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SLOW START FOR
SHUBHANKAR IN
FRENCH OPEN GOLF
11 SPORTS

Prime Minister will clean the air for Delhi this winter

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned over the perennial problem of deadly pollution with the onset of winters in Delhi NCR, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Friday set the degree of engagement of stakeholders, including the NCT Government of Delhi, to combat the air pollution particularly augmented due to stubble burning in neighbouring States. The meeting comes a few days after the Supreme Court came down heavily on the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), for not taking any action on local officers amid a rise in crop burning in north Indian states, which leads to air pollution in Delhi. The SC said not a single committee was formed to tackle the stubble burning issue.

"Every year we see stubble burning. There has been total non-compliance of the CAQM Act. Have committees been constituted? Please show us a single step taken. Which directions have you used under the Act? You are silent spectators. You are doing nothing," the Supreme Court said on September 27, 2024. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. PK



File Photo: The Pioneer

Mishra convened a High Level Task Force meeting for the purpose where he reviewed short term and long measures being undertaken to prevent, and abate, air pollution in Delhi, and simultaneously expressed concern over slow pace of

clearance of landfill sites in the national Capital and delays in implementation of waste to energy plans by the civic bodies. Agriculture stubble burning, a major source of seasonal air pollution in Delhi and neighbouring states was

addressed. Although Delhi has a relatively small paddy area, Mishra called for the complete elimination of stubble burning in the city as a model for surrounding regions.

According to a senior official, the meeting focused on assessing the readiness of the Delhi Government and other stakeholders in implementing both immediate and long-term measures to mitigate air pollution in Delhi. The Task Force, comprising senior officials from Central Ministries and the Delhi administration, reviewed current strategies and discussed additional innovative steps to tackle the pollution challenge.

Task Force, consisting of representatives from the Delhi Government, Central Ministries including Secretary MoHUA, Secretary MoEFCC, Delhi Police, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), reaffirmed their collective resolve to abate air pollution in Delhi, especially during the ensuing winter season.

Nayab Chief Minister for Haryana



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

After Bharatiya Janata Party's spectacular performance winning a third consecutive tenure, Haryana's incumbent Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is likely to take oath as the Chief Minister of Haryana on Tuesday, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union ministers, and CMs of BJP-ruled states, are also expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

According to BJP leaders, Haryana may follow the precedent set by other states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha by introducing two Deputy Chief Ministers. This dual-leadership model is anticipated to balance party seniority, and caste representation within the Cabinet. The senior-most leader, former Home Minister Anil Vij, is tipped to be one of the Deputy CMs, while the other position may go to a Brahmin MLA, potentially offering a more inclusive leadership structure. In another development, Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma met Saini in Delhi, as his mother, Shakti Rani Sharma, had secured a win from the Kalka constituency. In another strategic meeting, Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Chaudhary and her

Omar returns to Jammu and Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Legislative party Omar Abdullah Friday evening staked claim to form the government, the first since the Centre scrapped J&K's special status in 2019. Omar, dressed in a traditional salwar suit, drove to the Raj Bhawan to meet Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. During the meeting, he formally presented his claim to form the government in Jammu & Kashmir, following the support from Congress. Omar also presented letters of support from the alliance partners and independent candidates.

daughter Shruti Chaudhary, the newly elected MLA from Tosham, met with Union Minister Khattar, indicating a broader coalition-building process within the BJP. A 10-member committee headed by the Panchkula district commissioner has been set up by the state chief secretary to oversee the arrangements for the ceremony. The ceremony was initially scheduled for October 12, but was postponed to accommodate the Prime Minister's schedule. According to sources, the Parade Ground had been chosen as the venue as it was adjoining Indradhanush Auditorium Complex, which had a huge secured parking space for VVIPs.



Mahadev app kingpin arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Sourabh Chandrakar, one of the main promoters of the Mahadev betting app, is expected to be brought to India soon, following his recent formal arrest in Dubai on the basis of an Interpol issued arrest warrant in a money laundering and fraud case, official sources said Friday.

