A, Ministry of Housing, Working and Supply Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., Nirman Vihar, Delhi-110092

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024
In continuation to already announced Festival Special Trains-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special trains as per detail given below:-

Table with 4 columns: Train No., STATIONS, Train No., Trips. Row 1: 02262/02261 New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi. Row 2: 02261/02262 Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi.

Table with 4 columns: Train No., STATIONS, Train No., Trips. Row 1: 09067/09068 Udhna Jn. - Barauni Jn. - Udhna Jn. Row 2: 09068/09067 Barauni Jn. - Udhna Jn.

STOPPAGES: Surat, Bharuch Jn., Vadodara Jn., Ratlam Jn., Nagda Jn., Ujjain Jn., Maksi Jn., Shajapur, Bivavra Rajgarh, Rutherford Jn., Guna Jn., Shivpur, Gwalior Jn., Soni, Bhand, Etawah Jn., Govindpur, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Buxar, Ara Jn., Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. stations.

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SRF LIMITED
Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor Mayur Vihar Phase, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266

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कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून
पत्रांक-61/मू-3-2024-25
सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना दिनांक- 04.10.2024



# Modi releases 18th installment of ₹ 20,000 crore under PM-KISAN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release Rs 20,000 crore as the 18th instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on Saturday, benefiting over 9.4 crore farmers across the country. Disbursements will be through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during an event in Washim, Maharashtra, an official statement said. Maharashtra farmers will receive an additional Rs 2,000 crore under the state's Namu Shetkari Mahasnan Nidhi Yojana. With the 18th instalment, the total amount disbursed under PM-KISAN will exceed Rs 3.45 lakh crore, supporting more than 11 crore farmers nationwide. The PM-KISAN scheme, launched on February 24, 2019, provides Rs 6,000 annually to landholding farmers in three equal



instalments. Maharashtra has received about Rs 32,000 crore in 17 instalments, benefiting around 1.20 crore farmers, the second highest among all states. Around 91.51 lakh farmers in Maharashtra will receive over Rs 1,900 crore in the 18th instalment. Modi will also launch an indigenous sex-sorted semen production technology, aimed at reducing costs by approximately Rs 200 per dose. The Prime Minister will

introduce a Unified Genomic Chip for cattle and buffalo, developed by the Animal Husbandry Department. Five solar parks with 19 MW capacity will be dedicated under the MSKVY 2.0 scheme, providing farmers daytime electricity and additional income through land leasing. The event will see the dedication of 9,200 Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) and e-distribution of awards for 3,000 MW under the KUSUM-C scheme. Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan, Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnis will attend the event. Around 2.5 crore farmers will participate through webcasts at various centres nationwide. States and UTs will celebrate the day as PM-KISAN Utsav Divas.

# About 1 per cent fall in Sensex, Nifty amid tensions in West Asia

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slumped nearly 1 per cent in a topsy-turvy trading session on Friday, dragged by intense selling in FMCG, auto and energy stocks amid escalating tensions in West Asia and persistent foreign capital outflows. Besides, a spike in global crude prices on supply uncertainty due to geopolitical tensions dented market sentiments, traders said. Falling for the fifth day running, the BSE Sensex tumbled 808.65 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 81,688.45. The benchmark hit a low of 81,532.68 and a high of 83,368.32 during the day, reflecting a wild swing of 1,835.64 points. The NSE Nifty slumped 235.50 points or 0.93 per cent to 25,014.60. Intra-day, it hit a low of 24,966.80 and a high of 25,485.05. From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Nestle,



Bharti Airtel, UltraTech Cement, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and HDFC Bank were the major laggards. In contrast, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and State Bank of India were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded

equities worth Rs 15,243.27 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory. Markets in mainland China are closed due to a holiday. European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. The US

markets ended lower on Thursday. "The last three days have witnessed huge FII selling of Rs 30,614 crore in the cash market. FIIs are moving money from expensive India to cheap Hong Kong on expectations that the monetary, and fiscal stimulus being implemented by the Chinese authorities will stimulate the Chinese economy and improve the earnings of Chinese companies. "It remains to be seen how this Chinese recovery hopes to play out," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.99 per cent to USD 78.39 a barrel. Falling for the fourth straight session on Thursday, the BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 1,769.19 points or 2.10 per cent to settle at 82,497.10. During the day, it plummeted 1,832.27 points or 2.17 per cent to 82,434.02. The Nifty slumped 546.80 points or 2.12 per cent to 25,250.10.

