



**OPINION 6**  
REVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY  
AMIDST CALLS FOR STATEHOOD

**WORLD 8**  
THREE SHARE NOBEL  
PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

**MONEY 10**  
SENSEX, NIFTY DECLINES AS RBI  
CHANGES STANCE TO NEUTRAL

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

Late City Vol. 21 Issue 280  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BHOPAL, THURSDAY OCTOBER 10, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

Established 1865

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

KUSH MAINI  
EYES FOR F1  
11 SPORTS



## MOODS SWING, TONES CHANGE



### Congress practises politics of hate: PM

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI:

Fresh from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) record third consecutive win in the Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday went hammers and tongs at the Opposition Congress, accusing it of practising "politics of hatred" in its desperate bid to return to power. Dubbing the Congress as the "most irresponsible" party, Modi charged that the grand old party devised its winning formula by dividing the Hindu community and spreading seeds of poison in the society to consolidate its voter banks. Inaugurating 10 government medical colleges across the state and laying foundation stone for Rs 7600- crore projects through video-conferencing from New Delhi, Modi said that the Congress practised divisive politics to win elections and it had become a most "irresponsible party" which was coming up with 'new narratives to divide the country'.



### Congress 'analysing' Haryana disaster

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the party was analysing the "unexpected" results in Haryana and will apprise the Election Commission about complaints received from various constituencies of the state. In his first reaction after the defeat in Haryana, the former Congress president also thanked the people of Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir for their support. "My heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - INDIA's victory in the state is a victory of the Constitution, a victory of democratic self-respect," he said. The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.



### Who will be Haryana CM?

Nayab Singh Saini meets party bosses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retained power for the third time in Haryana Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence in Delhi and top leadership of the party on Wednesday. Saini also met Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president JP Nadda. After meeting with Saini, Modi said on X that he congratulated Saini on the party's historic win and expressed confidence that the role of Haryana will become more important in the resolve of building 'viksit Bharat'. People aware of the developments said that while it was a courtesy call made to the Prime Minister by Saini, the formation of the next government in the state would have also been discussed. The meeting came amid the possibility of Nayab Singh Saini being asked to continue in his post after the BJP's success in Haryana, where it won a majority with 48 of 90 Assembly seats.

The BJP had indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins. Senior BJP leader Anil Vij is also eying for the chief ministerial post. Sources in the Haryana BJP said that important issues, including the date and venue for the swearing-in ceremony of the new government, had to be discussed. The BJP leaders had earlier indicated that it would take place on Dussehra on Saturday. Later they indicated that the grand victory ceremony would take place after Dussehra. The venue is yet to be decided. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Saini credited Modi's policies for the party's success. Terming his meeting with the PM as a courtesy call, Saini said, "I have told Pradhan Mantri ji about the landslide victory of BJP in Haryana. I told him that the people of Haryana have a lot of affection for you which resulted in the formation of the double-engine government in Haryana for the third time."

## Will demand restoration of statehood: Omar Abdullah

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After winning a historic mandate in the first Assembly polls, held after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah Wednesday set the agenda of the incoming government by announcing that the alliance government will pass a resolution demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood in its first Cabinet meeting. Omar also claimed his party would keep the issue of restoration of Article 370 alive and continue to raise it. He shared his thoughts with the media, assembled at his residence, where a large number of party workers and elected public representatives converged on Wednesday to celebrate their party's big victory in the assembly elections. A delegation of the Congress party leaders led by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hamid Karra and All India Congress Committee (AICC) incharge Bhartsinh Solanki also visited the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah and greeted him. Listing out the priorities of the incoming government in office, Omar told reporters, "My suggestion to the incoming government will be that the first business of the cabinet should be to pass a resolution asking for statehood to be restored to J&K and the CM should travel to New Delhi with that resolution. Call on the senior leadership of the country and ask them to fulfil their promise. It is the Prime Minister, Home Minister and others who have promised the people of J&K statehood. Nowhere did they say that statehood would be restored



Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) President Farooq Abdullah with his son and party Vice President Omar Abdullah during celebrations after the victory of JKNC-Congress alliance in the J&K Assembly elections at their residence, in Srinagar, Wednesday

only to a BJP government or a government that has BJP members. They said the statehood would be restored to J&K and that is what we hope will be done." Responding to a question related to his party's stand on the issue of Article 370 Omar said, "Our political stand will not change. We have never said that we will remain silent on Article 370 or that Article 370 is not an issue for us now. I have said this many times before the elections that hoping for the restoration of Article 370 from the people who snatched it will be foolish." "But we will keep this issue alive. We will continue to talk on this and hope that tomorrow there will be a change of government in the country, there will be a new setup with whom we can discuss this and get something for J&K," he added.

## RBI maintains repo rate at 6.5 per cent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'. The monetary policy committee, which included three RBI officials and an equal number of new external members, voted five-to-one to keep the benchmark repurchase or repo rate - which governs the interest rate of home, auto, corporate and other loans - at 6.5 per cent for a 10th straight policy meeting. The panel, however, unanimously decided to change the policy stance to 'neutral' - the first since June 2019 - from 'withdrawal' of accommodation amid signs of a slowing economy. Interest rates were last changed in February 2023 when they were hiked to 6.5 per cent from 6.25 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the committee changed the stance but will remain unambiguously focused on the durable alignment of inflation to target while supporting growth. Food inflation, he said, may ease in coming months, while the core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy costs, appears to have bottomed out. India's economic growth outlook remained intact, with private consumption and



investment growing in tandem. The change of stance signals a possible move to cut interest rates in forthcoming MPC meetings, the next being due in early December. The RBI will join other central banks in a policy pivot that was led by the US Federal Reserve easing rates last month. Annual retail inflation eased below the central bank's target of four per cent for a second consecutive month in September and will, as per RBI expectation, rebound again this month, largely due to base effects. The RBI kept its inflation forecast unchanged at 4.5 per cent for the 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) fiscal year. It also kept its GDP forecast unchanged at 7.2 per cent. Das said the prevailing and expected inflation-growth balance has created conditions for a shift in the monetary policy stance as there now is greater confidence on the last mile of disinflation.

Detailed story on page 10

## Missing soldier's body recovered

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

While several parts of Kashmir were witnessing celebrations to mark the victory of the National Conference (NC) candidates in the recently held Assembly polls, a pall of gloom descended upon the residence of a missing soldier hailing from the Nowgam area of Anantnag. His bullet-ridden body was recovered from the forest area of Pathribal on Wednesday. The soldier went missing during a counter-terrorist operation launched in the forest area of Kokernag in Anantnag on



October 8. In a post on social media platform X, Army's Srinagar-based Chinari Corps said, "Based on intelligence input, a joint counter-terrorist operation was launched by the Indian Army along with Jammu and Kashmir Police and other agencies in Kazwan Forest in Kokernag on October 8."

## Delhi Chief Minister's bungalow awaits new occupant

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister's official bungalow, rather the lack of one at the moment, has sparked yet another verbal clash between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Delhi Chief Minister's official residence at 6 Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines is now an issue over which both parties are launching allegations and documents to support their case. In yet another round of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vs CM, the Chief Minister's Office on

Wednesday alleged that "Delhi Chief Minister's residence was forcibly vacated at the behest of the BJP as Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who wants to allot to BJP leader. The bungalow was sealed by the Public Works Department on Wednesday" the CMO stated. The Public Works Department (PWD) said that after Arvind Kejriwal vacated the residence, the keys were supposed to be given to it, instead they were directly given to Atishi. Earlier, the CMO alleged that Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar



India's Nitish Kumar Reddy plays a shot during the second T20 International cricket match between India and Bangladesh at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, in New Delhi, Wednesday



Saxena got all the belongings of CM Atishi removed from the official residence at Flag Staff Road bungalow at the behest of the BJP as he wants to allot it to a saffron party leader. Reacting to the CMO's allegations, sources at Raj Niwas said that the bungalow was never earmarked for the official residence of the Chief Minister of Delhi. "The 'owner' of this house is the PWD. The PWD only takes possession of the house when it becomes vacant, makes its inventory and then duly allocates it" sources said.

"Former CM Arvind Kejriwal pretended to vacate the house but did not give possession of the house to the PWD. What were you hiding? This house has not been allotted to CM Atishi yet and her allotted residence is still 17 AB Mathura Road. How did the two houses get allotted? CM Atishi herself kept her belongings in that house without allotment and then removed it herself. This bungalow will be allotted to the CM immediately after duly preparing the inventory," the sources added.



## In Central Delhi, traffic jams have a ripple effect

When the main roads become clogged, traffic trickles into the service lanes

A surge in heavy public movement due to the ongoing Navratri festival was supplemented by the T 20 match between India and Bangladesh at Arun Jaitley cricket stadium on Wednesday. Adding to the vehicular traffic were sport fans who trekked on foot to reach the stadium on time, as well as early bird vendors who set up small stalls before the match began. When the main roads became clogged, traffic trickled into the service lanes. The massive traffic clogged Delhi for the seventh day on Wednesday with thousands of motorists having to negotiate heavy congestion on the city's

arterial roads, in most parts of the capital mostly in South, Central and East Delhi during the day. Traffic was affected during the peak hours on Rajghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Tilak Bridge, Mandi House, IP flyover crossing, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, Darya Ganj, Netaji Subhash Marg, Kashmir Gate, Asad Ali Road, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg and Shanti Van marg due to India - Bangladesh T 20 cricket match at Arun Jaitley stadium, till late on Wednesday night. In its advisory, the traffic police had asked commuters to avoid the

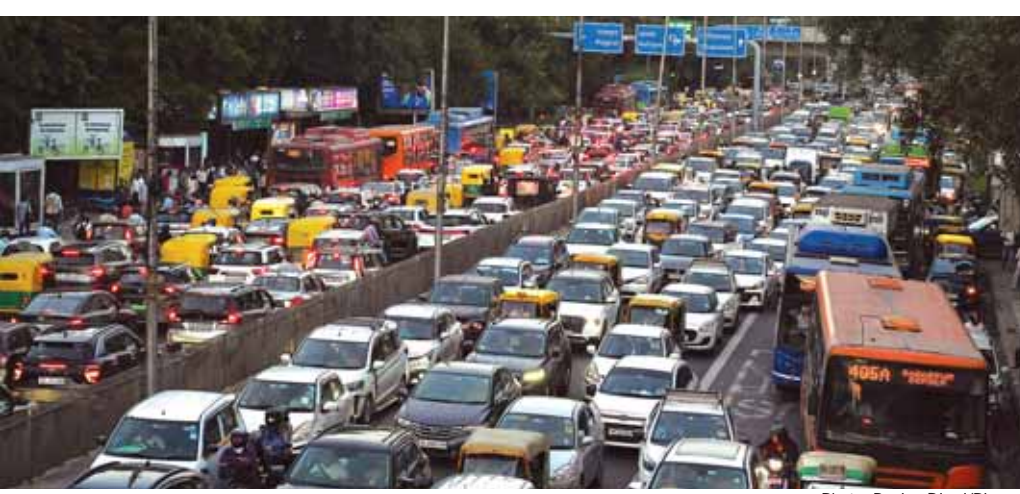


Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg from Delhi Gate to ITO Chowk and JLN Marg from Rajghat to Delhi Gate from 5 PM to 11:30 PM IST. Besides, breakdown of buses during the peak hours and constructions on roads have added to the congestion on several stretches. Repair work carried out by the Indraprastha Gas Limited on Ring Road in the carriageway from ISBT towards Hanuman Setu near Nigam Bodh Ghat also added to the commuters' woes. Meanwhile, traffic continued to be affected on Rohtak Road in the carriageway from Nangloi towards Tikri Border and vice versa due to potholes and water

logging. "Moreover, a loaded trolley has also overturned under Mundka Metro Station in the carriageway from Tikri Border to Peeragarhi. Kindly avoid Mundka and take alternate routes accordingly", traffic police posted an advisory on X. A cluster bus broke down on MB Road in the carriageway from Pul Prahladpur towards Badarpur near Railway Bridge which caused traffic snarl during the peak hours. Slow-moving traffic is also seen at other key locations, such as Mahipalpur, Vasant Kunj, Kapashera and Dhaula Kuan, due to ongoing construction.



# Forest village residents granted rights to sell forest produce

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav while congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that proactive steps are being taken to foster forest development. He assured that all necessary support will be provided to forest residents, who coexist harmoniously with nature, including the right to sell forest produce locally. The PESA Act is being actively implemented across the state to support these initiatives. Dr. Yadav emphasized the state government's dedication to forest development, announcing the inauguration and ceremonial launch of projects valued at over Rs. 57 crore. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, comprehensive development for forest area residents is underway, with specific provisions to enable

forest village residents to sell forest produce locally. Yadav made these remarks while addressing the training and awareness conference for Joint Forest Management Committees in Veerpur, Sheopur, where forest rights leases were also distributed. Yadav said that Regional Industry Conclaves will be held regularly to boost industrial development across the state, as these events have proven beneficial. He emphasized the government's responsibility to create employment opportunities for youth and pledged full support for their growth in sectors like Agriculture and IT. Dr. Yadav reiterated the government's commitment to support farmers and the underprivileged, with special benefits directed toward the tribal community. Veerpur will soon have a college, upgradation of Community Health Center and

local hospital. He also affirmed the government's dedication to developing forest areas, recognizing the forest communities who embody a 'live and let live' philosophy, maintaining harmony with nature. The Chief Minister affirmed the government's steadfast commitment to supporting the people in all areas of development, standing alongside the poor, farmers, women, and even the most remote villagers. Health services have been significantly expanded, with air ambulances now transporting patients from villages to major hospitals in cities. If required, provisions will also be made to send patients to Agra and Delhi for advanced care. These air ambulances will be equipped with doctors, nurses, essential medical equipment, and life-saving medications. Dr. Yadav emphasized that this gov-

ernment is dedicated to the welfare of the poor, ensuring their health and wellbeing are prioritized. Yadav said that, in addition to promoting employment opportunities across various sectors, grants will be provided to villagers to boost milk production and support animal husbandry at the rural level. Similar to incentives on wheat and soybean, a bonus will also be offered for milk production. Dr. Yadav instructed Collector Sheopur to expedite the preparation and distribution of tribal certificates. He emphasized the need to establish new residential areas within villages to accommodate population growth according to local needs and convenience. Yadav assured that every effort will be made to advance regional development in Veerpur. A Pentul bridge is set to be con-

structed over the Chambal River, connecting Nandi village to Gavghat in Veerpur. This bridge will greatly enhance transportation access to Karauli Mata in Rajasthan and Sawai-Madhopur. Yadav inaugurated the program with a Kanya-Pujan ceremony. To promote education, he distributed school bags to 13,700 children of forest committee members, an initiative funded with Rs 80 lakh. Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar stated that, under Chief Minister Yadav's leadership, the state is steadily advancing along the path of progress, with the goal of making Sheopur a leading district in the near future. Khajuraho MP V.D. Sharma emphasized that continuous efforts are being made under Dr. Yadav's leadership to deliver essential services to the underprivileged.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav addresses a convention of joint forest management committees in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# MP HC orders testing of drinking water at Jabalpur Central Jail

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

During the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) regarding the reportedly unsanitary drinking water conditions for inmates at the Central Jail in Jabalpur, the Madhya Pradesh High Court instructed the jail Superintendent to conduct tests on the drinking water to assess its potability. The Court also requested details on how the water is stored and supplied to the inmates. In a September 23 order, a division bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, who was serving as the Acting Chief Justice at the time, and Justice Vinay Saraf issued a notice regarding the PIL petition. "The Superintendent, Central Jail Jabalpur shall have the drinking water tested from an

approved laboratory for its potability and reports be submitted before the next date of hearing. The Superintendent of Jail shall also file the report as to how the potable drinking water is stored and supplied to the jail inmates". The High Court also instructed the concerned District Judge to inspect the jail premises and submit a report. The next hearing of the matter is scheduled for October 23. The PIL petition, filed by Advocate Amitabha Gupta, addresses concerns related to water storage and distribution systems in the jail, arguing that they violate the inmates' fundamental right to life as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The petition further emphasizes the risks of waterborne diseases arising from unhygienic stor-

age practices, suggesting that this issue could extend to other prisons throughout Madhya Pradesh. The petition highlights significant health hazards linked to the existing water delivery arrangements, which depend on pots, buckets, and campers for storage due to the lack of an adequate sanitary system. It argues that these storage methods expose the water to contamination, thereby compromising the health and dignity of the inmates. The petitioner asserts that information obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act reveals that the current methods of storing drinking water for the jail inmates are likely to lead to contamination, suggesting that they are probably not being provided with potable drinking water. The plea states that the water

supplied to the jail is sourced from the Municipal Corporation and stored in separate barracks, as per the information obtained by the petitioner under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. However, the jail lacks tools such as dippers for hygienic water distribution, forcing prisoners to use their own tumblers for security reasons, as noted in the petition. The petition also highlights a violation of international human rights standards, particularly the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Specifically, Rule 22 mandates that prisoners must have continuous access to safe drinking water. The current system in the Central Jail does not meet these standards, thereby infringing upon the basic rights of the inmates.

# AIIMS organises CME on World Mental Health Day-2024

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Department of Psychiatry is organizing a two-day CME and guest lecture on the occasion of World Mental Health Day-2024 on Wednesday. The primary objective of this event was to raise awareness and facilitate discussions around mental health issues. Speaking at the event, Prof. Singh remarked, "This event is an important opportunity to reflect on and discuss mental health issues. It is crucial to raise the topic of mental health in the workplace, especially in today's fast-paced lifestyle. We need to assess employees' stress levels and handle them appropriately so that they can work to their full potential." During the program, a special session was conducted focusing on the mental well-being

of working women. This session featured participants from various fields, including the Deputy Director of NHM Madhya Pradesh, faculty from the National Law Institute University, Bhopal, and faculty from AIIMS Bhopal. The discussions aimed at strengthening the mental health of women in the workplace. Another significant session focused on "Handling Stress and Burnout and the Role of Resilience in Stressful Situations." In this session, faculty members from the Department of Psychiatry at AIIMS Bhopal deliberated on effective strategies for managing workplace stress and emphasized the need for sensitizing employees on mental health issues. Additionally, on October 10, a book titled "A Guide on

Women Mental Health: An International Perspective" will be launched by the Honorable Governor of Madhya Pradesh at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal. The book, edited by Prof. Dr. Vijendra Singh, Mr. Mohit Kumar, Dr. Bhavook Garg, and Prof. Dr. Manish Boreli, offers a unique perspective on women's mental health, with special emphasis on the Indian subcontinent. Furthermore, a discussion session was organized among AIIMS Bhopal faculty members to identify workplace stressors and explore ways to cultivate a positive work environment. The event witnessed participation from faculty members, nursing staff, administrative officers, and employees of AIIMS Bhopal, along with representatives from MANIT Bhopal and Bhopal School of Social Sciences.