Chandrakar along with another promoter of the app, Ravi Uppal was detained and put under "house arrest" in that country late last year following the Enforcement Directorate (ED) request for issuance of a Redcorner Notice (RN) against them. The RN is issued by Interpol. Sources said Chandrakar is expected to be either extradited or deported to India over the next few days after he was formally placed under arrest in Dubai recently. The ED is in the process of sending relevant documents for his extradition to Dubai authorities following which a competent court there will be approached, they said.

Chandrakar is stated to have left for Dubai in 2019 and before that he used to run a juice shop named "Juice Factory" with his brother in Bhilai town of Durg district in Chhattisgarh. The ED has alleged that its probe in the Mahadev Online Book (MOB) gaming and betting app has shown involvement of various high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh, the state where Chandrakar and Uppal hail from.

Maa Kali decrowned in Bangladesh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has urged Bangladesh to investigate the reported theft of a religious article that was gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple during his visit in 2021.

In a social media post, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka expressed deep concern over the theft and

the authorities to recover the article and take action against the perpetrators of the crime.

"We have seen reports of theft of the crown gifted by PM Modi to Jeshoreshwari Kali Temple (Satkhira) in 2021 during his visit to Bangladesh," it said, adding "We express deep concern and urge Govt of Bangladesh to investigate theft, recover the crown and take action against the perpetrators."

Separately, Indian government sources said New Delhi is

deeply disturbed by the reported incident of theft. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka is in touch with Bangladesh authorities on the issue, they said.

The Bangladesh law enforcement authorities have been urged to investigate the incident, recover the stolen article and bring the guilty to book, sources said.

As per reports, the gold-plated crown of goddess Kali at the temple in Satkhira's Shyamnagar was stolen on Thursday afternoon. The absence of the crown from the deity's head was noticed by the cleaning staff after temple priest Dilip Mukherjee left around two pm.

Prime Minister Modi had visited the Jeshoreshwari Temple on March 27, 2021, as part of his tour to Bangladesh. The visit coincided with the celebrations of Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee of Independence and the birth centenary of its founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The temple is considered among the 52 Shakti Peethas (seats of the Goddess) and is believed to have been constructed in the late 12th Century.

From Ratan to Naval, the Tata legacy moves on



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a succession that came two days after the death of Ratan Naval Tata, his half-brother Noel Naval Tata was on Friday appointed new Chairman of Tata Trusts, the philanthropic arm of Tata Group.

A formal announcement about Noel Tata's appointment as the head of the Tata Trusts came after the Trustees of various Trusts that come under the Tata Trusts held a joint meeting, condoled Ratan Tata's demise and noted his yeoman services not only to the Tata Group but also to nation building.