# US, India Dialogue advances semiconductor, minerals cooperation

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo held the 6th Commercial Dialogue here on Thursday during which they reviewed the progress made in semiconductor supply chains, innovation handshake, energy-industry network and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity. A day earlier, the two leaders signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains, with the aim of leveraging the two countries' complementary strengths to ensure greater resilience in the critical minerals sector. Priority areas of focus include identifying equipment, services, policies and best practices to facilitate the mutually-beneficial commercial development of the US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling and



recovery, a media release said. During the commercial dialogue, Goyal and Raimondo praised the two sides' continuing efforts to facilitate resilient, secure and sustainable semiconductor supply chains. Since the signing of the MoU establishing a semiconductor supply chain and an innovation partnership under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue, the US Semiconductor Industry Association and the India Electronics Semiconductor Association have completed their private sector "readiness assessment",

benefit both countries, the Department of Commerce said in a statement. The two leaders welcomed the success of the two roundtables convened in San Francisco in November 2023 and in New Delhi in March 2024, bringing the two countries' startup ecosystems closer together and carrying forward their ambitions under the MoU to enhance innovation ecosystems through an innovation handshake under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue. They praised the work done on the EIN Roundtable organised during the Clean EDGE and Environmental Technologies Business Development Mission in New Delhi in March. The trade mission brought 12 US companies to India to help grow sustainable and secure clean energy markets and accelerate the adoption of environmental solutions in India. Views exchanged during the EIN Roundtable helped inform the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership

(SCEP) ministerial convened by the US secretary of energy and the Indian minister of petroleum and natural gas in Washington on September 16, the media release said. They also commended the significant progress announced at the virtual IPEF ministerial meeting last month, including the work being done to improve supply chain resilience under the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement for the IPEF partners. They highlighted their commitment to collaborate initially in the critical areas of semiconductors, chemicals, critical minerals with a focus on batteries, and potentially healthcare products, as agreed to by the IPEF Supply Chain Council. Goyal and Raimondo reviewed other joint efforts that have been made, including under the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue and the Standards and Conformance Cooperation Program (SCCP). Looking ahead, they discussed several priorities for future collaboration, including critical minerals.

# Apple to open four new stores in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

iPhone maker Apple on Friday said it will open four more stores in India, located in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. The company said it will also roll out its first-ever "made in India" iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max series devices this month. "We're thrilled to build our teams as we plan to open more stores in India because we're inspired by the creativity and passion of our customers across this country. We can't wait for them to have even more opportunities to discover and shop for our amazing products and services, and connect with our extraordinary, knowledgeable team members," Apple's senior Vice President of Retail, Deirdre O'Brien, said in a statement. In April 2023, Apple opened its two stores in India, one in Delhi and the other in Mumbai. "Future Apple Retail stores are planned in Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi-NCR and



Mumbai," the statement said. According to people aware of the development, the stores are likely to be opened next year. The company announced that it will now manufacture iPhone 16 series smartphones in India. "Apple is now manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 lineup, including iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India," the statement said. Apple began manufacturing the iPhone in India in 2017. "Manufactured in India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max will soon be available for our local customers and for export to select countries across the world," the statement said. According to sources, supplies of the high-end, Made-in-India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max are expected to begin this month.