# Police recover deserted newborn girl

**Bhopal:** A newborn baby girl was discovered near the railway tracks in the Bagh Umrao Dulha area under the Aishbagh police jurisdiction on Wednesday morning. The infant was discovered by passersby who found her wailing inside a yellow-colored plastic sack. Responding to a call, police took custody of the newborn, aged about two days, and sent her to the Kamla Nehru facility for neonates at the Hamidia District Hospital. The child, currently under observation, is said to be doing well under medical supervision. The area where the infant was found is bounded by a slum, and people believe that the newborn may have been discarded by someone living nearby.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, BJP State President VD Sharma, Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Narendra Singh Tomar and others perform a Bhoomi Pujan at CM Rise School in Surjanpur, Morena district Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# TEDx SISTec inspires students with innovative ideas at Gandhi Nagar campus

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) hosted a thought-provoking event TEDxSISTec by inviting visionaries, innovators and thought leaders at its Gandhi Nagar Campus. The centre stage of TEDxSISTec was based on the theme "Rethinking Education: Quality by Design." TEDx SISTec witnessed the presence of Saakshar Duggal CMO AI Law Hub, Nishtha Tyagi Product Marketer at Jio, Nishant Chandra AI Head Microsoft and Avi Sharma, Awardee Pradhan Mantri Bal Puraskar. The expert speakers centered around reimagining the education system through intentional and systematic strategies, promoting meaningful learning experiences and redefining traditional educational paradigms under the theme, 'Rethinking Education - Quality By Design.' The speakers enriched the audiences on deliberating the right

strategies in curriculum development to lead impactful educational experience. Each speaker delved into the importance of cross-disciplinary approaches to create a learning environment that meets the demands of the next century. Avi Sharma, a young prodigy with an IQ of 161, reminded the audience that intelligence is just one facet of human potential. He said, "Education should not lead to Brain Drain. Teaching necessary skills, conceptual learning, problem-solving and critical thinking, personalized learning with the pace of learning and having a new evaluation system will evolve the next-generation education system. He emphasized a diverse range of talents beyond academics, highlighting the need for education systems to evolve and cultivate these abilities for holistic development. Dr Nishant Chandra, Co-pilot for Industry and AI Head at Microsoft shared the integration of AI-driven methodologies in

education to empower students with harness technology to build future-ready skills. In his address, he said, "Everyday AI will Transform AI. It is the structure around your task and your learning platform that will lead the transformation. We are in the world of personalised AI to AI-based grading systems and Smart Chat Bot AI. Transformative AI will lead us to a personalised AI experience with Explorative AI to Collaborative AI. The most important facet is that all AI-based functions should lead to Responsible AI." He underscored the need for education systems to adapt, ensuring learners thrive in an AI-powered world. Dr. Nishtha Tyagi, an academic and education reformist, called for moving beyond conventional learning models. She said, "Education learning should be personalized and is the new concept and pattern of learning. Adaptive learning platforms, data insights, AI-based applications and microlearning with tai-

loring of interests will lead to next-gen Learning. Continuous feedback with the power to choose to learn will connect to a customised learning process." She also highlighted fostering a more personalized and inclusive system that nurtures critical thinking and adaptability, preparing students for real-world challenges. Saakshar Duggal, a legal expert and technology enthusiast, shared the transformative role of AI and its potential across various domains with the audience. He said, "Education should transform and help to navigate the world of tomorrow and not restrict to the world of yesterday. Innovation, creativity, and collaboration will transform us. The digital divide of access to technology with youth, teaching preparedness and data privacy with valuable data generation will transform the growth of our education. A continuously learn and unlearn process will replace our next-gen education learning as a game changer."

# Property registration goes to end soon with 'Sampada-2' guidelines

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Property registration woes will soon be a thing of the past, as fresh registration guidelines and processes come into effect in all 55 districts of the state today. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will unveil 'Sampada-2' the new digital property registration system in the state capital later today. With the launch of the new system those desirous of registering their properties will no longer have to be present at the sub-registrar office for the scrutiny of their documents. The new system provisions for buyers and sellers to complete identification formalities through e-KYC on the 'Sampada-2' software and mobile application. The new system significantly upgrades the existing process and benefits citizens by helping them save time and effort. The enhanced system places GIS mapping of properties, document formatting, and biometric identification at the fingertips of buyers and sellers through the mobile

**The new system provisions for buyers and sellers to complete identification formalities through e-KYC on the 'Sampada-2' on Mobile App**

phone application. Prior to the state-wide launch, a pilot project of the system has met approval of users in the Guna, Harda, Dindori, and Ratlam districts of the state. The pilot project worked as a testing phase for the new technology following which a decision has been taken for its implementation in all 55 districts. The Sampada-2 software is loaded with features, including video conferencing with registration officials, video KYC for identification, and the ability to submit e-copies of documents to DigiLocker. There will also be an e-stamp facility, and property-related documents will now be available via email and WhatsApp.

# 18-day multi-skilling training session concludes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 18-day multi-skilling classroom session for artisans by HRD, BHEL, Bhopal concluded on Wednesday. The Chief Guest of this program, General Manager (CMG, PMG, CC & DTG) Gautam Majumdar ji sought feedback from the participants about the program. He also motivated the participants to use the training received in the field. He described the multi-skilling session as very important for achieving the turnover target of BHEL Bhopal unit. This training program has two phases; First phase - 18 days classroom session; Second phase - 60 days on-job training. This training program included unit product profile and practical inputs / sessions, general engineering inputs, theoretical information on turner and machinist trade (awareness about conventional machines and accessories), awareness about CNC machines and CNC programming (basics of CNC machines and CNC programming), assessment of multi-skill trade and yoga sessions.

# Come to MP and see: CM reacts to Sanjay Raut's remark on Ladli Behna

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Reacting to Maharashtra politician Sanjay Raut's remarks on Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday said Raut should visit the state to see the money being deposited to the beneficiaries' bank accounts. Yadav took on Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut over his statement that the Ladli Behna Scheme in poll-bound Maharashtra is not viable and that it has not been successful in any other part of the country, including Madhya Pradesh. CM Mohan Yadav stated that, out of fear of losing the election, leaders of Shiv Sena are trying to misguide the people of Maharashtra. Regarding Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Yojana, Yadav said that since the inception of the scheme, money has been deposited into the accounts of Ladli Behna beneficiaries every month. There has not been a single month in which money was not deposited into their accounts. He asserted that the Ladli



Behna Scheme is aimed at women's empowerment and that there are no plans to close it. He expressed hope that the scheme will improve the living conditions of Ladli Behna beneficiaries. Notably, following the model of Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Scheme, the Maharashtra government launched a similar scheme a few months ago. This initiative was introduced after a thorough study of Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna Scheme, which was the brainchild of then-CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who is now the Union Agriculture Minister in the Modi government. The Maharashtra government even sent a team of officials to Madhya Pradesh to learn how the scheme is being implemented.



Health workers participate in a walkathon on World Mental Health Day, organised by district health society at JP hospital in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

# Every home in Bhabhra now has access to tap water

**Bhopal:** Every home in Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar (Bhabhra), the birthplace of the great revolutionary martyr Chandrashekhar Azad in Alirajpur district has now access to tap water. The work of water supply project in Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar has been completed by the Indore unit of Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company, an undertaking of the Urban Development and

Housing Department in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank. More than 1520 houses of the city have been connected with tap connections. A 44 km long pipeline has been laid to connect every house to the water supply network. An overhead tank of 150 kilolitres has been constructed for water storage. In this project, water is being taken from Hathni Dam, a

water purification plant of 1.6 MLD capacity has also been installed to purify the water. The cost of this project along with operation and maintenance for ten years is about Rs 24 crores, it is benefiting a population of more than 8 thousand. Before the water supply project, the residents of Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar used to depend on boring for water, but now they are getting plenty of water supply on time.



# A stream of development to flow through Chambal: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every effort is underway to ensure the comprehensive development of the state. He highlighted that a stream of development is flowing through the sacred land of Chambal, ensuring that no part of the region is left behind in progress. Dr. Yadav was addressing the dedication and Bhoomi-Pujan ceremony for various development projects in Surjanpur, Morena. Among these projects, he performed the Bhoomi Pujan for the CM Rise School, a significant initiative with a budget of Rs 35 crore, and dedicated a Primary Health Center worth approximately Rs 1.5 crore. Additionally, he announced

the construction of a community hall in Dimni, budgeted at Rs 2 crore. In tribute, Dr. Yadav also paid his respects by offering flowers at the memorial of the late Amar Singh Dandotia in Surjanpur. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav announced that all requests from the Assembly Speaker and the regional MP for this area will be fully addressed. Planned projects include constructing a community hall in Dimni at a cost of Rs 2 crore, building a dam on the Kwari River between Kamtari Birharua and Gopi Kanchanpur, and constructing a bridge over the Kwari River from Ajanodha via Sirmity Dongarpur Road, which will connect through Badegaon to Maheba Ka Pura, Dohati, Bargman, and Katela Pura on the PWD road.

Additionally, new 33/11 KV substations are set to be established in the villages of Chaita Baraitha, Nayapura Khirenta, and Lahar. Yadav stated that the New Education Policy-2020, developed under the leadership of the Prime Minister, includes the biographies of Lord Shri Ram, Shri Krishna, and other great figures. He noted that this policy has been effectively implemented across the state. Referring to Morena's proximity to Mathura, he expressed his wish for Lord Krishna's blessings upon the region. With Mathura not far from Morena, he added that construction on a new six-lane road in the area would soon begin. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav stated that, like Surjanpur, Dimni must also be made a sacred land, as it is home to hard-

working people. He emphasized that Dimni is the "karmabhoomi" of the current MLA and former Union Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, who now serves as the Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha and has twice led the party as State President. Dimni is also the birthplace of the current State President and MP, VD Sharma. Reflecting on his visit, Yadav remarked on the unique energy and distinctiveness of the soil here. He honored the memory of the late Amar Singh Dandotia, who dedicated his son to full-time service for the country. Dr. Yadav noted that Dimni is both the karmabhoomi of one leader and the birthplace of another. Visiting this land and meeting VD Sharma's mother brought memories of his own mother, and he expressed a deep sense

of pride in being here. Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar stated that the establishment of the CM Rise School and Primary Health Centre in Surjanpur village will provide direct benefits to local residents, offering children access to higher-quality education. He emphasized that the state government has spared no effort in advancing development initiatives, with visible progress evident to all. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, Minister-in-Charge Karan Singh Verma, Khajuraho MP VD Sharma, School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh, and MP Shivmangal Singh Tomar also addressed the gathering. On this occasion, Hitanand, MLAs, public representatives, officials, and a large number of villagers were present.



Youth Congress activists stage a protest against the BJP State Government for allegedly being involved in drug trafficking with mafias, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



Congress State President Jitu Patwari offers a glass of juice to senior Congress leader and former MLA PC Sharma to break his 30 hr fast to protest against the increasing incidents of rape and other crimes against minors, under the 'Beti Bachao' campaign in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## Arif lodges complaint in court against Narsinghanand

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Congress MLA Arif Masood has lodged a complaint in Bhopal district court against Mahamandaleshwar Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati of Juna Akhara regarding the statement made on Prophet Mohammed. In the case Advocate Deepak Bunde will represent him as the date for the hearing has been fixed for October 21. While talking to the media Masud said, 'One after the other, a chain of people insulting our Prophet is being formed. This is not good news for people who like humanity and the Constitution, nor is it the tradition of our country.' He said, 'Nobody wants criticism of any religion, nor wants to hear

it.' The MLA said, '4 days ago, I had given a memorandum to the Bhopal Police Commissioner and said that a case should be filed. Then he had said that we cannot file an FIR right now, we will get it investigated. Now we have filed a petition in Bhopal court. If a case is filed here, then a message will also go to the country that the Constitution will take strict action against those who spread hatred. Whether he is a big person or a small person, he will not be spared.' Raising questions on the actions of the police and administration regarding drugs in Bhopal, MLA Masood said, 'Drugs are being sold openly in the Itwara area of Bhopal. I invite you (the media) to go to Itwara at 2 to 3 in the

night in disguise. You will get the quality of drugs you want and it will be available under the protection of the administration. Yati Narasimhanand is also the Mahant of Shiv Shakti Dham temple located in Dasna, Ghaziabad (UP). He commented on Prophet Mohammed on September 28 at Hindi Bhavan in Lohianagar, Ghaziabad. He also said, 'We never understood religion. They talked about countries, nations. They neither have a country nor a nation. Look at all those who remained steadfast on their religion, how many nations and countries there are. It has been millions of years, we have been burning Ravana. Now such criminals have been born, in front of whom Ravana has no existence. Now Ravana's effigies should not be burnt on Dussehra.'

## MPYC activists demonstrate against Deputy CM Deora

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress activists demonstrated at Roshanpura square in Bhopal by putting a photo of Deputy CM Jagdish Deora on an effigy and wearing a garland of injections around its neck. Gujarat ATS and NCB seized MD drugs worth Rs 1814 crore from a factory located at Bagroda area of the state capital, political blame game started after pictures of an accused in the case surfaced with Deputy CM Jagdish Deora and Congress started demanding Deora's resignation. Congress spokesperson Vivek Tripathi said that such a big drug factory was being operated in Bhopal and the government and administration were not even aware. Gujarat police came and took action. What is the BJP government and police of MP doing. It has now become clear that favorite workers of Deputy CM Jagdish Deora are involved in this business. This entire business was flourishing in MP under his protection. We demand that Jagdish Deora resign from his post on moral grounds. Because, if he remains the Deputy Chief Minister, he can influence the investigation to save his favourites. Congress spokesperson said that if he does not do this,

then Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will have to clarify in front of the youth whether he is with the drug mafia or with the youth of MP. He should immediately remove Jagdish Deora from his post. It is not right for Deora to remain in his post till the investigation is going on to maintain its impartiality. He further added that the BJP government should stop pushing the youth of MP into the quagmire of drugs. Many BJP workers have been found involved in drug trade earlier also. Liquor, drugs and various types of intoxicants are being sold in every street and locality of Bhopal. There is a need to take concrete action on this. Defending the allegations Deora has said that the photo can be of anyone with anyone. He has no connection with criminals. In this statement, the Congress spokesperson said if it was a photo, it could have come with anyone. But many such photos have come out in which he is sitting with you and eating food and hugging you. You can go to any extent to save such a worker. Deora can influence this entire investigation in MP, so the Chief Minister should remove him from the post.

## Man arrested for sexually assaulting his estranged wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ashoka Garden police has arrested a man for sexually assaulting his wife; divorce case between the two is pending in the court. On the pretext of compromise in this case, the accused husband reached the house of the victim's wife in Ashoka Garden an when he found his wife alone he raped her after this, the accused lured the woman to live with him again and asked her not to complain to the police. Now the accused refused to keep the woman with him. On Tuesday night, the victim lodged an FIR. On Wednesday morning, the police arrested the accused husband. According to Ashoka Garden Police, the 31-year-old woman lives in Ashoka Vihar Colony. Her divorce case with her

husband is going on in the court. Meanwhile, on September 27, when she was alone in her house, when the accused reached and raped the victim by threatening to kill her. He made physical relations with her many times by luring her to live together. Since then, he was constantly pressuring her and exploiting her. The victim had given a written application to the police station regarding this matter. After investigating the application, the police registered a case against the accused husband. After registering the FIR, the police arrested the accused husband. He was produced in the court on Wednesday afternoon since the case was registered under bailable sections, the police released him after serving notice.

## State government colluding with land mafias in the State: Jitu

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a renewed attack, Madhya Pradesh Congress state unit chief Jitu Patwari on Wednesday accused the state government of colluding with the land mafia and allowing them to develop unauthorized colonies across the state. Patwari said that the land mafia are dominating the government machinery for the sake of profits while the Chief Minister and his council are in a "deep slumber." The Congress party leader further accused senior government officials of looking the other way while the land mafia openly exploit the situation. Unauthorized colonies are being developed rapidly in Bhopal and other major centers

like Indore, Gwalior, and Jabalpur by purchasing land from farmers at throwaway prices, said Patwari, adding that the situation is no different at district headquarters across the state. He pointed out that land mafias are defrauding people by advertising and distributing brochures for their unauthorized ventures and selling plots without adequate arrangements for essential amenities like sewage, roads, water, or electricity. Describing any land development without prerequisite permissions from the Town and Country Planning (T&CP) department as an illegal colony, Patwari said that the land mafia are developing such colonies on

city outskirts by acquiring land earmarked for agriculture at throwaway prices. The farmland with minimal diversion is subsequently sold to gullible buyers without obtaining necessary permissions like diversion and T&CP approval. In Bhopal and its surrounding areas, over 200 unauthorized colonies have been established in the past year, forcing buyers to repeatedly visit tehsil and collector offices for basic services and approvals, said Patwari. He criticized the state government for failing to initiate detrimental action against the protection of land mafias, resulting in people indulging in unauthorized construction of homes and commercial establishments after purchasing and registering

plots or farmhouses. The state Congress unit chief alleged that the state is under mafia rule and accused Chief Minister Mohan Yadav of providing protection to errant colonizers. Patwari highlighted that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), during its two-decade-long reign, has repeatedly adopted policies for the regularization of unauthorized colonies and drafted several new master plans, but the land mafia have consistently undermined its efforts. He called on the state government to enact strict laws to halt the construction of unauthorized colonies and to take decisive action against the mafia involved by putting them behind bars.

## Sarpanch caught accepting bribe of Rs 20K

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Lokayukta police on Wednesday arrested the sarpanch of the Kolua village panchayat in the district for taking a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a contractor. The accused had demanded a bribe of Rs. 100,000 from the contractor in exchange for a No Objection Certificate (NOC). The contractor had filed a complaint with the Lokayukta. According to the Lokayukta, the contractor, Satish Thakur, resides in the

Jhiryakhedi area of Bilkhira. He had constructed a water tank under the water supply scheme in the Kolua village panchayat. After the work was completed, sarpanch Suresh Parmar demanded a bribe of one lakh rupees for issuing the NOC. A written complaint was made to the Lokayukta SP of the Bhopal division. After verification, sarpanch Suresh Parmar was caught red-handed by trap officer Neelam Patwa while accepting the first installment of Rs. 20,000 from Thakur.



A devotee from Bengali Community offers prayer to Goddess Durga on the first day of Durga Puja at Bengali Association Kalibari, TT Nagar in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

## Doli: A palanquin is on display during month-long exhibition

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the popular museum series 'Exhibit of the Month' of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, a traditional object is displayed in the appearance for a whole month. The exhibit for the month of October 2024 Doli - A Palanquin is on display in the indoor exhibition building - Veethi Sankul. The 'exhibit of the month' was inaugurated by Prafulla Barua, A well-known artist of Majuli Assam on the occasion many dignitaries were present. This object has been composed by Assistant keeper Dr Ashok Kumar Sharma. On this occasion, the Director of the Museum, Amitabh Pandey welcomed Prafulla Barua, by giving a bouquet and honored him by presenting him with the logo of the Museum. About the exhibit displayed in the exhibition, Assistant keeper

Dr Ashok Kumar Sharma said that the small, round, closed palanquin made of wood is known as a Doli. This structure serves as a temple for Goddess Danteshwari. Typically square in shape, the doli can be fully closed from all sides or partially open, with three sides closed and an open front. Its roof is pyramid-shaped, and a door at the front can be opened or closed. The doli is exclusively created for the Mother Goddess, and it is a craft that many tribal members can undertake. When someone makes a special vow, they construct a doli for the goddess upon fulfilling that vow. Occasionally, the goddess may inspire in a dream or demand through the village priest or a respected community member, prompting the villagers to collaborate in making a doli for her. The doli is kept suspended in the Mata Gudi, covered with cloth. It is only brought out

during the Jatra or Sangat, serving as a representation of the Mother goddess and taken to meet other gods and goddesses. Typically crafted from saag or haldu wood, the doli features geometric embellishments. Doli made from the wood of the Bel tree is considered the finest. Silver coins received as offerings are often nailed to the doli. Carpenters are responsible for making and decorating it, although some people may choose to create their own or carve its basic structure. If the doli is broken or termites infested the wood, then it is immersed in a river. Generally, no idol is placed inside the doli. Idols of gods and goddesses are typically placed in a doli or jhanpi (a bamboo basket) and are taken out during Doli Puja, Dussehra, and Madhai Jatra. The process of creating and using a doli for idol worship involves several rituals and beliefs.

## Five health employees terminated

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Initiating stringent action in a case of dereliction of duty leading to the demise of an expecting mother and her baby during childbirth, the health department has terminated the services of five employees. The severe action was taken after an investigation, conducted by Chief Medical and Health Officer Prabhakar Tiwari, found that childbirth protocols were not adhered to by department employees and officials responsible for health services. The unfortunate incident took place on September 20 at the Sohya Sub Health Center in the Berasia Development Block of the district. Following the incident, a departmental inquiry was initiated against several officials and workers of the health department. It was also found that officials responsible for such cases at

both the development block and district levels had failed to discharge their duties with the adequate seriousness. The officials and staff were issued notices seeking explanations. Following the unsatisfactory explanations, the Health Department has terminated the services of the Asha worker, Asha supervisor, ANM, and community health officer, while the regional supervisor has been placed under suspension. Salary increments for the development block programme manager and the in-charge community mobiliser have been withheld, with a monetary penalty. A departmental inquiry has been recommended against the Block Medical Officer of Berasia, and warnings have been issued to the District Health Officer and the in-charge of maternal health for failing to carry out their duties with the requisite seriousness.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY		
No. - JHS/Commercial/e-Auction/24/49	Date : 03.10.2024	
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
On Behalf of The President of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under:-		
Category : Pay & USE	Catalogue No : JHS-PAYUSE-09	
Asset Details: Manning of Pay & Use Toilets on O & M basis at Railway Station i.e. ORAI, ORC, DBA, LAR, MBA, & DAA of Jhansi Division.		
Auction Start : 21.10.2024 at 10:30 hrs		
Auction End : 21.10.2024 at 11:00 hrs		
Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website ( <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> ). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 1753/24(AS)		
North central railways @ <a href="http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> @ <a href="https://twitter.com/CPRONCR">CPRONCR</a>		
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES BHOPAL		
Saket Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.) 462020		
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)		
NIT No. AIIMSBHOPAL-TENDER/NIT/24-25/018 Date:10/10/2024		
AIIMS Bhopal invites e-Tender from registered manufacturers/dealers/distributors/Contractors for below mentioned items:		
E-Tender ID No.	Required Items/Services at AIIMS Bhopal	Est. Cost
10/NIT/SE/Project Cell/ABEU/BPL/2024-25	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of 30 Nos. Johnson Make Life installed in Hospital and Type v Residential Complex at AIIMS Bhopal.	Not Disclosed
02/NIT/EEE/ABEU/AIIMS/BPL/2024-25	Operation & Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Centralised UPS System at AIIMS Bhopal.	Not Disclosed
For further details of the above e-Tenders, the prospective bidders may please visit email: <a href="mailto:www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in">www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in</a> and <a href="mailto:seoffice@aiimsbhopal.edu.in">seoffice@aiimsbhopal.edu.in</a> Tenders may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal <a href="http://www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in">www.aiimsbhopal.edu.in</a> and CPP Portal <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.in">www.eprocure.gov.in</a> . Any corrigendum/ amendments related to this NIT shall be published in the same websites only.		
I/c Executive Engineer For & On behalf of Director, AIIMS Bhopal.		