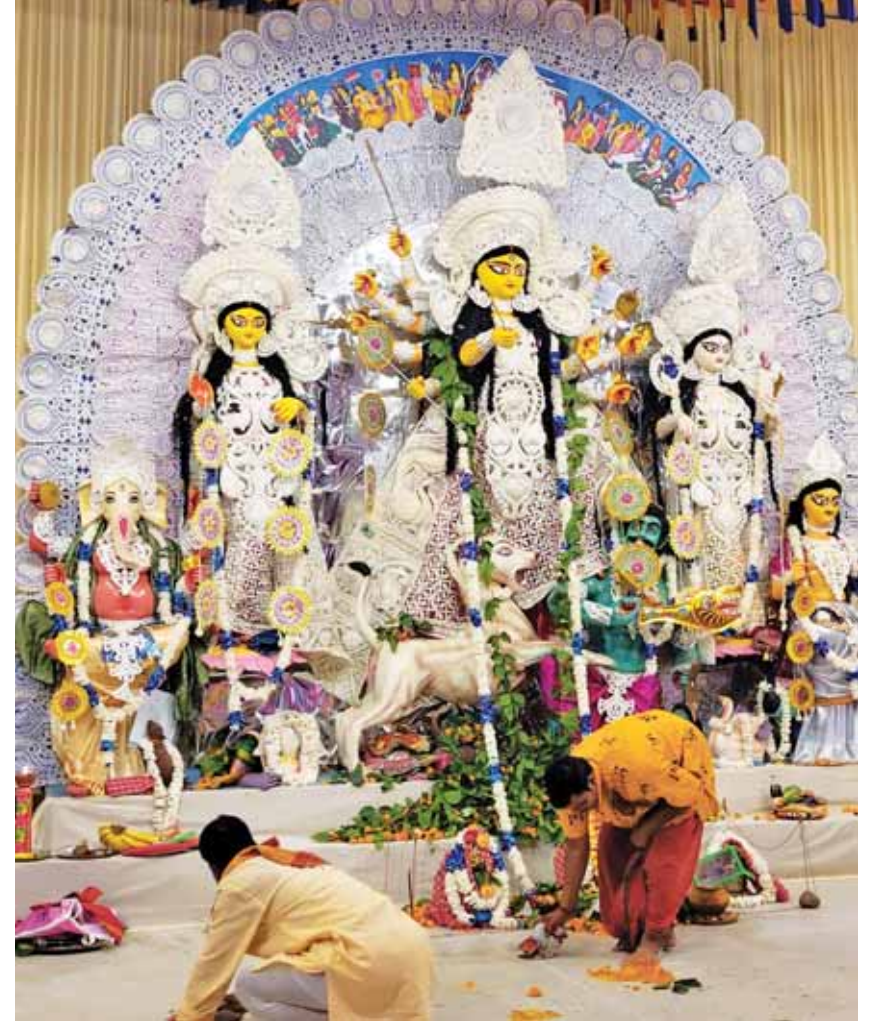
"In separate meetings held immediately, thereafter, it was unanimously decided to appoint Mr. Noel Naval Tata as the Chairman of the

various Trusts that constitute the Tata Trusts and also designate him as Chairman, Tata Trusts," Tata Trusts said in a statement issued here in the afternoon.

Sixty-seven-year-old Noel Tata's appointment came into place with immediate effect. After being appointed as the new chairman of the Tata Trusts, India's oldest philanthropic institution, Noel Tata said that he was "deeply honoured and humbled" by the responsibility cast on me by my fellow Trustees and he looked "forward to carrying on the legacy of Ratan N Tata and the founders of the Tata Group".

"I am deeply honoured and humbled by the responsibility that has been cast on me by my fellow Trustees. I look forward to carrying on the legacy of Ratan N Tata and the founders of the Tata Group. Founded more than a century ago, the Tata Trusts are a unique vehicle for undertaking social good. On this solemn occasion, we rededicate ourselves to carrying on our developmental and philanthropic initiatives and continuing to play our part in nation building," Noel Tata said.

VIJAYADASHAMI GREETINGS



Illegal parkings gobble up market roads at peak hours

Commuters leave their vehicles on the roadside, to avoid paying parking fees

BY SANJAY RAI

That there are traffic jams in and round major markets of the national Capital is now old news for the locals. However, not many talk about what causes these jams in those busy commercial areas. It is also interesting to see that the market associations have not objected to these illegal parkings as the shop owners also park all their vehicles on the road side, even before the market opens. And customers prefer to park on the roads outside the shops as the charges are lower in comparison to the official parking. These vehicles park for a short

time but block the oncoming traffic as they enter and leave the illegal parking bays constantly. The attendants stand on the road and stop the traffic flow to facilitate that. The problem is especially severe near big market places where people park their vehicles on the roadside. Regular commuters are left with no choice but to stop-look-and-go every few metres. They say that complaints to the authorities go unanswered. Visitors park their cars and two-wheelers on the roadside and go shopping, and prefer to pay a 'token' parking fee of just Rs 10-20, seldom do they have to pay more even if they park for more than five hours. Usually they