# Vedanta reports mixed production results for Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mining giant Vedanta Ltd on Friday reported a rise in production of aluminium, zinc and iron ore in the September quarter. However, the production of steel, mined metal overseas and oil and gas dropped during the quarter. The aluminium output grew 3 per cent to 6,09,000 tonnes in the second quarter compared to the same period last year, Vedanta said in a filing to BSE. At Zinc India, the saleable metal output grew to 2,62,000 tonnes from 2,41,000 tonnes. While at Zinc International the mined metal output dropped by 34 per cent to 44,000 tonnes, from 66,000 tonnes in the second quarter. Meanwhile, oil and gas output dropped 22 per cent



to 1,04,900 boepd (barrels of oil equivalent per day), average daily gross operated production during the quarter from 1,34,100 boepd a year earlier. The production of saleable iron ore rose to 1.3 million tonnes from 1.2 million tonnes in the year-ago period. The total saleable steel production dropped 22 per cent to 2,96,000 tonnes and power sales rose 7 per cent to 4,322 million units from 4,047 million units in the July-September period of the last financial year. The company said that the

# PFC secures record foreign loan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on Friday announced that it has secured the largest-ever foreign currency term loan of USD 1.265 billion. This landmark transaction was executed through a facility agreement with multiple banks based in IFSC GIFT City, Gandhinagar, a company statement said. According to the statement, PFC announced successful closing of issuance of largest-ever foreign currency term loan from an Indian PSU amounting to USD 1.265 billion. The loan will primarily be deployed towards financing assets other than thermal

generation projects, furthering PFC's strong commitment to decarbonization and the transition to green energy. The multi-currency funding will enable PFC to expand its operations, enhance its market presence, diversify its funding sources and maintain a competitive edge. The floating rate loan, presently at an average rate of 4.21 per cent per annum, denominated in G3 currencies -- USD, EUR, and JPY -- has a 5-year tenor and is linked to external benchmark rates such as Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) for USD, Euro Interbank Offered Rate (EURIBOR) for EUR, and Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONA) for JPY.

# BMW group sales rise in India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German luxury carmaker BMW Group on Friday said its BMW and MINI brands recorded a 10 per cent year-on-year increase in sales, at 10,556 units in India during the January-September period of 2024. The number of cars (BMW and MINI) sold in the nine months of 2023 was 9,580 units. Besides, the group also sold 5,638 units of Motorrad brand of motorcycles, the group announced here on Friday. BMW Group comprises three brands BMW, Mini and Motorrad. Of the 10,556 units, BMW Group said, it sold 10,056 units of BMW and the remaining 500 units of the



MINI brand. "The highest ever car deliveries during January to September this year, reflects the synergy between a successful strategy and an unparalleled customer experience," said Vikram Pawah, President and CEO at BMW Group India. BMW Group India is changing the game with its long wheelbase product portfolio and a strong electric mobility offensive, he added. Key models like the BMW 7 Series Long Wheelbase, BMW 3 Series Long Wheelbase and BMW X1 are leading in their segments and demand for the new BMW 5 Series Long Wheelbase is overwhelming, Pawah stated. BMW Group India maintains its top position in the electric mobility space with 725 units of fully electric BMW and MINI cars getting delivered YTD (Year To Date) Q3 2024, it said.

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
 Satpura Bhawan, 6th floor, M.P. Bhopal

E-mail : [dme12001@yahoo.com](mailto:dme12001@yahoo.com) website [www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in](http://www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in)  
 No.136/4/PG/DME/2024 Bhopal, dated 30/09/2024

**// Advertisement //**

Information regarding Admissions on all seats in Government Autonomous & Private Medical Colleges of State & NRI Quota seats in Private Medical Colleges for academic session 2024-25

The process of registration for Admission in MD/MS course, on all the seats under State Quota in Government & Private Medical Colleges of State & NRI Quota seats in Private Medical Colleges for academic session 2024-25 on the basis of NEET PG-2024 merit shall commence from 02/10/2024.

The Counselling schedule and other relevant information regarding the above mentioned Counselling shall be published on Directorate of Medical Education website [www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in](http://www.medicaleducation.mp.gov.in) and also on designated portal <https://dme.mponline.gov.in> Any Change in the programme will be published on D.M.E. website and designated portal. Candidates are advised to remain in touch with D.M.E. & M.P. Online website regularly for updates. No separate advertisement will be published regarding any change.