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.	
(CIN:L85110KA1987PLC008699)	
Pithampur Branch: G-1, Jeevan Complex, Mhow-Neemuch Road, Pithampur, Dist. Dhar (M.P.) Ph.: 07292-252542, 76250 79242, e-mail: <a href="mailto:pithampur@canfinhomes.com">pithampur@canfinhomes.com</a>	
POSSESSION NOTICE	
Rule 8 (1) [For Immovable Property]	
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 02.05.2024 calling upon the borrowers Mr. Brijesh Singh and Mrs. Nilam Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 16,35,817/- (Sixteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen Only) with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.	
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 (of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) on this the 4th day of October of the year 2024.	
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 is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Can Fin Homes Ltd for an amount of 16,35,817/- (Sixteen Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen Only) and interest thereon.	
Description of immovable property House No. 336, North Part 336-B, Kalyan Sampat Greens, Village Kalibillod, Tehsil Depalpur, Dist. Indore (M.P.), Area: 400 Sq.ft., Owner: Mrs. Neelam W/o Brajesh Singh, Boundaries: North: Plot No. 337, South: Remaining Part of Same Plot, East: Plot No. 329, West: Colony Road	
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd.	
Place : Pithampur, Date : 09.10.2024	



# Congress demands EVM probe in Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded a thorough probe into 'discrepancies' found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes of the Haryana assembly polls and demanded that such EVMs should be sealed and secured pending the inquiry. Earlier, Election Commission, in a letter addressed to the Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, noted the statements of Congress leaders and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, who called the results of the Haryana polls 'unexpected' and proposed to analyse the polls. 'Proceeding on a fair assumption that the statement of the Party President is the formal party position on the electoral outcome, the ECI has agreed to meet the delegation today at 6 PM,' the letter reads. A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam



Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khara, besides Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials in the evening. The delegation handed over a memorandum to the officials along with specific complaints from various constituencies in Haryana. Senior party leader Abhishek Singhvi joined the meeting online. The Congress leaders alleged that there are at least 20 such complaints, including seven in writing, from as many assembly constituencies, with many referring to EVMs functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity whereas the average EVMs were found to be operating at 60 to 70 per cent

battery capacity during counting. The party has alleged 'glaring discrepancies' related to some EVMs in the Haryana polls and urged the EC to conduct a probe. 'There are doubts about vote counting as Haryana results are surprising. Everyone believed that the Congress would be forming the next government in Haryana. When the counting of postal ballots took place, the Congress was winning, but when the counting of EVMs started, the opposite happened,' former chief minister Hooda told reporters after the meeting. He said the Congress will submit more complaints to the EC in the next few days. 'The EC has assured

us of looking into the matter,' Hooda said after meeting the CEC and other election commissioners. Bhan also said that doubts have been created about the veracity of the counting exercise in Haryana and they should be cleared by the EC. Khara said party leaders Maken and Singhvi have urged the EC to conduct a thorough probe, pending which it should ensure that the EVMs with discrepancies are sealed and secured till then. 'We apprised the Election Commission about 20 complaints that have come to us, including seven written complaints from seven constituencies with some EVM machines functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity, while some EVM Machines were functioning below 60-70 per cent battery capacity,' he said. 'We demanded that the EVMs for which complaints have been made be sealed and secured till the inquiry into the whole matter is completed. We also told the EC that in the next 48 hours, we will make available to them other complaints that

are being compiled. 'All the machines for which complaints have been made should be sealed and secured till the inquiry is completed. The EC has told us that they will give a written reply to us on all constituencies after consulting the respective returning officers,' Khara added. 'Counting of votes in a fair, transparent and accountable manner is the hallmark of any electoral process that claims to be in consonance with the principles of free and fair elections and the doctrine of the level-playing field as envisaged by the Constitution,' the party memorandum to the EC said. 'Considering that the said issue could potentially alter the results for some Assembly constituencies, we request that this Hon'ble Commission take urgent measures and order for an enquiry on this issue. In fact, subject to the enquiry report, the Hon'ble Commission should issue requisite directions regarding the counting of polls and final results,' it also said.

# Mayawati criticises Jat votes shift in Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati on Wednesday rued that the Jat community in Haryana did not vote for her party in the assembly polls and felt there was a need to change their mindset about Dalits. In the national capital to observe the death anniversary of party founder Kanshi Ram, she lamented that the BSP's alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) did not bear fruits for her party. Mayawati said in a bid to defeat the BJP and to keep it out of power, the Jat community in Haryana voted for the Congress but in the process ditched the BSP. While the Dalit votes shifted to the INLD, the Jat votes did not come to her party. 'BSP candidates got only Dalit votes. Had we got even two to three per cent Jat votes, we would have



managed a few seats,' she told reporters. She said while the mindset of the Jat community about Dalits has undergone a change in Uttar Pradesh, it is yet to happen in Haryana. While the INLD won two seats in the state, the BSP drew a blank. Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt in the assembly elections. 'While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were decimated

and the INLD managed to win just two seats. The AAP had contested on its own. Referring to the assembly polls in Delhi expected in February next year, Mayawati hoped that her party would do well. She said a triangular contest among the ruling AAP, and BJP and Congress will help the BSP do better. She admitted that the BSP suffers losses in direct fights, apparently in states beyond Uttar Pradesh. The former UP chief minister also said the BSP would also contest polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand likely next month.

# Army Commanders' Conference to address key security issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army top brass will review issues including the prevailing situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China, security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hezbollah during two-day conference starting Thursday. Giving details, army officials said here on Wednesday the second Army Commanders' Conference for this year will be organised in a hybrid mode, with the first phase planned on October 10-11 in a forward location at Gangtok, Sikkim. In the second phase, the senior hierarchy of Indian Army will congregate at Delhi on October 28-29. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will deliver a keynote address to



the senior leadership at Gangtok and will be briefed on the emerging security challenges and the response of the Army in the security domain. As the nation faces numerous regional security challenges, the upcoming Army Commanders' Conference scheduled to commence in Sikkim on Thursday, assumes significance. Conducting the conference of Senior Commanders at a forward location underlines Indian Army's focus on

ground realities. The conference will serve as a forum for Senior Commanders to review current operational preparedness, deliberate on critical strategies and outline future directives. During the first phase of the conference, discussions will focus on critical national security issues and strategic aspects aimed at sharpening Indian Army's war fighting capabilities. Major issues to be deliberated during the two-day session

will include the growing importance of a multi-pronged national security strategy that incorporates integration of Civil Military Fusion and the Diplomatic, Information, Military, and Economic (DIME) pillars to counter contemporary threats besides the need for developing low-cost technologies and alternate strategies to counter the rapidly evolving character of warfare. Aligned to Indian Army's goal of Technological Absorption, the senior hierarchy will deliberate on various issues including infusion of technology in Professional Military Education and explore the possibilities of recruiting domain specialists in niche domains. He will also celebrate Dusshera with troops there.

Other issues under deliberation will focus on enhancing the overall organisational health and easing the processes of the Field Army to make them more resilient and responsive. The second phase of the conference will feature a discussion on evolving geopolitical landscape followed by brainstorming on operational matters and meetings of various Boards of Governors. They will deliberate upon welfare measures and schemes for financial security of serving soldiers, veterans and their families. The senior hierarchy of the Army will also be addressed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

# Congress hits back at Modi over political speech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the party while virtually inaugurating development projects for Maharashtra, saying taxpayers' money cannot and should not be used to indulge in a 'political speech'. A day after the Congress' defeat in the Haryana polls, Modi called the opposition party irresponsible and a factory to 'spread hatred'. He said the Congress wanted to divide Hindus and pit one community against another. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) wants to weaken Maharashtra to gain power, but the ruling Mahayuti will strengthen the state, he said after virtually inaugurating various projects



worth more than Rs 7,600 crore for the state. In a social media post, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said, 'Why should the @PMOIndia use a government platform and a government programme to make a political speech and attack the opposition?' 'Taxpayers' money cannot and should not be used to indulge in a political speech? For that, he can use the BJP's platform,' Khara said. Modi said the BJP winning the Haryana Assembly

elections shows the mood of the country. He added, 'In Maharashtra, we have to get a bigger victory.' Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly are likely to be held next month. Modi said never before has Maharashtra seen the expeditious development of projects. Under the Congress regime, the same speed and scale was witnessed in terms of corruption, he said. 'The Congress is an irresponsible party and a factory to spread hatred. The Congress is not concerned about development and legacy, we have paid attention to both,' he said. 'Our goal is Viksit Bharat with the development of poor, farmers, youth and women,' the prime minister said.

# PM Modi to attend ASEAN summits, bilateral meetings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with the prime minister of Lao PDR and other leaders on the margins of two key summits he is slated to attend in Vientiane on October 10-11, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Wednesday. Modi will attend the 21st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit in Lao PDR, the current Chair of the 10-nation grouping. 'We attach great significance to all ASEAN-related mechanisms. This will be PM's tenth attendance at an ASEAN-India Summit,' Secretary (East) in the MEA, Jaidev Mazumdar said at a briefing here. In 2023, Modi had made efforts to be there for the ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta before the G20 Summit in New Delhi, he added. The Summit in Vientiane will review the progress in India-ASEAN ties and 'chart the future direction of our relationship,' Mazumdar said.



At the invitation of Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, he said. He will have a bilateral meeting with Siphandone, the Secretary (East) said. India has 'close, friendly, historical and civilisational relationship' with Lao PDR, which includes a whole host of different areas, such as restoration of cultural sites, capacity building, and power projects, he added. When asked if Modi will also have bilateral meeting with

leaders of other countries, Mazumdar said, 'As is normal and usual, on the margins of international conferences and meetings, the prime minister will have bilateral meetings with a number of leaders. These are all in the works, and you will get to hear of them as they happen.' Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967. The member States are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam.

# President Murmu to visit African nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a state visit to three African nations Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi, starting October 13, which is a reflection of India-Africa 'growing partnership,' Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA, Dammu Ravi, at a briefing here said the visit comes after the African Union became a member of the G20 at its summit last year under the Indian presidency of the grouping. 'This visit should be seen in the context of Africa as a continent and how India wishes to engage, and is looking at having a stronger partnership with Africa. It's a reflection of India-Africa growing partnership,' he said. Africa includes 54 countries and forms the 'core of the Global South,' Ravi said. The first leg of President Murmu's three-nation visit will begin from Algeria, then onward to Mauritania, and it will end with Malawi.



Secretary (CPV & OIA) in the MEA, Arun Kumar Chatterjee, said President Murmu will visit Algeria at the invitation of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, from October 13-15. 'This will be the first-ever visit by the President of India to Algeria and a visit at the level of a head of state or a head of government after 39 years. Also, this visit will take place within a month after President Tebboune's swearing-in for his second term in office,' he said.

# INS Talwar joins IBSAMAR VIII exercise in South Africa

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar, arrived at Simon's Town, South Africa, on October six to participate in the eighth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy scheduled from October six-18, navy said here on Wednesday. Giving details, officials said the exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen cohesion between the three navies. The broad concept is based on Blue Water Naval Warfare, encompassing the dimensions of Surface and Anti-Air Warfare. The harbour phase of IBSAMAR VIII will include professional exchanges, Damage Control and Firefighting drills, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure drills, cross-boarding, aviation safety lectures, joint diving operations, an Ocean Governance seminar, sports interactions, cross-decks visits, and interaction among Special Forces and Junior Officers.



Multi-lateral interactions are crucial bridges of friendship that increase mutual trust and enhance interoperability among navies of like-minded littoral nations towards the common goal of a peaceful maritime domain and positive maritime environment. Defence cooperation between India and South Africa is on an upward trajectory. Operational Sea Training and Submarine Rescue Support have been commenced between both navies since the 12th edition of Navy-to-Navy talks held on August 26-28 here. The visit of INS Talwar aims to further strengthen the ties and reaffirm India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth.

# CJI DY Chandrachud reflects on legacy before retirement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is set to demit office next month, turned philosophical, saying he had served the country with 'utmost dedication' amid 'fears and anxieties' as to how history will judge his tenure. The 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI), his two-year tenure will end on November 10. 'I find myself pondering over questions -- did I achieve everything I set out to do? How will history judge my tenure? Could I have done things differently? What legacy will I leave for future generations of judges and legal professionals?' he said. The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third

convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan. 'The answers to most of these questions lie beyond my control, and perhaps, I will never find answers to some of these questions. However, I do know that, over the last two years, I have woken up every morning with a commitment to give the job my fullest and gone to bed with the satisfaction that I served my country with utmost dedication,' added CJI Chandrachud. During the event, the CJI sought 'pardon' for being 'vulnerable' at a time when he was about to demit office and said he was 'heavily preoccupied' with fears and anxieties for the future and



past. 'As you navigate the complexities of your own journeys, do not be afraid to take a step back, reassess, and ask yourself: Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself? The difference is subtle, yet profound. After all, the world needs leaders who are driven

by purpose and not just ambition,' he said. According to the CJI, once someone has a sense of faith in his/her intentions and abilities, it is easier not to obsess over outcomes but to value the process and the journey towards those outcomes. The CJI further reflected on an unrelenting passion to make a difference in the world, saying he often pushed himself to the extremes and worked long hours carrying a heavy load, as if the world's problems rested solely on his shoulders. 'However, over the years, I have come to realise that our ability to contribute to our community is deeply rooted in our self-perception and capacity for self-care,' he said.

The journey towards the goal should be enjoyed rather than getting caught up in the fear of reaching the destination, the CJI said. 'As someone who is a few decades older than you, I can tell you that these fears are not easy to wish away. However, the personal growth lies in being able to address them and tackling them head-on,' he told a crowd also comprising law graduates in the neighbouring country. CJI Chandrachud, known for speaking his mind, has pronounced verdicts on crucial issues affecting public life besides kicking off technological, administrative and infrastructural reforms to enhance the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

# Malabar 2024 kicks off in Visakhapatnam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Opening Ceremony of Malabar 2024 under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command was held onboard Indian Naval Ship Satpura at Visakhapatnam on October nine. The 28th edition of the multi-national maritime exercise that commenced on October eight and would extend till October 18, navy said here on Wednesday. The Malabar exercise, which was initiated in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the US, gained further traction as a significant maritime engagement, with Japan and Australia joining in subsequently. The ceremony, hosted by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar,



Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, was attended by senior naval and military dignitaries from participating nations. The heads of delegations and other dignitaries participating included General Yoshihide Yoshida, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan, Admiral Stephen Koehler, Commander US Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Katsushi Omachi, C-in-C, Japan Self Defence Fleet and

Rear Admiral Chris Smith, Commander Australian Fleet. The crew and planning staff of participating ships, aircraft and Special Forces from Australia, India, Japan and the USA were also present. The Commanders of all participating navies acknowledged the importance of the exercise in enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement to address common maritime challenges and to create cooperative framework. The exercise will be conducted in two distinct phases both at Harbour and at Sea. It will witness live weapon firings, complex surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills and joint manoeuvres.



# SP announces candidates for six UP Assembly bypoll seats amid tensions with Congress

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW**

A day after the declaration of assembly poll results in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Wednesday gave a jolt to Congress and announced its candidates for six out of the ten Uttar Pradesh assembly seats where by-elections are due later this year. The SP is part of the opposition INDIA alliance, which includes the Congress. Despite this, SP's announcement comes amid Congress's demand for five seats in the upcoming bypolls. Congress had not shared any seats with the SP in the Haryana assem-

bly elections, leading to growing friction between the two parties. According to the list released by the SP, Tej Pratap Yadav has been fielded from Karhal, while Naseem Solanki, the wife of jailed SP leader Irfan Solanki, has been given a ticket from Sisamau in Kanpur. The Karhal seat was vacated by Akhilesh Yadav after he won Lok Sabha election from Kannauj. Other candidates include Mustafa Siddiqui from Phulpur (Prayagraj), Ajit Prasad from Milkipur (Ayodhya), Shobhawati Verma from Katehari, and Jyoti Bind from Majhwan. Shobhawati Verma is the

of SP MP Lalji Verma who was SP MLA from Katehari, while Ajit Prasad is the son of Faizabad (Ayodhya) MP Awadhesh Prasad. Jyoti Bind is the daughter of SP leader Ramesh Bind, who lost the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Mirzapur. The ten assembly seats up for by-elections include Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad, Majhwan (Mirzapur), Sisamau (Kanpur City), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj), and Kundarki (Moradabad). Five of these seats were won by SP and other five by BJP and its



allies. Nine of these seats fell vacant after their MLAs were elected as MPs in the recent Lok Sabha elections, while the Sisamau seat is vacant due to the disqualification of Irfan Solanki after his conviction in a criminal case. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai stated that the party had submitted a proposal to its leadership to contest five of the bypoll-bound seats: Majhwan, Phulpur, Ghaziabad, Khair, and Meerapur. These seats had been won by the BJP in the 2022 assembly elections. Responding to the SP's announcement, Congress has yet to release its final

stance on the seat-sharing arrangement. Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said that seat-sharing negotiations would ultimately be decided by SP national president Akhilesh Yadav. The SP's move has sparked reactions, particularly from the BJP, which linked the decision to the recently concluded Haryana polls. Transport Minister in UP Government Dayashankar Singh said Haryana results have reduced Congress as non-existent political entity in UP. BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi remarked that the SP's decision to announce

candidates for seats, which Congress also claimed, reflects the Haryana election results, stating that the SP is "telling Congress its place." Tripathi claimed that the Haryana results, where the BJP secured a third consecutive victory by winning 48 out of 90 seats, have boosted the morale of the BJP, and the party is confident of winning all the by-election seats in Uttar Pradesh. As the BJP takes confidence from its Haryana victory, the by-elections in Uttar Pradesh are being viewed as a critical litmus test for the opposition INDIA alliance and its cohesion ahead of the 2024 general elections

## Company linked to AAP MP from Punjab generated huge proceeds of crime, says ED

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

A company linked to AAP MP from Punjab Sanjeev Arora and some other entities caused "loss" to the state government and generated "huge" proceeds of crime by misusing industrial lands for residential projects, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleged Wednesday. The federal agency had raided the premises of Arora, also a businessman, that of a company promoted by him -- Hampton Sky Reality (erstwhile Ritesh Properties Industries Limited or RPIL) -- and others like Hemant Sood and Chandar Shekhar Aggarwal on October 7 in

Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Delhi and Gurugram. It also raided another company named Royal Industries Ltd (RIL), and its directors Gurmeet Singh and Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal on the same day. The federal agency said in a statement that it seized "incriminating" documents, mobile phones and digital devices during these searches. Arora, on the day the raids took place, had said he was a "law abiding" citizen and he was not sure about the reason for which the searches were conducted. "I will cooperate fully with agencies and make sure all their queries are answered," he had

said in a social media post. Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the ED action was a "politically motivated attack by the Modi government". The money laundering case stems from a criminal complaint filed in a Ludhiana court, under various sections of the IPC, against RPIL and an FIR registered by Ludhiana Police against RIL. The ED claimed its probe found that RPIL and RIL were allotted industrial lands by the Punjab government with an objective to promote industries in the state on certain conditions.