Ranjana Dimri/Pioneer

leave within an hour or so after shopping. It is this frequent 'side-movement' that then clogs the oncoming traffic. For example an underground parking lot has been made by Delhi Municipal Corporation near Subhash Nagar Market, where about 600 vehicles can be parked. But more than 30 percent of the area remains vacant here. The reason behind this is parking charges. An employee working here told The Pioneer that the car parking fee is Rs 20 for every hour. The bike parking fee is Rs 10 per hour while the monthly pass costs Rs 2,000. But people living here or coming to the market always park their cars on the road,

which makes it difficult for pedestrians, and other commuters. This results in the parking lot incurring losses every month. Apart from this, the condition of market areas such as Kamla Market, Rani Bagh Market, Karol Bagh, Lajpat Nagar, Avantika Market, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden, and Uttam Nagar is the same. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has made underground parking on Asaf Ali Road at Delhi Gate, where vehicles gather dust and dirt. The monthly fee here is less compared to other parking lots, however roadside parking is also the norm here too.

Few parts of the State witness heavy rains, mercury to dip soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Heavy rainfall was witnessed in few parts of the state creating flood like conditions on Friday; Indore, Harda, Khargone, Khandwa, Barwani, Dhar, Mandla, Seoni and Pachmarhi witnessed rainfall. In Harda district, drizzle started at around 4 pm on Friday evening. Soon it started raining heavily with thunder and lightning. In Sirali area, it rained heavily for about an hour. Due to which the drain of Rahatakalan village overflowed. The streets of the village were submerged. According to the villagers, even during the rains, this much water was not even witnessed. The rainy season has started due to two systems. In the last 2 days, water was witnessed in

about 20 districts. Among these, there are many districts from where monsoon has also departed. According to the Meteorological Department (IMD), similar weather will remain for the next 3 days. Senior Meteorologist said, the low pressure area will turn into depression in the next few days. This system will move forward. Due to this, there will be a period of thunderstorms and light rain in MP and these weather conditions are also induced due to cyclonic circulation. Monsoon has almost departed from Madhya Pradesh. Rain had already departed from 35 districts of the state. Meteorological Department said that the possibility of rain in other districts of the state is still on. According to the Meteorological Department,

after October 15, the monsoon will completely depart from the state. However, light moisture will still remain and at the same time, there are chances of light rain in Jabalpur, Rewa, Shahdol division, Sagar and some adjoining districts by October 12. After this, the weather in the state will become normal. As soon as the monsoon departs, the arrival of cold conditions will be witnessed in the state. According to Meteorological Department after the departure of monsoon in the state, mild cold conditions will start in the next 5-6 days and in some parts of the state from October 20-21. The trend of the cold weather conditions will start in the states of North India, after that through these states the cold will enter Central India and

then South India. It is being estimated from this that cold weather conditions may knock in the state even before the festival of Diwali. At the same time, mild cold weather conditions has started in some states of North India. According to the Meteorological Department, rain in MP is in its last phase. The quota of rain in western MP has been completed. There is no possibility of rain here now. While there is a possibility of rain with light thunder and lightning in eastern MP. According to the Meteorological Department, the night temperature will start falling from October 20 and the night temperature may dip below 20 degrees, while the day temperature will remain between 33-34 degrees. Mild cold may remain in the entire

state including Bhopal till Diwali. The Meteorological Department has issued an alert of thunderstorms and light rain in the state for the next 72 hours which means monsoon will depart only after Dussehra. Due to the current system, there is a possibility of rain in some districts. This year, the state has received 44.1 inches of rain. Jabalpur division has been at the forefront in terms of rainfall. Mandla district received the highest rainfall. More than 60.6 inches of rainfall, 56.8 inches of rainfall in Seoni Sheopur, Niwari and Rajgarh have received more than 52 inches of rain. The top-10 districts with the highest rainfall include Bhopal, Sagar, Alirajpur, Dindori and Chhindwara districts.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav performs Kanya Pujan on the occasion of Durga Maha Navami at his residence in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