For any query regarding counselling, candidate may contact on dedicated e-mail I.D. [mpugpgcounselling@gmail.com](mailto:mpugpgcounselling@gmail.com)

**Director of Medical Education**  
**Madhya Pradesh**

G-17103/24

# India to invite bids for battery storage projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will soon invite bids for 10 gigawatts of battery energy storage projects, an official said on Friday. The move will strengthen India's position in the energy storage segment, which is in a developing stage. Vijay Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, said, "The ministry will soon come out with a 10 gigawatt RFP (request for proposal) for those who are working on the energy storage part of it for grid-scale energy storage systems. So that we have...Indigenous capability for manufacturing of battery energy storage system compatible with advanced chemistry cells."

The official was addressing the 'Summit on Lithium-Ion Batteries', organised by industry body India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), virtually. The ministry is leading the mission of indigenous manufacturing of chemistry cells in the country as part of electric vehicle (EV) initiative. The goal is to achieve net zero by 2070 and reduce the need for imports of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, addressing environmental concerns, he said. Mittal further said that the government has allocated over 40 gigawatt-hours out of 50 gigawatts to various original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for indigenous manufacturing of advanced chemistry cell under



ACC-PLI scheme. IESA Chairman Rahul Walwalker said, "Many countries are looking for an alternative to relying solely on China, creating a potential market opportunity of up to 2,500 gigawatt hours for the supply chain in India. The goal is to scale up manufacturing in India, with the initial target being 50-gigawatt hours set up by the ACCPLI, and a larger vision set by the IESA for India to have a minimum of 550-gigawatt hours of cell manufacturing by 2035."

# INBRIEF

**SRM IHM, SRM IST SIGN MOU**

KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRM IHM) at the Kattankulathur, Ekkathangal, and Sonipat campuses of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRM IST) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Konyang University, South Korea, on October 4th, 2024.

**RITES, DMRC SIGN MOU FOR EXPLORING METRO WORKS**

GURUGRAM: RITES Ltd., signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Through this MoU, both organizations will combine their strengths to identify, secure, and execute metro projects in India and abroad. Both organizations will combine their strengths to identify, secure, and execute metro projects in India and abroad.



# WE CAN SENSE EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS JUST BY OUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS: SHAFALI ON MANDHANA

PTI ■ DUBAI

Shafali Verma, the significant other of the blockbuster Indian opening pair, says her no-holds-barred approach goes well with Smriti Mandhana's elegance and both can "sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions" while batting.

One of the factors behind the Indian women's cricket team's dominance in recent times has been the success of its openers, and Shafali admits they know how "important" they are to the team's fortunes.

"I've been opening with Smriti for the past two-three years, and now we can sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions while batting. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses, and we give each other positive vibes," Shafali told Star Sports when asked about her on-field



relationship with Mandhana. "We understand how important we both are to the team, especially during the

powerplay, so we try to perform well for ourselves, our teammates, and the country." The younger partner added,

"Smriti di is an exceptional timer of the ball, and she knows how to build an innings. These are the two

things I admire most about her batting -- her timing and her ability to construct a big innings."

India will begin their campaign in the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup with a game against New Zealand on Friday, and Shafali said it has been a dream of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur to win the tournament, in which they finished runners-up in the 2020 edition.

"Harmanpreet di is very passionate about the game. Winning the World Cup has always been a dream for her, and I hope we can make that dream come true. She's a great player, a great teammate, and a fantastic captain who inspires and motivates us all the time," Shafali said of the skipper.

Shafali made her World Cup debut as a 16-year-old and having missed the trophy by a whisker then, she is hoping to change that this time around.

"It was a big deal for me to debut at 16, and I loved being in Australia. It wasn't just the cricket; I also enjoyed exploring the country.

"The tournament was special, and I performed well for the team. Thinking back to that World Cup always brings a smile to my face. We were so close to winning, but hopefully, we can change that this time around."

Playing the final against home team Australia, in front of a packed crowd at the iconic MCG, is an experience that has helped her in learning to handle pressure better.

"I couldn't hear anything because of the massive crowd. It was a completely new experience for me to play in front of such a big audience.