## TMC mocks Congress for failing to win Haryana

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

In what looked like an addition of insult to injury the Trinamool Congress once again targeted the Congress for failing to provide leadership to the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in the elections after the tri-colour party's loss in the Haryana Assembly elections. Without naming the Congress senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh on Wednesday said that "the anti-BJP parties should now introspect as to why they are repeatedly failing to defeat the BJP ... every time tall claims are made and finally they fall flat in elections."



Iterating as to how in Bengal the TMC repeatedly defeats the BJP Ghosh said, "in Bengal we don't make hollow claims ... when our leader Mamata Banerjee said that she will defeat the BJP she did it ... she walked her talk and kept her promise but it is not so in other places ... the parties that are claiming leadership of the INDIA alliance should not start thinking of their failures and decide their next course of action ... they should find out the reason why they are unable to defeat a part despite favourable political situations." Saying that "some parties" should stop their arrogant approach of looking down on regional parties the TMC leader said, "before the elec-

tions an impression was created that some party was winning and others are losing but final results were different ... this is the result of arrogance and nothing else." The TMC has for long been claiming the leadership of the INDIA block often saying Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should be playing a far bigger role in Delhi because she had proved times and again that she is the only leader who can defeat the BJP and no one else. The party had made its views clear in its mouthpiece Jago Bangla after the Bengal Chief Minister returned to power with thumping majority in 2021 winning 214 seats as against the BJP's 77.

## More than 200 senior doctors resign in Bengal

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Hundreds of senior doctors from various medical colleges including Calcutta Medical College, CNM Medical College, Sagor Dutta Medical, North Bengal Medical College joined their RG Kar Medical College and Hospital colleagues tendering on Wednesday mass resignation in protest against the State Government's "nonchalant approach" towards the eight junior doctors who have been on an indefinite fast for the past 96 hours and whose condition continued to deteriorate. "The condition of the junior doctors sitting in an indefinite fast is deteriorating by the hour and the Government is so arrogant and nonchalant that they have simply not cared to even call them for talks ... we the senior doctors could not sit back and enjoy the Durga Pujas while our children suffer

like this for a rightful demand ... so we have tendered mass resignation," one of the doctors of Calcutta Medical College said. This, whereas scores of members of Junior Doctors' Association from Delhi, Jodhpur and other places started reaching the fasting site at Esplanade in central Kolkata to express their solidarity with their Kolkata brethren. About 50 senior doctors of RGKMCH had on Tuesday resigned en masse to express solidarity with their junior colleagues. "This is almost the same place where our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had done a 26-day fast against the setting up of Tata Nano factory at Singur in 2006 ... she knows the pain and risk of such indefinite fast ... yet her Government is not sensitive enough to come and talk to these junior doctors who are



like our children and who are fighting in the interest of the general health set up of the State... it is not the duty of the Government to come and talk to them," said Dr Tamta a senior doctor. Members of the civil society including actor Kaushik Sen, activist Sujata Bhadra too wrote to the Chief Minister requesting her to "take a sympathetic view towards the doctors' demands." The doctors' movement started after the brutal rape and murder of a postgraduate lady doctor of the RGGKMCH on

August 9 inside the seminar room of the chest medicine department of the hospital. Even as the doctors demanded justice for the victim they added in their ten-point demand among other things a centralized referral system, security for all the medical staff inside the hospitals, ending of the threat syndicate and related malpractices that were rampant in most of the Government medical colleges and hospitals, basic amenities like rest rooms and washrooms for doctors, installation of CCTV cameras in all the Government hospitals, real-time monitoring of bed availability, and the establishment of task forces to ensure the proper functioning of essential facilities like CCTV cameras, on-call rooms, and washrooms, etc. The doctors have also been asking for students' body elections --- that had not taken for quite some time now --- to be

conducted in all colleges "so that students nominated by influential people from the ruling party do not get the chance to control the system and perpetrate a threat syndicate and extort lakhs of rupees from students and even subjecting their sexual exploitation, junior doctors said. Meanwhile Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said that the Government had received no official communication of mass resignation, adding such mass resignations were anything but procedural. "Resignations are tendered individually before they are accepted," he said apparently making the Government's intentions clear. Elsewhere, the police on Wednesday stopped the vehicles carrying doctors around Durga Puja pandals where they were likely to raise slogans and sensitize the general people.

## Mumbai cops arrest man for mercilessly beating dog to death

**PNS ■ MUMBAI**

The Mumbai police have registered an FIR against a man for allegedly beating a dog to death at Juhu in north-west Mumbai. Acting on a complaint lodged by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and a concerned citizen, Jay Sarin that the accused man had mercilessly beaten a dog to death using metal rod, the Juhu police registered an FIR against the accused man. An FIR has been registered against the accused under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. "Those who abuse animals often move on to harming humans. It is imperative that



members of the public report cases of cruelty to animals such as this one for everyone's safety," PETA India Cruelty Response Coordinator Sinchana Subramanyam said in a press statement. "We commend Sub-Inspector Rahul Shinde for his prompt action in registering the FIR

sending a strong message that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated," Subramanyam said. The PETA India recommended that perpetrators of animal abuse undergo psychiatric evaluation and receive counselling, as abusing animals indicates a deep psychological disturbance.

## Former Kerala DGP joins BJP

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**

The faction-ridden BJP in Kerala got a shot in the arm on Wednesday as R Sreelekha, the first lady IPS officer in the State joined the party as a member. This is the first time Sreelekha, a former director general of police and multi-faceted personality, getting associated with a political party. K Surendran, president of Kerala BJP, called on Sreelekha at her Thiruvananthapuram residence and handed over the membership card. "There is no special agenda behind me joining the BJP other than helping the party to grow in Kerala. I am really impressed and awe-struck by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the social



and economic development made by the country since 2014," Sreelekha told media persons after becoming a member of the BJP. She said she had been thinking seriously about joining the party for the last three weeks and Wednesday's decision was the culmination of this introspection. Sreelekha, retired from the IPS in 2020

after 33 years of service and since then she is actively engaged in writing on various issues with special focus on problems encountered by women. Her reminiscences "Sreelekha, With Love", a video channel in YouTube has a vast viewership among Malayalees spread across the globe. An alumna of the elite Institute of English, University of Kerala, Sreelekha has successfully completed post-graduate courses from various international colleges like London Business School, King's College and Scotland Yard. Thomas Jacob, IPS officer and former DGP had joined the BJP in 2019 but he is not active in the party as on date because of the cold shouldering by the State leadership.

## India has highest number of oral cancer cases linked to smokeless tobacco: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

Amid concerns that the Areca nut industry is blatantly roping in Bollywood celebrities to promote paan masala as a mouth freshener, a new Lancet study has highlighted that India has the highest number of oral cancer cases linked to smokeless tobacco (chewed, sucked on or sniffed) and areca nut (also called betel nut) use in South Asia. In 2022, India accounted for 83,400 out of 120,200 global cases of oral cancer related to these substances, said the study led by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and published in The Lancet Oncology journal. The consumption of areca nut (30 per cent) and betel quid with tobacco (28 per cent) were responsible for the most



oral cancer cases among women, followed by gutka (21 per cent) and khaini (21 per cent). Among men, it was khaini (47 per cent), gutka (43 per cent), betel quid with tobacco (33 per cent), and areca nut (32 per cent). "Smokeless tobacco and areca nut products are available to consumers in many different forms across the world, but

consuming smokeless tobacco and areca nut is linked to multiple diseases, including oral cancer," said Dr Harriet Rungay, a scientist in the Cancer Surveillance Branch at IARC. "We found that more than 120,000 people across the world were diagnosed with oral cancer that could have been caused by using smokeless

tobacco or areca nut. Our estimates highlight the burden these products pose on health care and the importance of prevention strategies to reduce consumption of smokeless tobacco and areca nuts," he added. The IARC study showed that 120,200 of the 389,800 oral cancer cases in 2022 could be caused by smokeless tobacco and areca nut use. The regions that contributed the largest numbers of oral cancers caused by smokeless tobacco and areca nut use were South-Central Asia (a total of 105,500 cases, with 83,400 in India, 9,700 in Bangladesh, 8,900 in Pakistan and 1,300 in Sri Lanka). "Free accessibility with intense surrogate marketing of smokeless tobacco and areca nut has meant that India has one of the highest burdens of oral cancer in the world.

"While the revenue to the government is minimal, the health impact and associated health-care losses are huge. The ban on gutka was a courageous step that has been counter-vented by the tobacco industry," said Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi, Head and Neck Cancer surgeon and Director, Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer, Tata Memorial Centre, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. He is one of the co-authors of the study. "Areca nuts cause a painful disease called submucous fibrosis apart from mouth cancer that is incurable. Unfortunately that is affecting our younger population and destroying families emotionally and financially. We need to implement the existing laws and regulations effectively for control of smokeless tobacco and areca nuts," he said.

## Taiwan has turned out to be global high-tech powerhouse: TECC representative in India

**DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI**

Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) Representative in India Ambassador Baushuan Ger has said that Taiwan has turned to be a global high-tech powerhouse and nowadays plays especially a crucial role in the world's semiconductor industry and India is a major stakeholder in this growth and success. "Producing 60 percent of the world's chips and over 90 percent of the most advanced ones, Taiwan ranks No. 1 in semiconductor foundry, packaging and testing; No. 2 in IC

design and ICT product. Taiwan continues to invest heavily in the areas of high precision manufacturing, artificial intelligence, renewable energy and biotechnology as well, with the objective of ensuring our position at the forefront of global innovation," the Baushuan said addressing a gathering for the celebrations of National Day of Taiwan organised in the national Capital. The Ambassador informed that this year Taiwan is celebrating the 113th anniversary of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the first Republic established in Asia. The Government of the ROC

moved to Taiwan in 1949. On the occasion Baushuan said over the years Taiwan and India have developed a natural and reliable partnership. "Although geographically distant, our shared commitment to democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law has been instrumental in deepening our bilateral cooperation across many sectors," he said in presence of diplomats, other dignitaries. He further informed while the Republic of China and the Republic of India maintained brief diplomatic relations from 1947 to 1949, it is not until 1995 when Taiwan and



India re-engaged and established representative offices in Taipei and New Delhi. "Following our Chennai office set up in 2012, I am pleased to announce that we will inaugurate our third mission, the TECC in Mumbai next week," Baushuan said. The Ambassador also shared that given the convergence of Taiwan's "New Southbound Policy", and India's "Act East Policy", on the economic front, the bilateral trade volume has surged from 5 billion USD in 2016 to 8.2 billion USD in 2023, a notable 64% increase. "Today, India stands as Taiwan's 16th largest trading

partner. Approximately 260 Taiwanese companies operate in India, with a cumulative investment of 5 billion USD, spanning from footwear, machinery and auto parts to petrochemicals and ICT products. The contributions of Taiwanese enterprises in India have been remarkable. They have collectively created more than 170,000 jobs in India. Not only do they bring advanced technology and management expertise but also create vast employment opportunities and contribute to the goal of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India)," he added. On country's strategic front,

the TECC Representative mentioned in the face of China's unceasing cross-strait military intimidation and gray-zone threats, Taiwan has worked hard to strengthen its self-defense capabilities. "While the international community has increasingly recognized that maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is indispensable to international security and prosperity-a position which the G7 leaders' communique in June has re-affirmed for the fourth consecutive year, we will continue to protect our hard-won democratic way of life without bowing to pressure," Baushuan further said.





www.dailypioneer.com

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

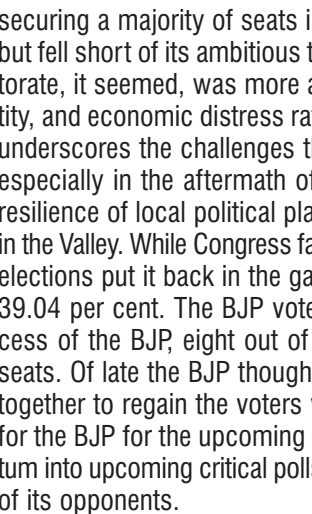
PAPER WITH PASSION

## Mixed bag

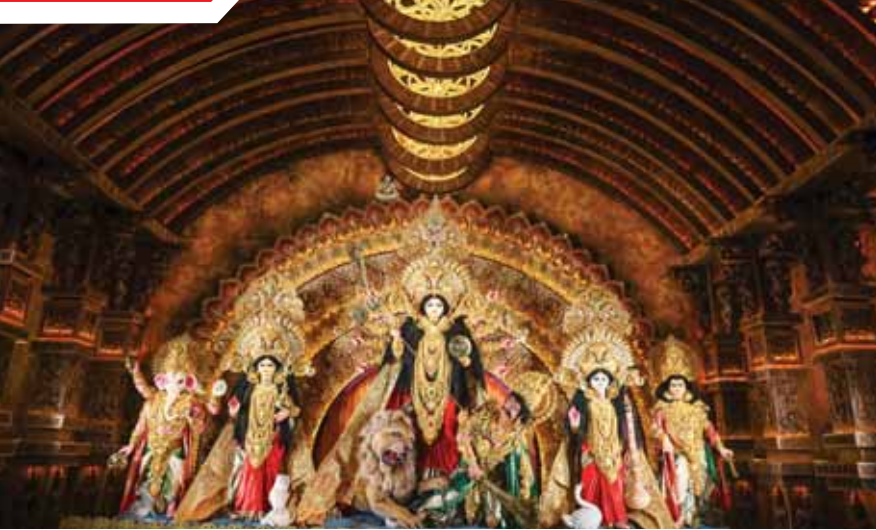
The BJP retains Haryana while the regional parties gain in J and K signalling paradigm shift in the valley

The verdict is out and it is not what was predicted by the exit polls. The BJP retains Haryana and National conference resurges in Jammu and Kashmir. The results once again prove that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and peace while the people of Haryana, though have resentment with the farm laws still have faith in the BJP. The election results in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir have significant implications for national politics. For the BJP, these results serve as a reminder that national leadership may get it votes but its local leaders must also perform. For Congress and other opposition parties, these results offer a glimmer of hope for future contests. At the same time, the resurgence of regional parties, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, signals the enduring importance of local issues and identity politics in India's diverse political landscape. The outcomes not only redefined local political dynamics but also carried significant implications for national politics, especially for major players like the BJP, Congress, and regional parties. Moreover, the election results starkly contrasted with exit polls, which had predicted very different scenarios in both states.

The first post-Article 370 election in Jammu and Kashmir was keenly watched, given its symbolic importance in the region. While the BJP aimed to make significant inroads, particularly in the Jammu region, it faced stiff competition from regional parties like the National Conference (NC). The results saw a resurgence of regional parties, with the National Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah, securing a majority of seats in the Kashmir Valley. The BJP made gains in Jammu but fell short of its ambitious targets of expanding into the Kashmir Valley. The electorate, it seemed, was more aligned with regional issues such as autonomy, identity, and economic distress rather than the BJP's nationalistic agenda. The outcome underscores the challenges the BJP faces in making a deep impact in the region, especially in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. It also highlights the resilience of local political players who continue to dominate the political narrative in the Valley. While Congress failed to reach the majority mark in Haryana, the Haryana elections put it back in the game. Its vote share was almost at par with the BJP at 39.04 per cent. The BJP vote share was 39.94 per cent. Despite the overall success of the BJP, eight out of ten ministers from the Haryana Assembly lost their seats. Of late the BJP though victorious is losing its sheen and needs to put it act together to regain the voters who are drifting away from its fold. It is a good start for the BJP for the upcoming state elections. The party must maintain the momentum into upcoming critical polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi to remain ahead of its opponents.



### PICTALK



A pandal themed on 'Three dimension of the Universe' during Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

# Revival of democracy amidst calls for statehood



KALYANI SHANKAR

Following the 2019 revocation of Article 370, these elections were a landmark moment, reflecting the people's desire for normalcy and statehood

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted its first Assembly elections in a decade. It showcased the peaceful embrace of democracy by its people last week after decades of militancy. These polls were held after the bifurcation of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5, 2019, following the revocation of Article 370. The BJP claimed that the move was necessary to tackle separatism, enhance economic development and fully integrate the region into the country. Since 1989, the state has faced militancy, violence and a boycott of polls by separatist elements allegedly sponsored by Pakistan. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said, "The peaceful and participative elections are historic, wherein democracy is taking root more profoundly than ever before, driven by the will of the people of J and K." Intense campaigning, peaceful polling and high voter turnout marked the polls. Those afraid to go to the polling booth were allowed to vote peacefully. These were significant not only for political reasons but also because of developments such as the first Legislative Assembly elections in ten years, the abrogation of Article 370, and the restoration of democracy. This time, the Hindu-dominated Jammu and Muslim-dominated Kashmir were united in the demand to restore statehood, which the Centre had promised earlier. The higher voter turnout showed people's desire for democracy.



They were tired of gun fights and wanted to live a normal life. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar praised the people of the Union Territory, which recorded 58.46 per cent voter turnout, the highest in 35 years. The security forces ensured a violence-free election. They also stifled the free movement of separatists. These elections differed from the previous polls as the politics of this region is no longer limited to the four traditional political parties NC, PDP, and the national political parties INC and the BJP. The new addition was the participation of separatist elements in these polls, which must be addressed, as they had

chosen the ballot route rather than the bullet route. Despite many poll issues like lack of development and unemployment, the people wanted a revival of statehood and a united Jammu and Kashmir. The other key issues were Article 370, law and order, terrorism, and socio-economic stability. The delimitation panel gave Jammu six additional seats and Kashmir one. The Opposition held that the balance was tilting in favour of Hindu-majority Jammu. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes got nine seats reserved. Kashmir has been under the international scanner. Diplomats from many countries were taken to the state to observe the polls. They got first-hand information from visiting the state. There are several reasons for the peaceful polls this time. The first was the minimal involvement of Pakistan, as it had its internal problems to sort out. India blames Pakistan for training, funding and pushing Islamist militants, targeting the Hindu-dominated Jammu area more than the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley. Pakistan denies the



THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER RAJIV KUMAR PRAISED THE PEOPLE OF THE UNION TERRITORY, WHICH RECORDED 58.46 PER CENT VOTER TURNOUT, THE HIGHEST IN 35 YEARS

charges. Secondly, Kashmiris were tired of living in violent and disturbed situations. Two generations of Children had lost their normal childhood. Thirdly, militants did not call for the boycott of elections this time. On the contrary, separatists themselves entered the poll fray. Many areas once known as terror hotbeds saw brisk polling. The militants probably realised they needed funds and patrons, which they lacked. So, they decided to go through the election route. BJP chief JP Nadda said people had rejected the ballots and chose the ballot route. The election in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a multi-cornered contest for the 90 seats. The National Conference and Congress went for a coalition. At the same time, the BJP and PDP were the other two significant players. The BJP had high stakes but a weak political base in the Valley, while it's strong in Jammu. The party contested only 19 of the 47 seats in the Valley. BJP knew the realistic position in the Valley where it could not hope to get votes. So, the BJP is fighting through proxies. A BJP candidate admitted that the

party would get support from Engineer Rashid, Sajad Lone, Altaf Bukhari, and Ghulam Nabi Azad - all minor players. Kashmiri pundits are still afraid of returning home. The people in both Jammu and the Valley lament the downgrading of the state to two union territories. There is still unemployment and the drug and narcotic trade menace in the state. The election results are out and the National Conference-Congress coalition has got a clear edge. The BJP, which has no presence in the Valley, propped up some independents and hopes to do well in Jammu. The Centre should take credit for completing the election process, and so should the Election Commission. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve kudos for fearlessly going to the polling booth to vote. They showed the trend in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections too. There is no doubt Jammu and Kashmir want a popular government. But the only worry is that they must vote for a stable government rather than a split verdict. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

Madam — Aprosop to the 'Strategic Balancing Act', October 8. With Maldivian President Muizzu making his first state visit to India, New Delhi-Male ties are clearly on the mend. Contrast this with the situation in the beginning of the year when Muizzu declined to make India his first port of call after assuming the presidency, undertook a state visit to China, inked a defence cooperation pact with Beijing, and demanded that New Delhi pull out its small contingent of troops in the archipelago nation.

The reality is that both countries need each other irrespective of differences of opinion on certain issues. No country can escape geography and this certainly holds true for both India and the Maldives. India will always remain the Maldives's closest, largest Indian Ocean neighbour and first responder in all crises. China simply can't be a replacement here given its physical distance from the region. Therefore, New Delhi, which also needs Male for better strategic depth in the Indian Ocean Region, and Male have no option but to enhance their cooperative relationship. Muizzu had campaigned on an 'India Out' plank during his election. But fighting elections outside the government and running a country are two different things. Plus, India has always stood by the Maldives. Also, Muizzu has asked Indian tourists to return to the Maldives, something that is vital for that country's economy. Thus, New Delhi-Male relations have once again found equilibrium. That will be a relief for India after the Bangladesh shock.

N Sadasiva Reddy | Washington

### ONE YEAR OF WEST ASIA CRISIS

Madam— It has been a year since Hamas attacked Israel. The way Hamas fighters were successful in attacking Israel by breaking through its entire security system on October 7 last year, it seems that if we leave aside the attacks by rockets, drones and missiles, Israel can be defeated in a ground war. Because Iran, Hamas and

### Vegetable prices rise in festival season



The prices of vegetables are going through the roof in the market. During Dussehra and Diwali festivals, the prices of essentials and vegetables are skyrocketing. Almost all the vegetables are approaching the century mark. The common man is getting upset with the increased prices. Recently, the increased prices of essential goods have come into force in the context of the central government increasing the import duty

on foreign goods imports. Due to this effect, cooking oil prices have gone up. The prices of palm oil and sunflower oil have gone up.

Till yesterday, the price of tomato was less than 50 rupees, now it has doubled. Recently, due to weather conditions, crops have been badly damaged in the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The situation has changed as the tomato coming from these regions has suddenly decreased. In the absence of tomatoes, hotels and fast food centres are reducing the use of tomatoes. Due to this, the people and the hotel managers are facing severe difficulties. Onion prices also seem to be at that level. Onion price is increasing due to insufficient supply from Maharashtra. In addition to this, some groups are hoarding essential commodities informally and creating artificial scarcity and selling the commodities at high prices, doubling the hardships of the common man.

Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

### UPHOLDING TRUE SECULARISM

Madam — This is in response to the news report titled "India is essentially a Hindu nation: RSS chief" (October 7). Far from being a "Hindu nation," India is historically a nation of all ("None can tell, at whose beckoning, vast waves of humanity/In currents unstoppable, from the unknown here arrived/To merge into the Great Sea" - Rabindranath Tagore), and this is the very reason why "Secularism" is embedded right within the Constitution itself. If Hindus indeed "care for everyone" as their own and "embrace all" so as to live in "harmony," then what compels the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat to advise his own religious group to unite by transcending all narrow barriers of race, language, state and caste? This directly proves that Hindus are a highly divided lot in demographic terms and this gets proved through caste-based atrocities upon Dalits and torture upon linguistic/racial minorities in different states!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The strategic role of generative AI in transforming Industries



KASHYAP DALAL

Generative AI is transforming industries by enhancing customer experiences, boosting productivity and automating processes across sectors

Generative AI has evolved from a novelty in boardroom discussions to a transformative tool across industries. Extending the capabilities of traditional AI in automation and predictive modeling, it's reshaping business processes, customer experiences, and employee productivity. Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, airlines, healthcare, manufacturing, and banking are seeing tangible benefits, as generative AI unlocks new avenues for value creation. **Enhancing Customer Experience:** Improving customer experience is a key priority for businesses today. Companies with both physical and online touchpoints are turning to generative AI, leveraging large language models (LLMs) to provide personalised recommendations that enhance buyer satisfaction and drive revenue growth. In the airline industry, Alaska Airlines has harnessed AI to offer customised flight and travel suggestions based on customer preferences such as budget and timing, significantly elevating the booking experience. By personalising



interactions, AI is allowing businesses to delight customers in ways that were previously time-intensive and difficult to scale.

**Revolutionising Creativity:** Generative AI is also making waves in content creation, democratising creativity, and improving productivity. It allows companies to generate high-quality content quickly, reducing manual input and turnaround times. For example, Belk Ecommerce utilises generative AI to craft engaging product descriptions, ensuring consistency across marketing channels. This automation not only boosts operational efficiency but also delivers a cohesive shopping experience. Customer service is another area seeing improvements through generative AI. Firms like Klarna, a fintech company, use AI-powered virtual assistants to

handle millions of customer service requests, providing quick resolutions and reducing repetitive inquiries. This AI application results in faster, more accurate service and improved customer satisfaction.

**Boosting Productivity:** Generative AI's ability to enhance employee productivity is becoming increasingly evident, especially in automating routine tasks. By freeing employees from monotonous work, AI enables them to focus on higher-value tasks that require strategic input. This shift is particularly significant for industries where frontline workers are pressed for time. Home Depot's US stores provide a prime example of AI-driven employee enablement. They employ AI-powered apps to assist in decision-making, inventory management, and task prioritisation, resulting in improved store operations and employee satisfaction. Generative AI also enhances documentation processes in sectors requiring high volumes of detailed reports. For instance, Bristol-Myers Squibb has integrated AI into their documentation workflows,

enabling rapid processing of clinical trial data and transforming complex, time-consuming tasks into streamlined operations. Such innovations are revolutionising sectors where speed and accuracy are paramount.

**Leveraging Data:** With the increasing digitalisation of the world, businesses are relying more on data-driven insights. Generative AI can sift through vast datasets, extracting valuable insights to support better decision-making in areas such as research and data analysis. This capability is exemplified by Spotify, which uses AI to create personalised podcast previews, improving content discovery and user engagement. As generative AI transforms industries, businesses are preparing for widespread changes in operations, AI can augment every function. However, with these advancements comes the challenge of upskilling the workforce. Organizations need to ensure their employees are adaptable and equipped to leverage AI. (The writer is co-founder & chief operating officer, Simplilearn; views are personal)





## FIRST COLUMN

### ACHIEVING WORK LIFE BALANCE

A healthy work-life dynamic not only benefits individuals but also strengthens communities



SAKSHI SETHI

In recent years, the world has faced unprecedented challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to ongoing socio-economic disruptions. These crises have not only claimed lives but have also altered the very fabric of our daily routines and working environments. Amidst these tumultuous times, the concept of work-life balance has emerged as a crucial necessity, emphasising the importance of maintaining mental and physical well-being while fulfilling professional responsibilities. The rising death tolls and widespread fear associated with global crises have taken a toll on mental health. Today, grief, anxiety and uncertainty have become commonplace as people grapple with loss and disruption.

There is no denying the fact that fast-paced technological advancements require constant adaptation and learning, which can be overwhelming and contribute to stress. In many Indian companies, there is a culture of overwork, where taking time off is frowned upon. Many executives even end up working extended hours, sacrificing their time and health, which contributes to physical as well as mental exhaustion.

Moreover, this can even lead to a toxic environment where employees not only feel they have to prove their worth constantly, but the stigma associated with failure may even drive them to push themselves to unhealthy limits to succeed. Poor diet, lack of exercise and high-stress levels have led to lifestyle-related health issues such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, which are prevalent among high-level executives.



Economic downturns and market volatility add pressure on executives to perform, leading to increased stress and associated health risks. In such a climate, achieving a balance between work and personal life has become essential for fostering resilience and promoting overall well-being. A healthy work-life balance allows an individual to dedicate time towards self-care, family and community, which are vital for emotional recovery and stability. The shift to remote work and flexible schedules, prompted by the pandemic, has underscored the need for a re-evaluation of traditional work structures. If remote work offers flexibility, at the same time it has also blurred the lines between personal as well as professional life, leading to longer hours and increased stress.

It's the need of the hour for organisations to recognise this and promote policies that encourage employees to set boundaries, take breaks and prioritise personal time. Addressing the high death toll among executives in Indian companies for instance the Pune CA death followed by a reputed Indian working for NBFC and committing suicide on a similar ground- i.e. work pressure and mental distress from the seniors necessitates a multi-faceted approach. Organisations must prioritise mental health support, promote a healthier work-life balance, and create a culture that values employee well-being. By taking these steps, companies can not only help mitigate the risks associated with high-stress environments but also foster a healthier and more sustainable workplace. By fostering an environment that values work-life balance, employers can enhance productivity and employee satisfaction, thereby leading to lower turnover rates and a more engaged workforce.

Achieving work-life balance is not solely a personal endeavour but it also has broader implications for society. When individuals can manage their work and personal lives effectively, they are more likely to engage in their communities, volunteer and support local initiatives. This communal engagement will foster social connections and strengthen the fabric of society, thereby making it more resilient in the face of adversity. By prioritising work-life balance, we as citizens of the nation will contribute not only to our well-being but also to the health of our communities.

*(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)*

# The key to a sustainable and low-carbon future



ASHOK KUMAR

By adopting energy-efficient practices, the country not only cuts emissions but also saves millions of tonnes of oil equivalent, leading to a more sustainable future

Energy efficiency refers to the practice of using less energy to achieve the same level of output or perform the same task. It is one of the most impactful strategies for reducing energy consumption, cutting costs, and mitigating environmental harm. As global energy demand continues to rise, enhancing energy efficiency has become critical in the fight against climate change, resource conservation, and ensuring a sustainable future. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global rate of energy efficiency improvement has averaged around 2 per cent per year, with some variations during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, global energy consumption reached approximately 15,000 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE), as reported in the Enerdata Yearbook 2024. A 2 per cent improvement in efficiency would save about 300 MTOE—an amount greater than India's entire industrial energy consumption, which stands at around 270 MTOE in 2022-23. In 2022-23, sectors such as industry, buildings, and transport consumed 552 MTOE out of India's total primary energy consumption of 850 MTOE. The industrial sector accounted for 49 per cent of this total, while transport and buildings (residential and commercial) contributed 12 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. India is one of the few nations with a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for energy conservation. The Energy Conservation Act of 2001 and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power are pivotal in driving energy efficiency programmes across various sectors. India's flagship programmes include the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme for energy-intensive industries, initiatives for energy-efficient buildings, vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and the star rating and labelling scheme for household appliances and industrial equipment. In 2022-23, these programmes collectively saved around 51 MTOE, equivalent to reducing carbon emissions by approximately 306 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This energy efficiency contribution accounts for about 10 per cent of India's annual emissions, which stands at around 3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Energy efficiency is projected to play a crucial role in global climate action. It is estimated that nearly 40 per cent of the emissions reductions needed to reach net zero by 2050 must come from energy efficiency measures, many of which offer short payback periods ranging from 3-5 years. Often dubbed the "first fuel," energy efficiency is seen as a vital tool in maintaining a sustainable, low-carbon future. Given the constrained carbon budget outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment, energy efficiency is more important than ever in controlling global temperature rise.

**The Importance of Energy Efficiency:** It is a cornerstone of sustainable development, offering multiple advantages such as cost savings, environmental protection, energy security and resource conservation. Energy-efficient technologies reduce consumption, which, in turn, cuts utility bills for individuals, businesses, and governments. Reduced energy use decreases greenhouse gas emissions and helps combat global warming. It also diminishes pollutants that harm air and water quality. Additionally, energy efficiency decreases overall demand, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS NEEDED TO REACH NET ZERO BY 2050 MUST COME FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, MANY OF WHICH OFFER SHORT PAYBACK PERIODS RANGING FROM 3-5 YEARS

strengthening energy security, especially for countries heavily reliant on imports. It also reduces the need for new power plants and industrial facilities, conserving natural resources and limiting environmental impact.

**Key Sectors and Strategies industry:** The industrial sector is the largest global energy consumer, driven by processes such as manufacturing, mining and machinery use. Enhancing energy efficiency in this sector involves optimising processes, recovering waste energy, and implementing energy management systems. Upgrading equipment, improving production methods, and utilising efficient motors and pumps can significantly reduce energy consumption. The National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), launched in 2011, targets energy-intensive industries. Under its PAT Scheme, industries are assigned specific energy-saving targets (energy use per unit of product), and the market-based approach allows trading of excess energy savings. This initiative has resulted in substantial energy savings, leading to a reduction of approximately 110 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As of August 2024, the PAT scheme covers 1,333 energy-intensive industries and establishments across 13 sectors, including steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizer, petroleum refineries, thermal power plants, and others. As India develops its carbon market mechanism, many of these sectors will participate as "obligated entities" with specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. The carbon market will facilitate this transition by implementing a market-based approach to pricing GHG emissions. This mechanism encourages both public and private entities to engage in decarbonisation efforts across various sectors. Entities that reduce emissions below their targets can earn Carbon Credit Certificates, while those that do not must purchase credits to comply.

Additionally, the mechanism will have a voluntary component, allowing non-obligated entities to register projects focused on reducing, removing, or avoiding GHG emissions to obtain carbon credits.

**The Standards & Labeling (S&L) Programme:** launched in 2006, rates appliances based on their energy efficiency, from 1 to 5 stars. This program covers 38 appliances, with 16 falling under mandatory regulations. As of August 2024, the programme has saved 82 billion units of energy, equivalent to cutting 58 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**The UJALA Scheme and the Street Light National Program (SLNP)** have also been successful in replacing inefficient lighting with LED solutions, leading to significant energy savings and emission reductions. As of September 2024, approximately 370 million LED bulbs and 7.2 million LED tube lights have been distributed through the UJALA scheme. This has resulted in an annual reduction of 39 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Buildings:** Buildings are another major energy consumer, particularly through heating, cooling, and lighting. Energy-efficient building design, proper insulation, and smart energy management systems can dramatically reduce energy use. The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), introduced in 2007, mandates minimum energy performance standards for commercial and residential buildings. Recent updates, such as the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) and the Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) for residential buildings, aim to further reduce energy consumption in large buildings by up to 18 per cent.

**Transportation:** It is a major contributor to global energy use, primarily from fossil fuels. Improving fuel efficiency in vehicles and promoting electric and hybrid vehicles are key strategies. The Indian government has implemented fuel efficiency standards for

passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles and aims to expand the electric vehicle ecosystem including charging infrastructure. As of 2024, India's charging stations are expected to increase to 100,000 by 2030, supporting the growing number of electric vehicles. To create awareness of the benefits of Electric Vehicles (EVs), the "Go electric" Campaign was launched in Feb 2021. This involves radio jingles, poster/leaflets distribution, awareness through social media platforms, street plays, etc.

**Electricity Generation and Transmission:** Upgrading power plants and incorporating renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are vital for reducing emissions in electricity generation. Under the PAT Scheme, India's thermal power plants have improved their efficiency, contributing to a reduction of 30 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. As of August 2024, 46 per cent of India's installed power capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources, surpassing the commitment made at the Paris COP 21 summit.

**Challenges:** Despite its benefits, the adoption of energy efficiency measures faces challenges like high upfront costs, limited awareness, and policy gaps. These barriers can be addressed through financial support mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of comprehensive, flexible policies. Conclusion Energy efficiency is an essential driver of sustainable development, offering significant economic, environmental, and social benefits. As technology improves and policies strengthen, energy efficiency will remain crucial in reducing energy demand and mitigating climate change. By adopting energy-efficient practices in our homes, industries, and transportation systems, we can contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

*(The writer is DDG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency; views are personal)*

# Surya Ghar Yojana: A sustainable alternative to free electricity politics

Unlike conventional freebies, this scheme boosts long-term savings, infrastructure investment and promotes sustainable energy production

In response to the growing trend of political parties offering free electricity to secure votes, the Narendra Modi government has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana. This initiative aims to promote solar energy adoption by providing homeowners with a subsidy ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 78,000 for installing one to three kW solar panels. The scheme is designed to reduce dependence on government subsidies while offering households the benefit of free electricity for up to 25 years.

**Solar Power for Households** Under this scheme, a consumer will spend around Rs 40,000 to Rs 70,000 to install a two to three kW solar panel. This investment allows households to generate up to 300



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

units of electricity per month, covering a significant portion of their energy needs. At the current rate of Rs 8 per unit, this translates to a monthly saving of Rs 2,400. Over 25 years, the total savings per household would amount to approximately Rs 7.20 lakh, ensuring that the initial cost of installation is recovered within one to two years. The government has also made provisions for consumers to finance

the remaining amount at a concessional interest rate of 7 per cent.

**Addressing the Politics of Free Electricity** In recent years, several political parties have leveraged the promise of free electricity as a means to gain political support. States like Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have implemented such schemes, offering free or subsidised electricity to a significant portion of their populations. In Delhi, for instance, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government provides up to 200 units of electricity for free and a 50 per cent subsidy for those consuming between 201 and 400 units. However, the cost of these schemes has placed a significant burden on state budgets. In Delhi, Rs

3,250 crore was allocated for electricity subsidies in the 2023-24 budget, out of a total budget of Rs 78,800 crore. Under AAP's rule, the capital expenditure growth rate has declined from 19.6 per cent during the previous Congress government's tenure to 9.2 per cent. Consequently, infrastructure development in Delhi has slowed, with fewer new projects being launched. The situation is similar in other states where free electricity has been promised. Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh are all grappling with mounting debts, making it increasingly difficult to sustain free electricity schemes. In some cases, states have had to scale back or abandon these initiatives due to financial constraints.



**A Viable Alternative** The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana offers a more sustainable solution. By encouraging households to generate their own electricity through rooftop solar panels, the scheme reduces the long-term burden on government finances. The total investment required by households under the scheme is Rs 1.5 lakh,

including the government subsidy. With one crore households expected to participate, this would result in an additional capacity of 30 GW of solar power, significantly boosting India's renewable energy output. Unlike traditional free electricity schemes, which are funded by annual government subsidies, the Surya Ghar Yojana provides long-term benefits without placing a strain on the budget. By generating their own electricity, households will no longer be dependent on yearly subsidies and will contribute to reducing the country's carbon footprint. This aligns with India's broader goals of increasing renewable energy production and achieving net-zero emissions.

**Economic and**

**Environmental Impact** The Surya Ghar Yojana has far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. First, it provides households with a reliable source of free electricity for 25 years, ensuring significant savings on energy bills. This also reduces the government's reliance on costly subsidies, freeing up funds for essential infrastructure development. Second, the scheme is expected to generate large-scale employment, with over one lakh people required to be trained to install and maintain solar panels. This will not only create new jobs but also develop a skilled workforce in the renewable energy sector. Third, by increasing solar energy production, the scheme will help India reduce its

dependence on fossil fuels, contributing to the country's efforts to combat climate change. Rooftop solar panels are an environmentally friendly alternative to coal-based power plants, and their widespread adoption will significantly reduce carbon emissions. By encouraging households to invest in solar energy, the scheme not only reduces the burden on state budgets but also contributes to India's renewable energy goals. The widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels has the potential to transform the energy landscape, providing households while helping India move closer to achieving its environmental objectives.

*(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi; views are personal)*



# FBI arrests Afghan man for planning Election Day attack in US

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The FBI has arrested an Afghan man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organisation and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the US, the Justice Department said on Tuesday. Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City told investigators after his arrest Monday that he had planned his attack to coincide with Election Day next month and that he and a co-conspirator expected to die as martyrs, according to charging documents. Tawhedi, who arrived in the US in

September 2021, had taken steps in recent weeks to advance his attack plans, including by ordering AK-47 rifles, liquidating his family's assets and buying one-way tickets for his wife and child to travel home to Afghanistan, officials said. The arrest comes as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over the possibility of extremist violence on US soil, with Director Christopher Wray telling The Associated Press in August that he was "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once". "Terrorism is still the FBI's number one priority, and we will use every resource to

protect the American people," Wray said in a statement on Tuesday. An FBI affidavit does not reveal precisely how Tawhedi came onto investigators' radar, but cites what it says is evidence from recent months showing his determination in planning an attack. A photograph from July included in the affidavit depicts a man investigators identified as Tawhedi reading to two young children, including his daughter, "a text that describes the rewards a martyr receives in the afterlife". Officials say Tawhedi also consumed Islamic State propaganda, contributed to a charity that functions as a front for the militant group and communicated with a

person who the FBI determined from a prior investigation was involved in recruitment and indoctrination of people interested in extremism. He also viewed webcams from the White House and the Washington Monument in July. Tawhedi's alleged co-conspirator was not identified by the Justice Department, which described him only as a juvenile, a fellow Afghan national and the brother of Tawhedi's wife. After the two advertised the sale of personal property on Facebook, the FBI enlisted an informant last month to respond to the offer and strike up a relationship. The informant later invited them

to a gun range, where they ordered weapons from an undercover FBI official who was posing as a business partner of the informant, according to court papers. Tawhedi was arrested Monday after taking possession of two AK-47 rifles and ammunition he had ordered, officials said. The unidentified co-conspirator was also arrested but the Justice Department did not provide details because he is a juvenile. After he was arrested, the Justice Department said, Tawhedi told investigators he had planned an attack for Election Day that would target large gatherings of people. Tawhedi was charged with conspiring and

attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State, which is designated by the US as a foreign terrorist organisation. The charge is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. He appeared in court Tuesday and was ordered detained. An email to an attorney listed as representing him did not immediately return an email seeking comment. It was not immediately clear if he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf. A for-sale sign stood in the yard outside a modest, two-story brick home listed as being connected to Tawhedi's family in the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore.