"I was lost in the atmosphere and the noise, but I've learned to focus more now. I wouldn't feel the same pressure if I were in that situation again."



## No. 1 Iga Swiatek parts ways with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski

AP ■ WARSAW

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek is separating from her coach Tomasz Wiktorowski.

The Polish tennis player announced the split Friday, saying the decision was taken together.

During the three years Swiatek worked with Wiktorowski, the Polish player won four of her five Grand Slam titles and rose to the top of the women's rankings.

"After 3 years of the greatest achievements in my career, together with my coach Tomasz Wiktorowski we decided to part way," Swiatek wrote in a post on Instagram. "I want to start with a big thank you and appreciating our work together."

Swiatek appointed Wiktorowski as coach at the end of the 2021 season. He helped her capture 19 of her 22 career titles and an Olympic bronze medal in Paris in August.

"Coach Wiktorowski joined my team for three seasons, when I strongly needed changes and a fresh approach to my game," Swiatek continued.

"His experience, analytical and strategic attitude and enormous knowledge about tennis helped us to achieve

things I've never dreamed of only a few months after we started working together.

"Our main goal was to become No. 1 player in the world and coach Wiktorowski was the one who said it first."

Swiatek hasn't competed since losing to Jessica Pegula in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open. She withdrew from this week's China Open in Beijing - where she would have been defending champion - citing personal reasons. The 23-year-old Swiatek also pulled out of the recent Korea Open in Seoul, citing fatigue.

"Due to this important change on my team, I give myself a couple of weeks to start a cooperation with a new coach," Swiatek wrote.

"I'm in the middle of first talks with coaches from abroad (non-Polish) because I'm ready to take the next step of my career. I will let you know when I make a decision."

Wiktorowski was voted the WTA's Coach of the Year by his peers last year.

"Coach, THANK YOU, I wish you all the best," Swiatek wrote. "I know that you would like to rest after these 3 years of hard work and traveling a lot and spending some well deserved time with your loved ones and I hope you'll get what you need."

## Buoyant Mohammedan Sporting gear up for Mohun Bagan challenge



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Fresh off their maiden ISL victory in an away match against Chennaiyin FC, debutants Mohammedan Sporting will aim to carry the same momentum when they square off with heavyweights Mohun Bagan in a lesser known 'Kolkata Derby' this Saturday.

With bragging rights as well as points on the line, Mohammedan Sporting will be eager to prove themselves against one of Indian football's most dominant forces and resume their rivalry in the ISL.

The black and white brigade secured their maiden win in the ISL by defeating Chennaiyin FC 1-0 last week with Lalremnunga Fanai scoring the decisive goal.

Despite Chennaiyin's attempts to fight back in the second-half, Mohammedan's defence led by Joseph Adjei and Vanlalzuidika Chhakhuak remained resolute to take home full three points that has kept them ahead of the city rivals on goal difference. Mohun Bagan, who are the League Shield Winners, on

the other hand are coming on the back of a 0-3 loss to Bengaluru FC as they will be looking to regroup and infuse fresh energy to their attacking duo of Dimitri Petratos and Jason Cummings.

Petratos is on the brink of his 50th ISL appearance for the Mariners, and his experience will be vital in guiding the team through in pressure cooker scenario.

The key for the midfield marshalled by Greg Stewart and Manvir Singh will be to dominate possession, pressing high up the pitch and using their full-backs to provide width.

Lalengmawia Ralte has been flawless defensively, winning all 14 of his attempted tackles this season, which will be crucial in stopping Mohammedan's attacks.

Despite their attacking prowess, Mohun Bagan head coach Jose Molina has expressed concern about his team's defensive frailties.

The Mariners have conceded seven goals in their three matches so far, which has put pressure on their ability to secure results.

Molina has identified that many of their defensive issues stem from mistakes in attack, emphasising that improving their offensive play will help tighten the defense.

"We're conceding too many goals, and some of them are due to mistakes at the back, but most are because of errors in attack. To improve defensively, we need to attack better," Molina said.