**केनरा बँक Canara Bank** **CANARA BANK JANAKPURI, BRANCH**

**DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]**

Ref: CB 19054/SARFAESI/ALBATROSS/2024/1 Date: 09.10.2024

To, 1. M/S ALBATROSS PARCEL EXPRESS PVT. LTD. (BORROWER) ADD:- 4B/33, 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR, TILAK NAGAR NEW DELHI-110018 2. Mr. TUSHAR GUPTA S/O KAILASH GUPTA (GUARANTOR) ADD:- J-21, GANGA RAM VATIKA TILAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 3. Mrs. MEENA GUPTA W/O KAILASH GUPTA (GUARANTOR) ADD:- H. NO. RL 26, FIRST FLOOR, GANGA RAM VATIKA TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI, DELHI-110018

Dear Sir / Madam,

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, JANAKPURI Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That M/S ALBATROSS PARCEL EXPRESS PVT. LTD. (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That Mr. TUSHAR GUPTA AND Mrs. MEENA GUPTA (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of **Rs. 2,40,50,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)** with interest thereon. You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, From June 2024 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs 87,27,930.53 (Rupees: Eighty Seven Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paise Fifty Three Only)**, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies have come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on **02.10.2024** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor **within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice**. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of **Interest as mentioned in Schedule C** per annum together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of **Rs 87,27,930.53 (Rupees: Eighty Seven Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paise Fifty Three Only)**, together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt.

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your 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.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

**SCHEDULE A**  
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Sl No	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1.	90541400000212	ODDB LIMIT	31.12.2022	1,48,00,000.00
2.	170002471050	GECL (EXTENSION)	30.11.2021	22,50,000.00
3.	90547830000136	SYND MORTGAGE	11.03.2016	25,00,000.00
4.	90549160000311	GECL	05.09.2020	45,00,000.00
		TOTAL		2,40,50,000.00

**SCHEDULE B**  
[Details of security assets]

**IMMOVABLES**

Sl No	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	NAME OF TITLE HOLDER	CERSAI DETAILS
1	All the part & parcel of the Residential Flat, Measuring 138.91 sq. mtr. Entire 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor (Without Roof Rights), Built on Property Bearing Plot No. 39, Block-B, Known As B-39, Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 Boundaries:- East:-9.00 Mtr. Wide West:-Property No. B-38 North:-Service lane South:-9.00 Mtr. Wide	Mrs. Meena Gupta W/O Mr. Kailash Gupta	Asset Id- 200013299074 Security Interest Id- 400013327106
2	All Part & parcel of the Property located at 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Flat (Duplex Floor), Flat No. RL26 Chaukhandi Village, Ganga Ram Vatika, Najafgarh Road, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 Measuring:- 125.42 sq mtrs Boundaries:- East:-Service Lane West:-Road/Park North:-Property No. RL-28 South:-Property No. RL-27	Mrs. Meena Gupta W/O Mr. Kailash Gupta	Asset Id- 200003667636 Security Interest Id- 100001713202

**MOVABLES**

Sl	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON DATE 02.10.2024	RATE OF INTEREST
1.	90541400000212	ODDB LIMIT	58,08,193.15	13.85% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
2.	170002471050	GECL (EXTENSION)	18,48,965.72	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
3.	90547830000136	SYND MORTGAGE	8,50,347.77	11.70% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
4.	90549160000311	GECL	2,20,423.89	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
		TOTAL	87,27,930.53	

**SCHEDULE C**  
[Details of security assets]

Sl	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON DATE 02.10.2024	RATE OF INTEREST
1.	90541400000212	ODDB LIMIT	58,08,193.15	13.85% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
2.	170002471050	GECL (EXTENSION)	18,48,965.72	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
3.	90547830000136	SYND MORTGAGE	8,50,347.77	11.70% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
4.	90549160000311	GECL	2,20,423.89	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
		TOTAL	87,27,930.53	

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
AUTHORIZED OFFICER

## Three share Nobel prize in chemistry

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for their breakthrough work predicting and designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life. Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure. "That was actually called a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in biochemistry, for decades. So, it's that breakthrough that gets awarded today," he said. Baker works at the University of Washington in Seattle, while Hassabis and Jumper both work at Google DeepMind in London. Baker designed a new protein in 2003 and his research group has since produced one imaginative protein creation after another, including proteins that can be used as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nanomaterials and tiny sensors, the Nobel committee said.

"The number of designs that they have, produced and published, and ... the variety is

absolutely mind blowing. It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein with this technology," said Professor Johan Åqvist of the Nobel committee. Hassabis and Jumper created an artificial intelligence model that has been able to predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added. Linke said scientists had long dreamt of predicting the three-dimensional structure of proteins. "Four years ago in 2020, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature," Linke said.

"Another dream of scientists has been to build new proteins to learn how to use nature's multi-tool for our own purposes. This is the problem that David Baker solved," he added. "He developed computational tools that now enable scientists to design spectacular new proteins with entirely novel shapes and functions, opening endless possibilities for the greatest benefit to humankind."

## UK auction house withdraws sale of 'Naga Human Skull' amid outcry

PTI ■ LONDON

A UK auction house has withdrawn a 'Naga Human Skull' from its lots for a live online sale on Wednesday following outcry in India over the issue.

The Swan auction house at Tetsworth in Oxfordshire had a series of skulls and other remains originating from around the world as part of 'The Curious Collector Sale, Antiquarian Books, Manuscripts & Paintings.' The '19th Century Horned Naga Human Skull, Naga Tribe' was slated as Lot No. 64 and resulted in protests in Nagaland, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Riu who sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to stop the hurtful sale. "The news of the proposed auction of Naga human remains in the UK has been received by all sections in a negative manner as it is a highly emotional and sacred issue for our people. It has been a traditional custom of our people to give the highest respect and honour for

the remains of the demised," said Riu in his letter. He urged the minister to take up the matter with the High Commission of India in London so that steps are taken to ensure that the auction of the skull can be stopped after the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) raised concerns over the matter. "This piece would be of particular interest to collectors with a focus on anthropology and tribal cultures," reads the description of the auction lot, listed for an opening bid of GBP 2,100 (Rs 23 lakh approximately) with the auctioneer's estimate expecting it to fetch as much as GBP 4,000 (Rs 43 lakh approximately). Its provenance is traced back to the collection of 19th century Belgian architect Francois Coppens. The FNR asserted that the auction of the human remains contravenes Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which says: "Indigenous Peoples

have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information." FNR then contacted the auction house directly to condemn the sale and to call for the object to be repatriated to Nagaland. The organisation is one of many indigenous groups from across the world that is currently in dialogue with the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford about artefacts held in the museum's collection. Laura Van Broekhoven, director of the museum, told the BBC she was "outraged" at some of these items going up for auction. "The fact these objects were taken is really painful, and the fact that they were being put on sale is really disrespectful and inconsiderate," said Broekhoven. "We're conscious that the remains would have been collected in the 19th and 20th centuries, but for them to be on sale in 2024 was quite shocking," she said.



(From left to right) Myanmar's Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippines' President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Laos' President Thongloun Sisolouth, Laos' Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Indonesian Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, and East Timorese Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao hold hands during the opening ceremony of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Wednesday. AP/PTI

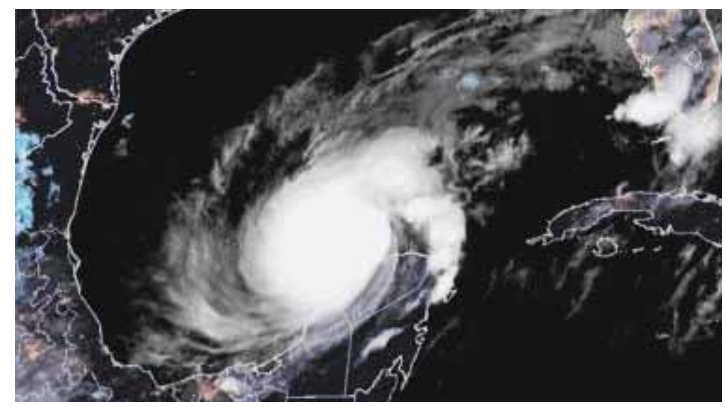
## Time to evacuate is running out as hurricane closes in on Florida

AP ■ TAMPA (US)

Hurricane Milton churned Wednesday toward a potentially catastrophic collision along the west coast of Florida, where some residents insisted they would stay after millions were ordered to evacuate and officials warned that strangers would face grim odds of surviving.

The Tampa Bay area, home to more than 3.3 million people, faced the possibility of widespread destruction after avoiding direct hits from major hurricanes for more than a century. The National Hurricane Center predicted Milton, a Category 5 hurricane during much of its approach, would likely weaken but remain a major hurricane when it makes landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday. "Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for west-central Florida," the center warned.

Milton was centered about 485 kilometers southwest of Tampa early Wednesday with maximum sustained winds of 260 kph, the hurricane center reported. It was moving northeast at 22 kph early Wednesday and was expected to continue moving in that direction with an increase in its forward speed through Wednesday night, with landfall expected late Wednesday or early Thursday morning. It was expected to turn toward the east-northeast and east on Thursday and Friday. Heavy rain was beginning to spread across parts of southwestern and west-central Florida ahead of Milton early Wednesday, and weather conditions were expected to deteriorate across parts of the Florida Gulf Coast throughout the day, the center said. Six to 12 inches of rain, with localized totals up to 18 inches, were expected across central to



northern portions of Florida through Thursday, bringing the risk of catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding, and moderate to major river flooding. Several tornadoes were likely Wednesday across parts of central and southern Florida. Forecasters predicted the storm will retain hurricane strength as it crosses central Florida on Thursday on a path east toward the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane's precise track remained uncertain, as forecasters Tuesday evening nudged its projected path slightly south of Tampa. Thousands of fleeing cars clogged Florida's highways ahead of the storm, but time for evacuations was running out Wednesday. Tampa Mayor Jane Castor noted that up to 15 feet of storm surge forecast for her city would be deep enough to swallow an entire house. "So if you're in it, basically that's the coffin that you're in," Castor said. Milton targets communities still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida along its devastating march that left at least 230 dead across the South. In the bayside town of Punta Gorda, about 160 kilometers south of

Tampa, streets were still filled Tuesday with 5-foot piles of soggy furniture, clothing, books, appliances and other trash dragged from damaged homes. Many homes sat vacant, but accountant and art collector Scott Joiner remained on the second floor of the New Orleans-style home he built 17 years ago. Joiner said bull sharks swam in the flooded streets and a neighbor had to be rescued by canoe when Helene passed and flooded the first floor of his home. "Water is a blessing to have," Joiner said, "but it is very deadly." Joiner said he planned to go another round and ride out Milton, despite the risk. Authorities have issued mandatory evacuation orders across 11 Florida counties with a combined population of about 5.9 million people, according to US Census Bureau estimates. Officials have warned that anyone staying behind must fend for themselves, as first responders are not expected to risk their lives attempting rescues at the height of the storm. In Riverview, south of Tampa, several drivers waiting in a long line for fuel Tuesday said they had no plans to evacuate.



North Korea vows to block border with South, build defence structures

North Korea said Wednesday it will permanently block its border with South Korea and build frontline defence structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and US forces...

Korea. It said that "the hostile forces are getting ever more reckless in their confrontational hysteria." It cited what it called various war exercises in South Korea, the deployment of US strategic assets and its rivals' harsh rhetoric.

ing ties on the northern side of cross-border railways and near-by lamps and planting mines along the border. KCNA earlier Wednesday said the Supreme People's Assembly met for two days this week to amend the legal ages of North Koreans for working and participating in elections.

might have delayed the constitutional revision but others speculated it amended the constitution without announcing it because of its sensitivity. Kim's order stunned many North Korea watchers because it was seen as breaking away with his predecessors' long-cherished dreams of achieving a unified Korea on the North's terms.

Ishiba dissolves Japan's lower house

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba dissolved Japan's lower house of parliament Wednesday to set up an October 27 early election and seek the voters' mandate for his 9-day-old government. Ishiba took office last week as Fumio Kishida resigned after three years leading the governing Liberal Democratic Party as it was dogged by corruption scandals.

push the governing party out of power. Ishiba announced his plans for an election even before he won the party leadership vote and became prime minister. His Cabinet planned later Wednesday to formally announce the election date and the start of campaigning next Tuesday.

squally in order to win the people's endorsement for the current administration," Ishiba told reporters. "Even while the lower house is dissolved the Japanese government must fully function" in tackling national security, disaster response and deflation, he said.

parties are too fractured to topple the governing party's almost uninterrupted postwar rule, 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.

US plans to end Google monopoly

The US Department of Justice is considering asking a federal judge to force Google to sell parts of its business in order to eliminate its online search monopoly. In a late court filing on Tuesday, federal prosecutors also said the judge could ask the court to open the underlying data Google uses

to power its ubiquitous search engine and artificial intelligence products to competitors. "For more than a decade, Google has controlled the most popular distribution channels, leaving rivals with little-to-no incentive to

compete for users," the antitrust enforcers wrote in the filing. "Fully remedying these harms requires not only ending Google's control of distribution today, but also ensuring Google cannot control the distribution of tomorrow."

To that end, the department said it is considering asking for structural changes to stop Google from leveraging products such as its Chrome browser, Android operating system, AI products or app store to benefit its search business.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EM/PEP-29/2024. Name of the Work: Replacement of piping, structure of Tower Monitors and replacement of silencer pipe of Diesel Pumps & DG set at North Oil Jetty.

CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL. Tender No. DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-32-24-25 Dated: 08-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: At Maligaon (HQ) Construction of PCEE Conference Hall at Ground floor of West Block.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME. I, Rakhi, w/o Dinesh Kumar, R/o B-102, Street No. 10, Shashi Garden, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091, solemnly affirm and declare that 'Rakhi Arora' and 'Rakhi' is one and the same person.

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION. E-Tender No.: SNT-03-LMG-2024-25-RT; Dated: 07-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of work: Reliability improvement by means of Repair, Replacement and Restoration of Electronic Interlocking system of 04 stations (Sighat Town, Dhanisri Jn., Shokhukh & Chongajan) under the jurisdiction of Sr. DSTE/Lumding.

PUBLIC NOTICE. Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Rajnesha claiming to be owner of Property bearing No. 215-A, area measuring 270 sq.yds. out of Khasra No. 128/152, situated in the area of Village: Nangoi, in the abadi of Near Post office, Nangoi, Ilaqa Shahdara, Dohli State Dehra, vide G.P.A. ATIS & Will dated 18.07.1988 executed by Mr. Lal Singh. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who wants to obtain a loan from our client against the said property.

VACANCY. Various Posts of Teaching, KVK Scientists & Supporting staff through direct recruitment are advertised. For details please visit University Website i.e. www.uuhf.ac.in Registrar

E-AUCTION FOR SARUPATHAR PF-2 SIDE PARKING CONTRACT OVER LUMDING DIVISION. Auction Catalogue No. PARK-LMG-SZR-03. Seq No. Lot No./Category Description. AA1 Parking-LMG-SZR-MX-32-24-2 (Parking-Mixed) Parking Lot for Two Wheelers and Four Wheelers at location SARUPATHAR PF 2 SIDE in Lumding Division.

PPGGL. Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Plant Address: PO-Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107. Phone: +91-120-6102000/6102009. CN: U40101UP2007PLC032835.

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST. Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible bidders for Project of Supply, Installation and Commissioning of continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAQMS) of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Short Notice Inviting re-tender. No. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/276 Dated 8th October, 2024. The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam re-invites bids for "Supply & installation of chairs for conference hall & Vidya Samiksha Kendra at State Mission Office, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19", from authorized dealers of reputed furniture brand.

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM. Stores Tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 dt. 17.09.2024 at S.No. 01. Sub:- Supply of Metal Cutting Gas. Ref:- Tender No. 14240839 Due on 09.10.2024 published vide tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 at S.No. 01. The following Amendment is issued against the subject tender Due date to be read as 18.10.2024 instead of 09.10.2024.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/CT(FM) 10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and Parcel Vans (on round trip basis) for a period of two years as per detail and schedule given below:-

Table with columns: S. No., Date & time of e-Auction, Assets to be auctioned. Includes items like 12005 (F1), 12038 (F1), 12055 (F1), 12057 (F1), 12148 (R1), 12212 (F1), 12418 (F1), 12481 (F1, F2 & R1), 12630 (F1), 12780 (F1), 14006 (F1), 14714 (F1), 22421 (F2 & R1), 22995 (F1).

PUBLIC NOTICE. My client Sh. Jatin Chauhan S/o Sh. Manish Chauhan owner of a Residential Two Storey House, area measuring 200 sq. yds. i.e. 167.22 sq. mtr. out of plot no. 235, situated in Village Chhargrahi Banger Bangra Dabri, Tehsil & District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, U.P. Through Registered Gift Deed Dated 25.10.2023 executed by Smt. Geeta Chauhan W/o Sh. Manish Chauhan in favour of Sh. Jatin Chauhan S/o Sh. Manish Chauhan vide Reg. No. 27937 at Sr. Greater Noida U.P. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notify to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karandooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karandooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811218181.

REPAIR OF CLS PANEL OF DIFFERENT MAKE & CAPACITIES. E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/14\_2024/K/808; dated: 07-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. 14\_2024; Name of work: Repair of CLS Panel of different make & capacities at different locations over Kathiar Division. Tender Value: ₹ 40,788.00; Earnest Money: ₹ 16,900.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 30-10-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs on 30-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs on 30-10-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in. Sr. DEE/G & Chg./Kathiar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT. Tender Notice No.: S/22/2024-25; Dated: 08-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:- SN. 1; Tender No. 60/23/5049A/OT/178/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 14-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1) Combined Airless Centrifugal Shot Blasting and Shot Peening Plant for coil spring and laminated spring coil. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-654401390010.

SN. 2; Tender No. 30/24/1329/OT/179/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 15-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Set for control arm for LHB goods consisting of (1) Control Arm Lower Left, Drg. no. FIAT 1267716 ver 00R2 or latest. (2) Control arm upper to FIAT Drg No. 1277122 Ver-01R3 or latest Mat Spec:- 17.334 100 06/107/01, Amnd.01, MDS-166 Rev-02, IS-1865-91 SG 400/18L. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. (i) Qty- 140 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR, (Assam). [Item Qty: 60 Nos for Pandu, GSD, NFR (Assam) (iii) Qty: 1632 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (iv) Qty: 20 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). (v) Qty: 13 Nos for Kathiar GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.-33500137.

SN. 3; Tender No. 60/24/5059/OT/180/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 16-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1) Electric Driven Screw Air Compressor (500cfm) 10 Kg/cm2. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-650500072377. (2) Cost of Comprehensive AMC for five years after the warranty as per clause 17. [Warranty Period: 2 years, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10%, Start after year:2] [Inspection Agency: CONSG Stage insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: AMC]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050014. (3) Cost of concomitant accessories according to tender specifications. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050007. (4) Cost of any other accessory which in the opinion of supplier is essentially required for making the machine fully functional. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050008. (5) Cost of turnkey charges viz. foundation, installation & commissioning etc. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Service]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P/L No.- 65050009. (6) Cost of Preventive Maintenance during 1st and 2nd year of warranty period. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Service]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050010. (7) The power consumption cost for 4400 hrs. of operation (Considering 2200 hrs./year i.e. for 2 years at full rated capacity as per clause 2.2. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Service]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam). (8) Optional accessories with break up of individual items as specified in clause 4.3 of Section-IV. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 6505012.

SN. 4; Tender No. 61/24/5326/OT/181/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 17-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 1-in-12 BG 60 KG Weldable CMS Crossing (WCMS) on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSOs standard drawing No. T-64132 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber sole plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6204 to RDSO/T-6211, RDSO/T-6843 to RDSO/T-6846), excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E.R Clips, insulating liner etc. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 1]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 190 Set for SSE/P. Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.- 60060270.

SN. 5; Tender No. 61/23/5285A/OT/182/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 17-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Wide Base curve sleepers RT- 8979 to RT - 8982 (T-8621 to T-8624 ). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, I Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1328 Nos for SSE/P. Way/SOUTH/Kathiar, NFR (Bihar). P.L. No.- 60060517.

SN. 6; Tender No. 61/24/5310/OT/183/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 17-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: "Manufacture & Supply of PSC Mono-Block Concrete Sleeper for 1 in 12 Turn Out ( Pre-Tension Type) for BG (1673 mm) FOR Works Station Works Siding as per RDSO Drawing No. T/4218 Alt.8 (for General Layout) and part drawing there of to suit 60 Kg UIC Rail (Fan Shaped) & IRS Specification No. T-45.96 (4th revision March '21) duly amended in accordance with the recommendations made by Track Standard Committee as amended from time to time." [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 4 Set for SSE/P.Way/Buniadpur, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No.- 600501100101.

SN. 7; Tender No. 61/24/5287A/OT/184/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 18-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1 in 8.5 WCMS) 1-in-8 1/2 BG 60 Kg Weldable CMS Crossing on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSOs standard drawing No. T-6441 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber sole plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6203, RDSO/T-6800, 6800/1, 6801, 6801/1), excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E.R. Clips, insulating liner etc. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 1]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 145 Set for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.- 60060281.

SN. 8; Tender No. 61/24/5225/OT/185/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 18-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: T/O 1 IN 1660 KG, RDSO DRG. NO. T-5691.(Fabricated switches [ Description -11200mm O/R(Curved) Fan shaped Switch for 1 in 16 T/O for BG 60 KG (UIC) on PSC Sleepers to RDSO DRG. No. T/5692 Alt.03 as per IRS Specification IRS-T-10-2023 complete with stock rails, tongue rails and all parts with fittings including check rails as listed in the RSDO drawing but excluding Liner, Elastic rail Clip, Fish Plate & Fish Bolts, & PSC Sleeper.] and CMS Xing body [ Description - CMS Crossing 1 in 16 BG for 60 Kg Rails on PSC Sleepers as per RDSO Drg.No. T/5693 (Alt.02) complete with fittings as per specification No. IRS T-29 (Revised 2022). List of fittings to be supplied with is enclosed as Annexure-A.] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty-6 Set for Sr. Section Engineer/P.Way/New Halflong, NFR (Assam). 2) Qty- 7 Set for SSE/P.Way/Hill/Lumding, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 60220077.

SN. 9; Tender No. 61/24/5343/OT/186/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 21-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 60 KG 1 IN 12 SLEEPERS T-4218 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1) 35 Set for Sr. DEN/C/Kathiar, NFR (Bihar). 2) Qty- 78 Set for DRM/W/Alipurduar Jn., NFR (West Bengal). 3) Qty- 19 Set for DRM/W/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 600301340013.

SN. 10; Tender No. 30/24/1281/OT/187/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 21-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Safety Wire Rope Assembly, LHB to Drg. No. LW05105 Alt-Nil Mat. Spec.-As per Drawing. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty- 4483 Nos for Dibrugarh town/ Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). 2) Qty- 226 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam). 3) Qty- 6845 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). 4) Qty- 44 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal). 5) Qty- 88 Nos for Kathiar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 33500277.

SN. 11; Tender No. 61/24/5381/OT/188/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 23-10-2024. Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Manufacture & Supply of Pre-stressed Mono-Block Concrete Sleeper for 1 in 12 Turn Out ( Pre-Tension Type) for BG (1673 mm) FOR Works Station/Works Siding as per RDSO Drawing No. T/4218 Alt.8 (for General Layout) and part drawing thereof to suit 60 Kg UIC Rail (Fan Shaped) & IRS Specification No. T-45 (4th Revision March '21) duly amended in accordance with the recommendations made by Track Standard Committee as amended from time to time [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 24 Set for SSE/P.Way/East/Kathiar, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 600400410017.

NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders. PCMM/ Maligaon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile"



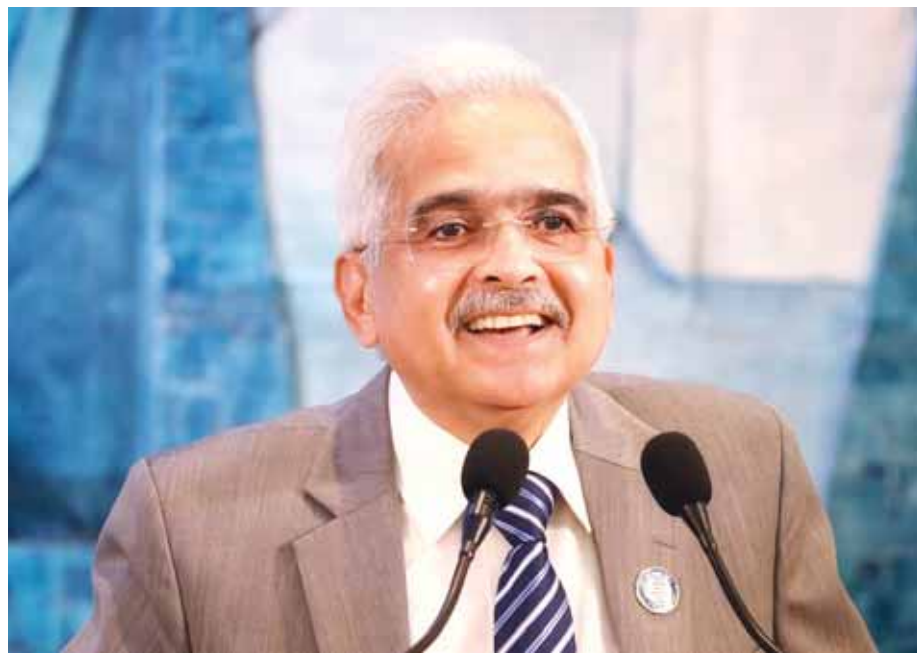
# Not appropriate to speak on rate cut now: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the confidence in inflation cooling down in the near future, resulting in a better balance between growth and price rise, led the central bank to change the policy stance to neutral.

He, however, made it clear that there are "significant risks" to inflation like the ones arising out of geopolitical tensions, and it is "not appropriate" to talk about a rate cut for now. On whether the change in stance to 'neutral' from earlier 'withdrawal of accommodation' should be seen as the RBI's pivoting, he said that it is for others to assess.

"We have changed the stance at the moment because we see that growth and inflation, they are well poised, the balance is well poised. So, the MPC (monetary policy committee) considered it appropriate, the timing is appropriate to shift the stance to neutral," he told reporters at the customary post-policy review. "We have now greater



confidence that inflation is moderating, but we are acutely aware that there are significant risks," he said, adding that the change in stance gives greater flexibility and optionality to the rate-setting panel to manoeuvre in the future on rates. Earlier in the day, the RBI

held its interest rates for the tenth consecutive time but changed the stance, igniting hopes of a decrease in rates. There was "no point" and "justification" in continuing with the earlier, as the RBI has achieved what it wanted to, Das said, adding that the future is full of

"uncertainties". "These uncertainties and the risks cannot be underestimated. It will not be appropriate to specifically sort of talk in terms of timing of a rate cut," he said. Using the horse bolting out

from the stable analogy deployed earlier to illustrate the inflation fight, Das said the RBI needs to be "very careful" about opening the gate of the stable.

When asked if we should look forward to a rate cut at the next policy review in December or even earlier, Deputy Governor Michael Patra said the whole attention is focused on the near-term hump in inflation, wherein the RBI expects the October number to come at over 5 per cent.

The RBI will focus on the near-term hump on the inflation before even thinking of the "next move", Patra said. The central bank has decreased its estimate on crude oil prices to USD 80 per barrel from USD 85 per barrel earlier because of the softer medium-term outlook on the commodity.

The DG said the oil-producing countries have committed to continue with supply at higher levels into 2025, expectations of lower demand made by the International Energy Agency and growing reliance on renewable energy sources.

# Sensex, Nifty declines as RBI changes stance to neutral

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to settle lower on Wednesday due to late selling in index major Reliance Industries, ITC and HDFC Bank even as the RBI took its first step towards a rate cut in its monetary policy review.

Erasing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 167.71 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 81,467.1. During the day, it surged 684.4 points or 0.83 per cent to hit an intraday high of 82,319.21.

The NSE Nifty dropped 31.20 points or 0.12 per cent to end at 24,981.95. In the intraday trade, it jumped 220.9 points or 0.88 per cent to hit a hit of 25,234.05.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'.

The monetary policy committee, which included three RBI officials and an equal number of new external members, voted five-to-one to keep the benchmark repurchase or repo rate - which governs the interest rate of home, auto, corporate and other loans - at 6.5 per cent for a 10th straight policy meeting.



Among the 30 Sensex companies, ITC, Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

On the contrary, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers.

European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. "An upward revision in Q3FY25 inflation reiterates that the sticky inflation continues to remain a concern for the RBI and led investors to book profit towards the close. The volatility in input prices and the impact on margin dragged the FMCG stocks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. The change in RBI's stance to neutral was favourable and

expected, but the commentary is not pointing for a rate cut in the near term, Nair added.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,729.60 crore on Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,000.68 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Seoul settled in negative territory while Tokyo quoted in the positive territory. Global oil benchmark Brent Crude climbed 0.87 per cent to USD 77.85 a barrel in futures trade.

US markets ended with gains in overnight deals on Tuesday. On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 584.81 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 81,634.81. The NSE Nifty jumped 217.40 points or 0.88 per cent to finish at 25,013.15.

# New PLI scheme for drones to boost industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government plans to come out with a new Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the drones sector that will be more effective in terms of implementation, documentation and other aspects.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlung Vualnam on Wednesday said the government is looking at moving to the next PLI scheme for the drones sector. The first PLI scheme for drones, introduced in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 120 crore for three financial years starting from 2021-22, has ended.

While acknowledging that some procedures under the first scheme were onerous on startups and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the drone sector, the civil aviation secretary said the government will look at a more efficient PLI scheme in terms of implementation, documentation and the processes that are adopted. According to Vualnam, the drone sector has to be segregated into three segments those for civilian use, security/defence forces use, and the



rogue or unregulated use of drones. "We have to be very clear about how we approach the three areas," he said and highlighted that certain incidents of rogue use of drones could become impediments when youngsters, startups and women self-help groups are to use more drones. "We have to be cognisant of that Counter drone technologies are being developed," he said, while speaking at a conference organised by industry body Ficci. In a discussion paper, Ficci

suggested that the government should bring counter drone systems and components under the next phase of the PLI scheme. The outlay under the new scheme should be increased to Rs 1,000 crore to support startups and new entrants to develop drones with more indigenous components and sub-systems. The civil aviation secretary also said tenders are ready for procuring 3,000 more drones under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. The scheme seeks to provide agricultural drones to rural women and 15,000 drones will

be given to women-led self-help groups. The first set of 1,000 drones have been acquired and distributed. The tenders for 3,000 drones under the scheme are ready and will be issued by the agencies concerned soon, Vualnam said. Additional Director General at the Army Design Bureau Major General C S Mann stressed on the importance of indigenisation. "We need to have truthfulness in the claims of indigenous capabilities. Only then will we be able to address the challenges.



# Mercedes-Benz India sees record sales growth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German luxury car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz on Wednesday said its car sales in India grew over 13 per cent year-on-year to 14,379 units in the first nine months of 2024, registering the best-ever performance in January-September period. The company further said the September quarter delivered over 21 per cent more cars at 5,117 units, in comparison to the corresponding quarter of the last year. "With 14,379 new Mercedes-Benz delivered year-to-date in

January-September (+13 per cent) including 5,117 units (+21 per cent) in Q3 '24 alone; Mercedes-Benz continues to buck the industry trend," the company said in a statement. Mercedes-Benz India said the battery electric vehicle (BEV) sales logged 84 per cent growth at 800 cars in the January-April period of the year, over the same period of 2023, which was the highest than any other luxury brand in the domestic market. At the same time, the top-end vehicles grew by 18 per cent, it stated.

# Karnataka CM offers IT growth support to Maldives



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday offered to facilitate the growth of the information technology industry in Maldives, and expressed keenness to promote the state's handicraft and handloom products to tourists visiting the island nation.

Addressing a delegation led by Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who was accompanied by his wife Sajidha Mohamed, at Raj Bhavan here, he said Karnataka, known as the Silicon Valley of India, has developed an ecosystem for start-ups. Artificial Intelligence, global capacity building centres and innovation. "I am given to understand that the government of Maldives is interested in having partnerships with the leading IT industry of

Bengaluru," he said. "We will be very happy to facilitate the growth of the IT industry in Maldives," he said.

Siddaramaiah said he was pleased to note that Sajidha Mohamed was a student in Bengaluru.

He said the State would be happy to have trade ties with Maldives to promote the marketing of its handicrafts and handlooms to reach out to a large number of tourists visiting the island nation. Karnataka, the Chief Minister said, is known for its diversity of nature, culture and rich heritage.

Siddaramaiah noted that the state's tourism tagline is: "One State, Many Worlds". "Apart from almost 300 km of coastline, we have the world's second largest 'Shola Forest' hosting Tiger and Bird Sanctuaries. We look forward to a partnership with Maldives to promote educational and cultural exchange," he added.

# RBI enhances UPI Lite wallet limit to ₹ 5,000

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday announced the increase of the UPI Lite wallet limit to Rs 5,000 and per-transaction limit to Rs 1,000, in order to encourage wider adoption of the popular instant payment system through mobile phones. A limit of Rs 500 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 per UPI Lite wallet, is presently applicable, with the facility of auto-replenishment. Unveiling the October bi-

monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das also said the per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay will be enhanced to Rs 10,000 from the current Rs 5,000. UPI123 was launched in March 2022, with a view to enable feature-phone users to use UPI. This facility is now available in 12 languages. In another customer-friendly initiative, Das announced a beneficiary account name look-up facility for Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and National

Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems will be introduced. Payment Systems like UPI and IMPS provide a facility to the remitter to verify the name of the receiver (beneficiary) before initiating a payment transaction. There have been requests to introduce such a facility for RTGS and NEFT systems, the Governor said. "Accordingly, to enable remitters in RTGS and NEFT to verify the name of the beneficiary account holder before initiating funds

transfer, it is now proposed to introduce a beneficiary account name look-up facility," he said. Remitters can input the account number and the branch IFSC code of the beneficiary, following which the name of the beneficiary will be displayed. This facility will increase customer confidence as it would reduce the possibility of wrong credits and frauds, Das said. The Central bank will also create Reserve Bank Climate Risk Information System (RB-

CRIS) amid climate change emerging as one of the significant risks to the financial system. Das said it is crucial for regulated entities to undertake climate risk assessments for ensuring stability of their balance sheets and that of the financial system. Such an assessment requires, among other things, high quality data relating to local climate scenarios, climate forecasts, and emissions, he said. The available climate-related data is characterised by

various gaps such as fragmented and varied sources, differing formats, frequencies and units. To bridge these gaps, Das said the Reserve Bank proposes to create a data repository RB-CRIS comprising two parts. The first part will be a web-based directory, listing various data sources, (meteorological, geospatial, etc.) which will be publicly accessible in the RBI website. The second part will be a data portal consisting of datasets (processed data in standardised formats).

# Tata Power-DDL urges citizens for safe festivities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) has urged citizens of Delhi to refrain from burning effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna, and Meghanada near electrical installations and overhead power lines during Dussehra celebrations. The company highlights that such activities pose serious safety risks, including potential fire hazards, power outages, and disruptions to essential services, which could cause widespread inconvenience. The discom is conducting a comprehensive safety drive for its consumers and field staff to minimize the risk of electricity-related mishaps during the festive season. Tata Power-DDL is continuously working towards ensuring a safer festive season. In this quest, the discom has checked more than 2.28 Lakh installations including plain cement and concrete (PCC) poles, street light, stray wires, towers, rail poles, fencing of sub stations, feeder & service pillars, PWD Poles, MCD Poles, ATMs and lights installed in parks for any unsafe situation/hazard & rectifications thereof.

# Deepaknath appointed DDG of BAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deepaknath PJ on Wednesday has been appointed as the Deputy Director General of the Brewers Association of India (BAI), the apex body of the beer industry representing India's largest beer makers such as the AB InBev, Carlsberg, and the United Breweries (a Heineken company). Deepaknath would be based out of Bengaluru and would drive public policy advocacy for the beer industry in the South and West regions of India, besides co-ordinating some pre-designated pan-India initiatives. He has a strong background in beer and public policy advocacy. "With his vast experience in beer, public policy advocacy, and a deep understanding of the regulatory policy on both beer and spirits, I am sure he would add great value to the BAI and play a key role in shaping up public discourse and regulatory policy towards beer, a more responsible and sustainable alcoholic beverage choice," said Mr Vinod Giri, DG, BAI.

## INBRIEF

### NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE 2024 CONCLUDES

GURGAON: The NASA Space Apps Challenge 2024, a 48-hour hackathon, was successfully conducted on the 5th and 6th of October at the Innovation Incubation Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC), 2nd floor of CB, VIT AP University, Amaravati.



### VIT CHANCELLOR CALLS ON SHRI NARA LOKESH

Dr. G. Viswanathan - Hon'ble Chancellor along with Shri Sankar Viswanathan - Vice President, VIT University called on Shri Nara Lokesh - Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications and HRD of AP to greet him. Dr.S.V.Kota Reddy - Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP University was also present on the occasion.



# Flyzy to invest ₹ 10 crore in new product

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flyzy on Wednesday announced an investment of INR 10 crore in tryvisa, their new product. This platform streamlines online visa applications. Flyzy has already disrupted the traditional B2B travel industry. With this investment, the brand is expanding in the B2C space and aims to make this product into India's largest 'Made in India' visa solutions provider, at par with global standards. At present, the visa



international players or small scale companies. Tryvisa is a unique, Made in India product which will be a game changer in Indian travel-tech. With this investment, Flyzy will provide a dedicated visa support team for documentation ensuring that the tryvisa users have a hassle free experience. It will offer the best in class customer support, a service, Flyzy is renowned for. With the launch of this new product, Flyzy is forecasted to disrupt the travel-tech sector.



# US Ryder Cup captain Bradley says security will be watching

AP ■ NEW YORK

US Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley has offered a warning about Bethpage Black that does not need a special sign by the first tee: Organisers will have security inside the ropes to make sure the New York crowd doesn't get out of control. Bradley and European captain Luke Donald met in Manhattan for a news conference on Tuesday signally (roughly) a year out from the September 26-28 matches at Bethpage Black, the public course on Long Island with a reputation for rough crowds. "I have total faith in the fans of New York to cheer on their team, proudly and loudly," Bradley said. "I don't want them to cross the line, to do anything that would affect the course of play. But it's going to be a tough atmosphere. It's going to be tough for both teams." Bradley said there would be security "monitoring the situation." "It's really important to us - the US side - that it's a fair place to play for both teams," he said. "Nobody on either team wants this to get uncomfortable or weird out there. But listen, you come into Yankee Stadium, you come into Madison Square Garden, you come into these places, it's a tough place to play, and Luke and the boys know that.

"The PGA of America is going to do a great job making sure everything's right." Bethpage State Park has a sign on the first tee that says, "Warning: The Black course is an extremely difficult course which we recommend only for highly skilled golfers." The skill level won't be an issue. Bradley said he is keeping the same criteria for the American team - six qualifiers through the points list, six captain's picks - and he and Donald said they wouldn't hesitate to take players from Saudi-backed LIV Golf if they are eligible. The crowd is as notorious as the difficulty of Bethpage Black, the first truly public golf course (excluding high-end resorts) to host the Ryder Cup. It previously held the US Open in 2002 and 2009, and the PGA Championship in 2019, when Brooks Koepka heard it from the crowd as he was letting a big lead slip away before holding on to win. Sergio Garcia was heckled so badly in the 2002 US Open, when he was constantly regripping the club, that the Spaniard answered with the middle finger. And now there are American and European flags involved at the most patriotic event in golf. It's tough on the opposing team regardless of which side of the Atlantic Ocean the matches are played, but American crowds



stand out. Europe at least will have fans, unlike the last time on US soil at Whistling Straits when the COVID-19 pandemic made it almost an entirely US fan base. "The Ryder Cup is special because it is spirited. Passions are high.