Mohammedan Sporting, however, may opt for a more cautious approach as they are likely to sit back, absorb pressure, and hit on the counter using the pace of Alexis Gomez and Franca up front.

## Retired IPS Sharad Kumar appointed new head of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar, who headed anti-terror organisation NIA for four years, has been appointed as the new chief of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, bringing extensive experience to the role.

Hailing from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, the appointment of 68-year-old Kumar was done on October 1 in the cricketing body. BCCI's ACU head is appointed for a three-year term.

His name was finalised in the BCCI's Annual General Meeting on September 29, a Board source told PTI.

He is a 1979 batch IPS officer from the Haryana cadre and has had a distinguished career especially as the chief of the National Investigation Agency from 2013 to 2017.

He will take over from KK Mishra, also a former Haryana cadre IPS officer, who was appointed last year but did not complete his term due to unspecified



reasons. After serving in the NIA, Kumar was appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission from June 2018 to April 2020, where he

also held the interim position of Central Vigilance Commissioner.

In his new role, Kumar will play a crucial part in addressing corruption issues, including match-fixing and betting scandals, thereby reinforcing the BCCI's commitment to maintaining integrity of the game.

During his tenure as NIA Director General, Kumar oversaw several high-profile investigations and operations.

Kumar played a pivotal role in enhancing the NIA's capabilities and infrastructure. During his tenure, the NIA investigated several major terror attacks in India, including the Pathankot airbase attack by terrorists of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Kumar's efforts were instrumental in disrupting terror financing networks.

His contribution to law enforcement has been recognised with the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Services in 1996 and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services in 2004.



## Bopanna-Dodig pair advances to second round of Shanghai Masters

PTI ■ SHANGHAI

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig cherished their first win after joining forces, moving to the second round of the ATP Shanghai Masters with a straight-set victory over Pablo Carreno Busta and Pedro

Martinez, here Friday. The fifth-seed Indo-Croatian pair won 6-4 6-3 in the opening round match that lasted 63 minutes. Bopanna and Dodig fired five aces to none of their rivals, and converted three of the eight break points they faced.

They also saved four break chances on their service games, dropping serve only once in the match. India's singles challenge has already ended with both Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan making first round exits.

Ramkumar had made it to the main draw through qualifying round while Nagal had earned a direct entry.

## EU's top court says some FIFA rules on international transfers are contrary to the bloc's law

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The European Union's top court said Friday that some FIFA rules on player transfers are contrary to European Union legislation relating to competition and freedom of movement, in a ruling that will likely lead to a shakeup of the soccer market's regulations and change the sport's economy.

The court's ruling came after former France international Lassana Diarra legally challenged FIFA rules following a dispute with a club dating back to a decade ago. Diarra argued that FIFA's restrictions meant he was unable to find a new club after his contract with Russian club Lokomotiv Moscow was terminated in 2014.

FIFA's rules state that if a player terminates his contract without "just cause," the player and any club wishing to sign him are jointly liable for paying compensation to the previous club.

"Those rules hinder the free movement of players and competition between clubs," the court said in a statement. "The rules in question are such as to impede the free movement of professional footballers wishing to develop their activity by going to work for a new club."

The court added that current rules "impose considerable legal risks, unforeseeable and potentially very high financial risks as well as major sporting risks on those players and clubs wishing to employ them which, taken together, are such as to impede international transfers of those players."

Diarra had signed a four-year contract with Lokomotiv Moscow in 2013. The deal was terminated a year later after Diarra was unhappy with alleged pay cuts.

Lokomotiv Moscow applied to the FIFA dispute resolution chamber for compensation and the player submitted a counterclaim seeking compensation for unpaid wages. The Court of Arbitration for Sport found the Russian club terminated



the contract with Diarra "with just cause" and the player was ordered to pay 10.5 million euros (\$11.2 million).

Diarra claimed his search for a new club was hampered by FIFA's rules stipulating that any new side would be jointly responsible with him for paying compensation to Lokomotiv.

The former Real Madrid player also argued that a potential deal with Belgian club Charleroi fell through because of the FIFA rules, and sued FIFA and the Belgian federation at a Belgian court for damages and loss of earnings of six million euros (\$7 million). With the lawsuit still going through Belgian courts, the case was referred to the European Court of Justice for a ruling.

Although the court said FIFA transfer regulations can help maintain a form of stability within professional squads and help guarantee the regularity of competitions, it insisted that in Diarra's case "the rules in question nevertheless seem, subject to

verification (by the Belgian court) in a number of respects, to go beyond what is necessary to pursue that objective."

The Diarra case, which is supported by the global players' union FIFPro, went through FIFA judicial bodies before the 2016 election of FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who has made it a priority to modernize transfer market rules.

Concerning competition rules, the court slammed FIFA's rulings for restricting and preventing cross-border competition between European clubs.

"The Court recalls that the possibility of competing by recruiting trained players plays an essential role in the professional football sector and that rules which place a general restriction on that form of competition, by immutably fixing the distribution of workers between the employers and in cloistering the markets, are similar to a no-poach agreement," it said.

## Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

It feels like Groundhog Day for Manchester United and Erik ten Hag. Another season has hit crisis point after only a few games. Perhaps that's why the United manager was so dismissive of the renewed pressure on him after last week's humbling 3-0 loss to Tottenham.

"Nothing is easy, but this is nothing for me to panic about because I experienced it so often with my teams during seasons that you are facing those problems," he said this week. He is right.

United's record of three losses after six English Premier League games is in keeping with his two previous campaigns at Old Trafford. In 2022, he lost his opening two and three of the first seven. In 2023 it was even worse, as United lost three of five at the start.

Both of those seasons ended with a trophy, but the feel-good factor provided by the most recent silverware - May's FA



Cup triumph against Manchester City - has long evaporated in the face of the likelihood that United's 11-year wait for the league title is set to go on. There is little sign of progress in the league despite spending around \$750 million on transfers.

On Sunday, United travels to Aston Villa, which has been transformed by manager Unai Emery, who has worked on a fraction of that budget. The

Spaniard has spent around \$270 million to turn Villa from a team that was battling relegation when he took over in October 2022 to one that beat Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday.

In contrast United needed a stoppage time goal from Harry Maguire to salvage a 3-3 draw with Porto in the Europa League on Thursday, having led 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Defeat against Villa would intensify questions about Ten Hag's position ahead of the October international break, which has traditionally been a time when clubs look to make managerial changes.

Emery's success at Villa is evidence of what can be achieved in a short period of time. Villa was three points above the relegation zone when he was hired. In his first full season, he led the Midlands club to fourth, eight points ahead of United and qualified for the Champions League. He is yet to deliver silverware, but the trajectory is clearly upward.

United is 13th heading into the weekend, having finished last season in eighth and the previous year third. Ten Hag kept his job only after an extensive review by United's new hierarchy put in place by minority owner Jim Ratcliffe. But even if he was given a vote of confidence and a one-year extension to his contract, he remains a legacy of a failing operation that Ratcliffe is

trying to overhaul since buying a 27.7% stake in the club in February.

What's more, the decision to keep Ten Hag was made before new CEO Omar Berrada and sporting director Dan Ashworth officially took up their positions in the offseason. Both insisted in September the Dutchman had their full backing, but managers are ultimately judged by results on the field and the sight of United fans leaving early and some booing at the end of the Tottenham game highlighted growing dissatisfaction again around the club.

Ten Hag has a new coaching staff, including former United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, but familiar problems are evident. United has previously sacked managers David Moyes, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in mid-season, but never one before November in the modern era. That might provide Ten Hag with some comfort as he tries, once again, to turn United's season around.