Energy is high," Donald said. "You want to see that amongst the players. You certainly don't want to see the spirit of the Ryder Cup endangered in any way. "But again, the PGA of America have things in place. If there's outbursts or if there's anything

deemed inappropriate, they will deal with that." Bradley, who won the BMW Championship in August and delivered the winning point for the Americans in the Presidents Cup last month, has said he would give up his captaincy to play the Ryder

Cup team only if he made the team on points. That's so far out that he said it's not on his mind, though he would have assistant captains in place to take over if that's how it plays out. Koepka was the only LIV player on the American team that lost last

year at Marco Simone outside Rome. Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton had not yet defected to LIV. Donald said those two, or any other European-born player with LIV, could be considered as long as they met rules for being a European tour member. As for the US points system, it rewards 1 point for every dollar earned at majors and The Players Championship in 2024, and 1 point on the dollar for every tournament in 2025 (except opposite-field events), and 1.5 points on the dollar at the 2025 majors. Xander Schauffele, a double major winner this year, has a narrow lead over Scottie Scheffler, who won the Masters and The Players Championship. Schauffele performed better in the other two majors he didn't win. Europe has won 10 of the last 14 times dating to 1995, though winning on the road is becoming more difficult ever since Paul Azinger persuaded the PGA of America to change its qualifying system to be based off money when he was the winning captain in 2008. Europe's last road win was in 2012 at Medinah, when it staged a stunning rally. "The last few times we've played away, the results have been one-sided towards the US," Donald said.



## PBG Alaskan Knights one win away from GCL final

PTI ■ LONDON

On board one, Magnus Carlsen was left reeling after a blunder in a combination allowed Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to claim victory. Visibly upset, Carlsen stormed out of the venue. The Mumba Masters capitalised on this momentum to secure a dominant 14-5 win and deliver a major blow to the Pipers' chances of closing in on the league's leaders. In the second match of the day, the winners of season one, Triveni Continental Kings were defeated by American Gambits 14-5. The match saw Alireza Firouzja lose the first game in the tournament - blundering in an even rook endgame against the world No 2 Hikaru Nakamura. The day closed with the Knights confidently defeating Ganges Grandmasters 15-4. Playing as Black, the Knights started with a defeat but quickly took control of the match, winning on three boards.

PBG Alaskan Knights were placed at the top spot with 18 match points and a win away from securing their place in the final of the Global Chess League (GCL) here. The Knights have so far registered six victories in seven matches and are six points ahead of Triveni and Alpine SG Pipers. With three matches left before the knockout stage, the Knights are in the pole position to seal a spot in the final. Despite their comfortable standing, the Knights' Anish Giri, on top board, was cautious about his team's position. "It's not done yet, we still need to get to the final and win. But so far it's going well and I'm happy with everything, that's for sure," he said. In a stunning upset earlier on Tuesday, the Mumba Masters defeated the favourites Alpine SG Pipers.

## Nepal's Nima Rinji Sherpa becomes youngest to scale 14 tallest peaks

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's 18-year-old Nima Rinji Sherpa has become the youngest climber ever to scale each of the 14 tallest mountains (over 8,000 meters) in the world with his successful summit of Mt Shishapangma in China. Nima and his partner Pasang Nurbu Sherpa reached the summit of the Shishapangma, which stands at 8,027 meters above sea level, shortly after 6:00am (China Standard Time), which is 3:30am in IST, on Wednesday, the youngest announced on his Instagram page. "Today, as I stand atop my 14th 8000-meter peak, I dedicate this world record to my project, #SherpaPower," he posted. "This summit is not just the culmination of my personal journey, but a tribute to every Sherpa who has ever dared to dream beyond the

traditional boundaries set for us. Mountaineering is more than labor; it is a testament to our strength, resilience, and passion. Nima said he wants to show the younger generation of Sherpas that they can rise above the "stereotype of being only support climbers." "We are not just guides; we are trailblazers. Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, the power in our heritage, and the limitless possibilities in our future," he said. Hailing from a family of mountaineers, Nima began his quest to scale each of the 14 tallest peaks in the world at the age of 16 and 162 days when he reached the top of Mt Manaslu (8163m) in September 2022. It was his passion for photography of the mountains that brought Nima into climbing but it soon turned out to be a passion for him to tell the



story of the Sherpa community. "Slowly, I realised, the Sherpas, my community, we have always been in the shadows and all the international athletes that you see, no one is from Sherpa community (in the front), but we are always the ones backing them up," he told PTI in an interview in May this year.

"We're always carrying their equipment, carrying their food, the load, fixing the ropes, looking after the weather condition, looking after their safety, looking for the rescue things." "All those things are being looked after by us, but our names are always somewhere down the line. That's when I decided (that) I want to climb more for this, for my community more, rather than for myself," said Nima, who prefers to go without oxygen support for the first 7,000 metres. Perhaps the biggest achievement for the young mountaineer came when he scaled Mt Everest (8848.86m) and Mt Lhotse (8516) in a span of a mere 10 hours when he was a little over 17 years, in May 2023. Like he did when he scaled Mt Manaslu, Nima became the youngest to climb the Nanga Parbat (8125m) in June 2023.

In his bid to become the youngest ever, Nima went on to climb Mt Gasherbrum I (8068m), Mt Gasherbrum II (8035m), Mt Broad Peak (8047m) and Mt K2 (8,611m) in July 2023 while he reached the peak of Mt Cho-Oyu (8188m) in October 2023. Nima had a successful year 2023 scaling the Mt Dhaulagiri (8167m) in September but took a break after four climbers died an avalanche at Shishapangma. "One of them was very close to me, we had climbed five mountains together in Pakistan. He was like a hero to me and a very strong Sherpa. But to know that he got caught in the avalanche and passed away, that was very tough for me," he said. Nima returned to scaling the peaks earlier this year reaching the top of Mt Annapurna I (8091m) in April and the top of Mt Makalu (8485m) in May 4.

## Lakshya Sen enters second round of Arctic Open after opponent concedes match

PTI ■ VANTAA (FINLAND)

India's star shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles round of 16 at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament after his opponent Rasmus Gemke withdrew from the opening round match here on Wednesday. Sen, who lost out on a maiden Olympic medal in Paris after defeat in the bronze medal play-off contest, will be up against the winner between seventh seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei and qualifier Arnaud Merkle of France in the next round. Qualifier Kiran George is the only other Indian in action on Wednesday. He will take on Tzu Wei Wang of Chinese Taipei later in the day. Earlier on Tuesday, rising Indian shuttler



Malvika Bansod continued her impressive form this year, pulling off a stunning upset against world No 23 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei to advance to the women's singles pre-quarterfinals. The 23-year-old southpaw, who clinched

her first title in over two years at the Azerbaijan International in February, showed her resilience in a hard-fought match, winning 21-19, 24-22 in 57 minutes. However, the challenge will intensify in the next round as the Nagpur shuttler prepares to face a former world champion in Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand in the second round. Another promising Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda defeated Brazil's Juliana Viana Viera 21-16, 23-25, 21-17 to set up an encounter against Michelle Li of Canada. Rising Aakarshi Kashyap had also progressed to the round of 16 on Tuesday night, beating Germany's Yvonne Li 21-19, 21-14. She will be next to be up against second seed Yue Han of China.

## Kush Maini eyes for F1



RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

Indian racer Kush Maini, a rising talent in the motorsport world, continues to make headlines with his impressive performances in the 2024 FIA Formula 2 Championship. Driving for Campos Racing, Maini has shown remarkable consistency throughout the season, cementing his place as a strong contender in the highly competitive racing series. In an event IAMGAME CON-CLAVE 2024, Maini shared the future of Motorsports in India what challenges one can face if anyone wants to pursue a career in Motorsports talking about himself he shared "he was 12 when he left the country to pursue his career in Motorsports World and his family was supportive enough to make his dreams come true". Currently He is contesting the competition in F2 and a member of the Alpine Academy and

also prominent as a reserve driver for Mahindra Racing in Formula E. He started his season off by getting a pole position and qualifying in third place in Bahrain. In a conversation with Maini on asking about preparation before the racing event maini shared about tackling the climate when it comes it hot race it requires cardio, lot of cycling, sauna, and do neck flexion and extension to counter the G-Force, Personal trainers are there to update the daily training patterns and look after the racers physical condition events after events. Talking about F2 to F1 future Maini stated He'll be in England next week to practicing in F1 simulator hopefully in some way we'll be able to see him in F1 grand prix not on grid but in some way, talks are going well let's see what's going to happen. Kush Maini's journey continues to inspire aspiring racers in India, and his ongoing success in Formula 2 marks him as a driver to watch in the coming years. With dedication and consistent performances, he is well on his way to carving out a place for himself in the upper echelons of motorsport.

## Surprised at your decision to retire: Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya writes to Karmakar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday wrote to Dipa Karmakar conveying his surprise at her decision to retire, a couple of days after the trailblazing Indian gymnast called time on her career. The 31-year-old Karmakar, who became the first Indian woman gymnast to represent the country at the Games in the 2016 Rio Olympics and finished fourth, announced her retirement on Monday. "I got to know about your retirement from gymnastics. While your decision surprised me, I have full faith that you have taken this decision keeping in mind your priorities in life and the experiences that you have had. I completely respect your decision," Mandaviya wrote in a letter to Karmakar. "Your journey in gymnastics, which began at the age of six, has been inspirational. You have scaled the highs in the sport and made the country proud despite facing so many difficulties." "Being awarded with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel



Ratna Award and the Padma Shri is the indication of your unique contribution," he added. Mandaviya said the whole country is proud of Karmakar, who routinely performed the highly-difficult Produnova vault. "You added a new chapter in Indian gymnastics by

participating in the Olympics, which was not only the outcome of our hard work but it is a great matter of pride for the entire country," he added. Mandaviya said Karmakar's journey, who missed a medal at the Rio Games by 0.15 points, has inspired many young girls in the country.

"Your achievements have not only inspired those who love sports, but especially our daughters, who have got the strength to fulfill their dreams," said the union minister, hoping that Karmakar would be available to share her knowledge with the young athletes sometime in the future.

## HI ropes in PFC as title sponsor for India versus Germany bilateral series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Wednesday roped in Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a state-owned company that provides financial assistance to India's power sector, as the title sponsor for the upcoming two-match bilateral series against Germany on October 23 and 24 in New Delhi. This series marks the return of men's international hockey to the national capital after a decade. The last international match played at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium was the Hero Hockey World League Final - men's round 4, back in January 2014. Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, PFC, a public sector undertaking, plays a crucial role in driving growth in the energy sector. The two matches will be free for spectators and a free digital ticketing system will be introduced. Fans will need to visit the official ticketing link and register their details to receive a virtual ticket for accessing the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. HI president Dilip Tirkey said, "We are delighted to welcome Power Finance Corporation (PFC) as the title sponsor for the highly-anticipated PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024. "This series, being played in New Delhi after a decade, is a significant milestone, not just for the city but for Hockey India as we promote the sport across the country. With the support of PFC, we look forward to creating a thrilling atmosphere at the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium."

**ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL** PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

**ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED**

Registered Office: Indian Rajon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266.  
Branch Office: First Floor, Vijaya Bank Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi- 110001

**DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT - 2002**

You are hereby notified that you have availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mention has stood as borrower / Co - borrower / Mortgagee for the loan agreement. Consequently to the default committed by you, your loan account has been classified as NPA under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short SARFAESI Act). We Aditya Birla Finance Limited has issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with section 13(1) of the SARFAESI Act to the address furnished by you. The contents of the said notices are that you have committed default in payment of the various loans sanctioned to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as per the provision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Loan Account No./ Name and Address of the account Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice
Loan Account No. - ABFLINDIAP000133328 1.1.M/s Dwarka Indane Mandasaur, Through Proprietor, 130 Makaan No, Near Shah Nursing Home, Katju Nagar, Ratlam-457001 (MP) ... (Borrower) Also At- Near Patwar Hostel, Yash Balaji Chouraha, Mandasaur- 458001 (MP) 2. Mr. Badri Lal Suyal, 3. Mr. Ritesh Suyal, 4. Mrs. Prem Lata Suyal, ... (Co- Borrower). All Residing at - 130 Makaan No, Near Shah Nursing Home, Katju Nagar, Ratlam-457001 (MP)	07-10-2024 NPA Date 13th August 2024	Rs 96,25,374.74/- (Rupees Ninety Six Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Four and Seventy Four Paise Only) As on 04.10.2024.

**"DETAILS OF SECURED ASSETS TO BE ENFORCED"**

All that piece and parcel of: "Plot No 130, TIT Scheme No. 44, Katju Nagar, Ratlam, MP-457001"

You are hereby called upon to pay Aditya Birla Finance Limited within the period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost falling which Aditya Birla Finance Limited will take necessary action under the Provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Mortgagee. The power available to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited under the said act include (1) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale for releasing secured assets (2) Take over management of the secured assets including rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets by Aditya Birla Finance Limited shall vest in all the rights and relation to the secured assets transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the Provisions of the Section 13(1) of the said act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the normal course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to above and hypothecated / mortgaged to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited without prior written consent of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited.

Date: 10.10.2024, Place: Ratlam, MP  
Authorised Officer, Aditya Birla Finance Limited



# ROOT SURPASSES COOK AS LEADING ENGLAND RUN-SCORER IN TEST CRICKET

**AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)**

With an exquisite straight drive for four, Joe Root took another of Alastair Cook's records by becoming England's highest run-scorer in test cricket.

Root surpassed the retired Cook's total of 12,472 runs by reaching 71 during England's first innings on Day 3 of the first test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old Root moved to fifth place on the all-time list of test run-scorers, behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Australia's Ricky Ponting (13,378), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (13,289) and India's Rahul Dravid (13,288). All four above Root are retired and within reach of a batter who said ahead of the tour to Pakistan that he had plenty left in the tank.

"The only reason it (Cook's record) is on my mind is because people keep asking me about it, to be honest," Root said. "I see myself playing test cricket for a lot longer. It's not

like I'm going to get to a certain mark or a number and say, Right, I'm done now. I just want to keep enjoying the game, keep playing."

Root, who is technically excellent and owns pretty much all the shots, overtook Cook's record of 33 test centuries by an England batter last month when he made hundreds in both innings against Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Ben Stokes, the England test captain who is sitting out the first match of the series because of injury, praised Root's character and achievement in a video released by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

"The selflessness that he has is an incredible attribute for him," Stokes said. "He always puts the team first, and the fact that he's got so many runs is just a bonus for us. He's an incredible player. It's going to take a long, long time for someone to come in and break that record. Just a great bloke. And an unbelievable feat to score that many runs.

"But the non-selfishness that

## HIS NEXT BIG TARGET IS TENDULKAR



he possesses is one thing I think sets him above or sets him apart from anybody else who is going to play for England for a long time."

Root waved to his teammates soon after reaching the milestone before he raised his bat in acknowledgement. He shook hands with Stokes and bowling mentor James Anderson as he walked off the field at the lunch break, with a 35th test century - and a first in Pakistan - in his sights.

Root is playing in his 147th test and came into the Pakistan series averaging more than 50, whereas Cook made 161 test appearances and batted in 291 innings, averaging 45.35.

They are England's third and fourth most-capped players, behind now-retired fast bowlers Anderson and Stuart Broad.

Root has more runs against India than any other opposition - 2,846 in 30 tests. Next is Australia, against whom he has 2,428 in 34 tests, while his best average is against Sri Lanka at 62.54.

Root was England captain from 2017-22. He averaged 52.80 before the captaincy, 46.45 during it, and he is back to his prior level since standing down.

The most prolific year of his test career was in 2021, when he scored 1,708 runs. He has passed 1,000 runs in a year five times.

He has settled at No. 4 in England's batting order and demonstrated during the recent summer tests against the West Indies and Sri Lanka that he has slightly reined in the bold and occasionally reckless approach he and his England teammates adopted early in the so-called "Bazball" era under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes. Those risky ramp shots are mostly gone — though he still got himself out attempting one against the Sri Lankans at Lord's — and he is harder to dismiss for it.

Root's next big target is displacing Tendulkar — the "Little Master" — atop the all-time list and, injury permitting, he has a good chance of doing so.

# Ishan Kishan returns as Jharkhand captain after controversial pullout last season

**PTI ■ RANCHI**

India batter Ishan Kishan on Wednesday returned to the Jharkhand Ranji team as its captain, following his controversial pullout last season that led to his exclusion from the BCCI central contract.

The explosive left-hander, who became a regular in India's white-ball squad after Rishabh Pant's road accident in December 2022, took a break during India's tour of South Africa last year.

Post break, he did not participate in any official BCCI matches, which raised a few eyebrows as the board stressed

on players prioritising domestic cricket when not on national duty.

The 26-year-old resurfaced this February, playing in the privately organised DY Patil T20 Cup ahead of the IPL and sparking a debate over balance between franchise cricket and state commitments.

His absence from domestic cricket during this period contributed to his omission from the BCCI's 2023-24 central contracts.

However, Kishan has since worked his way back into the BCCI's good books with strong performances in domestic cricket, including a century for India C on his return in the



Duleep Trophy last month. He also represented the Rest of India in the Irani Cup, scoring 38 in his only innings.

Now, as captain of Jharkhand's 16-member squad, Kishan is set to lead a young squad with last season's designated skipper Virat Singh as his deputy and Kumar Kushagra as the wicketkeeper. Jharkhand begin their Ranji Trophy campaign against Assam in Guwahati in Elite Group D.

Last season, Jharkhand finished third from the bottom in Group A, winning two, losing two, and drawing three of their seven matches.

"Ishan is an experienced player and he has international experience," chairman of Jharkhand's selection committee Subroto Das was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"We have picked a very young team. Saurabh Tiwary, Shahbaz Nadeem and Varun Aaron had all retired after last season so we had to rethink our strategy. Ishan is capable of leading this young side and we're confident of doing well this Ranji season."

# Anmoljeet takes 9 on 'debut' as India U19 complete clean sweep vs Australia

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

Debutant off-spinner Anmoljeet Singh and leg-spinner Mohamed Enaan picked 16 out of 20 Australian wickets as India U-19 comfortably won by an innings and 120 runs in the second Youth Test to complete a 2-0 series sweep here on Wednesday. Australia colts lost as many as 17 wickets on the third day after commencing on their overnight score of 142 for 3 in reply to India's massive first-innings total of 492.

The visitors were all out for 277 in their first essay with skipper Oliver Peake (117 off 143 balls) and keeper Alex Lee Young (66) adding 166 for the fourth wicket. After Lee Young was



dismissed, the last six wickets fell for 59 runs.

Kerala boy Enaan (4/60 in 22.2 overs), who had once attended Saqlain Mushtaq's clinic in Dubai and Ludhiana's Anmoljeet (4/72 in 24 overs), who hero worships Harbhajan Singh, were the wreckers-in-chief.

In four-day cricket, the follow-on can be enforced if the team batting second is trailing by more than 150 runs. India U-19 had a lead of 115 runs.

After being enforced to follow-on, Anmoljeet, who had taken an astounding 65 wickets in the Vijay Merchant (U-16) Trophy in the 2023 season, came back to get 5 for 32 in 13.3 overs as Australia were skittled out for 95 in 31.3 overs. Eight Aussie players failed to reach double digits and four of them didn't bother to trouble the scorers.

While Anmoljeet had match figures of 9/104, Enaan wasn't left far behind with 7/97 to show for his efforts.




Government of Madhya Pradesh

## Our Mission - Ease of Living

(Transparent, Efficient & Citizen Centric Services)

### New System of E-Registration & E-Stamping

# Sampada 2.0



## State Level Launch

By

### Dr. Mohan Yadav

Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

10th October 2024 | 1:00 PM

Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre, Bhopal

### First time in our country Faceless, Paperless Registration Facility

#### Multiple options for Registration


- Online registration facility of specific documents without office visit.
- Online registration facility of specific documents on 24x7 basis without interaction with registering officer (faceless registration).
- Book slots and visit sub-registrar office at a date and time of choice for registration.

#### Paperless Registration


- No need for submission of physical documents since information is directly obtained from Aadhaar, Land Records and Local Body Portals.
- Delivery of document through email, whatsapp and digilocker immediately after registration.

#### Ease of Living for Citizens

- Sampada portal and mobile app assists citizens in preparing documents from model deeds, calculation of stamp duty, paying stamp duty/e-Stamp purchase and booking slots.
- No need of witness as identification of citizens through consent based Aadhaar facility.
- Collector guideline rates, stamp duty on instruments, search facility available in public domain.



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister

LIVE STREAM

@Cmmadhyapradesh  
 @Cmmadhyapradesh  
 JansamparkMP

Government of Madhya Pradesh

#संपदा2\_MP

Designed by M.P. Madhyam/2024 Released by the Department of Public Relations, M.P.