# संस्कृति और विरासत को सम्मान तरक्की बनी हमारी पहचान



अमर बलिदानी  
रानी दुर्गावती  
को शत-शत नमन

## वीरंगना रानी दुर्गावती के 500<sup>वें</sup> जन्म जयंती वर्ष पर

उनकी राजधानी सिंग्रामपुर में नारी सशक्तिकरण और सम्मान को समर्पित

### मंत्रिपरिषद बैठक का आयोजन

एवं

### मुख्यमंत्री, डॉ. मोहन यादव

द्वारा

1.29 करोड़ लाइली बहनों को ₹1574 करोड़

55 लाख से अधिक हितग्राहियों को  
₹332.71 करोड़ की सामाजिक सुरक्षा पेंशन

24 लाख से अधिक बहनों को ₹450 में  
गैस रीफिल योजना के ₹28 करोड़ का अंतरण



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

5 अक्टूबर, 2024 | पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे | सिंग्रामपुर, जिला दमोह, मध्यप्रदेश



#### जनजातीय विकास के लिए प्रतिबद्ध प्रयास



- पीएम जन-मन योजना में विशेष पिछड़ी जनजाति बहुल जिलों में शासकीय योजनाओं का शत-प्रतिशत लाभ सुनिश्चित करते हुए ₹7300 करोड़ से आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र, छात्रावास, सड़क, पुल और आवास आदि का निर्माण
- बैगा, सहरिया और भारिया जनजाति की बटालियन बनाने के लिए शौर्य संकल्प योजना
- नेवी, आर्मी, एयरफोर्स, सी.आर.पी.एफ., सी.आई.एस.एफ., आई.टी.बी.पी., बी.एस.एफ. आदि में भर्ती हेतु प्रशिक्षण
- आकांक्षा योजना में जे.ई.ई., क्लेट, नीट जैसी प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के लिए कोचिंग
- पी.एस.सी., सिविल सेवा, बैंक, एस.एस.सी. आदि के लिए परीक्षा पूर्व प्रशिक्षण
- प्रत्येक वर्ष 50 अभ्यर्थियों को विदेश अध्ययन छात्रवृत्ति का लक्ष्य
- विशेष पिछड़ी जनजातीय जिलों में कौशल विकास केंद्र

- जनजातीय ग्राम सभाओं को सशक्त बनाने के लिए पेसा नियम लागू, एक करोड़ से अधिक नागरिक लाभान्वित
- भगवान बिरसा मुंडा स्व-रोज़गार, टंट्या भील आर्थिक कल्याण योजना, विशेष वित्त पोषण परियोजना द्वारा स्व-रोज़गार ऋण
- 63 एकलव्य आदर्श आवासीय विद्यालय, 82 आवासीय कन्या शिक्षा परिसर एवं बालकों हेतु 8 आदर्श आवासीय विद्यालय संचालित
- तेंदूपत्ता संग्रहण पारिश्रमिक ₹3 हजार से बढ़कर हुआ ₹4 हजार
- प्रधानमंत्री आदि आदर्श ग्राम योजना में चयनित 7307 गांवों में बुनियादी सुविधाओं का निर्माण
- विशेष पिछड़ी जनजाति बैगा, सहरिया और भारिया परिवारों की 2.14 लाख से अधिक महिला हितग्राहियों को पोषण आहार के लिए प्रतिमाह ₹1500 का आहार अनुदान

- सभी जनजातीय विकासखंडों में 'सिकल सेल उन्मूलन मिशन' लागू
- 'मुख्यमंत्री राशन आपके ग्राम' योजना में जनजातीय गांवों में सीधा पहुंच रहा राशन
- पारंपरिक जनजातीय शिल्पकलाओं को आजीविका से जोड़ने के लिए चयनित जनजातीय कला/उत्पादों की जी.आई. टैगिंग, गोंड पेंटिंग को जी.आई. टैग प्राप्त
- प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा ₹170 करोड़ की लागत से खरगोन में क्रांतिसूर्य टंट्या भील विश्वविद्यालय का शिलान्यास
- सागर में रानी अवंतीबाई लोधी विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना का निर्णय
- नई शिक्षा नीति में वीरंगना रानी दुर्गावती और रानी अवंतीबाई लोधी की वीरगाथा को पाठ्यक्रम में सम्मिलित करने का निर्णय
- छिंदवाड़ा विश्वविद्यालय को राजा शंकर शाह विश्वविद्यालय के रूप में मिली पहचान