CM to conduct an investment-focused roadshow in Hyderabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will engage with representatives from key industrial sectors in an interactive session on investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh during a roadshow in Hyderabad on October 15 and 16. The focus will be on attracting investments in critical sectors, including pharma, visual effects (VFX), life sciences, IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) and tourism. Leading industry representatives from Hyderabad will come together on a single platform, where they will receive detailed information about the lucrative investment prospects available in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Yadav will engage in in-depth discussions with industry represen-



tatives on investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh through one-to-one meetings, roundtable discussions and leadership lunch and dinner. Additionally, he will tour key locations including Hi-Tech City, the Amazon facility and T-Hub, to gain insights into Hyderabad's technological and industrial advancements. Hyderabad is known as the Pharma Capital of India. The pharmaceutical industries located here contribute sig-

nificantly to global drug production. The pharma industry located in Telangana produces more than 40% of India's medicines, which is important not only for the domestic market but also for international exports. Hyderabad's Genome Valley houses many huge biotechnology and pharma companies. It includes giants like Dr. Reddy's, Aurobindo Pharma, and Biocon. Hyderabad's VFX and animation sector is rapidly gaining prominence across the country. Major studios and companies based here are delivering services not only within India but also to the global cinema and entertainment industries. Notably, Hyderabad's VFX companies contributed significantly to high-profile movies like Bahubali. Beyond

cinema, these studios also offer expertise in gaming, animation and advertising. During the interactive session, representatives from Hyderabad's VFX companies will explore potential partnerships in Madhya Pradesh, opening avenues to further develop this dynamic sector within the state. Hyderabad's life sciences sector is also world-class, with key activities such as genome research, biopharmaceuticals and medical device manufacturing. The sector is not only a hub of research and development, but also contributes significantly to healthcare and drug production. There will be discussions with representatives of Hyderabad's life sciences companies on potential partnerships and new opportunities for research and investment

Law student falls from fourth floor of hotel, dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old law student of Gujarat died after falling from the fourth floor of Oasis Hotel in the state capital late in the night on Thursday; the youth died accidentally, claimed police while probe is on in the matter. The youth came with college students from Gujarat to participate in a sports event. The deceased identified as Tushar Mali died after he fell from the fourth floor of the hotel room at around 11.15 in the night on Thursday. The accompanying students revealed when they were questioned by the police that they were smoking cigarettes in the room during which someone among them alerted them that a warden was coming to the room. Tushar Mali had a cigarette in his

The youth came with college students from Gujarat to participate in a sports event

hand and was afraid that he might get scolded for smoking. He crossed the window and found a duct outside and while he was trying to hide by climbing on it he lost balance and fell. Govindpura police station TI Awadhesh Singh Tomar said that Tushar Mali (19), was a resident of Pali in Rajasthan. He was studying in a law college in Gujarat and stayed at the college hostel. He came to Bhopal along with other students and staff to participate

in a sports event. According to the police, the statements of Tushar's friends have been recorded. They said that a group of 83 students came to Bhopal three days ago with two wardens. All these people are staying in 29 rooms of the hotel. There are 3 people staying in each room. On Friday afternoon, the police reached the hotel to investigate and took information about the student from the employees of the hotel. In the investigation, the police found that the window from which the student fell did not have a grill. Tushar's family from Pali reached Bhopal late in the afternoon on Friday and in the presence of family members post mortem was conducted. The family have not raised any suspicion still all possible angles behind the death would be investigated, said police.

Koh-e-Fiza police seize 1.5 quintal of spurious cottage cheese

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Koh-e-Fiza police have seized about one and a half quintals of spurious cottage cheese kept in the trunk of a car, case has been handed over to the Food Safety Administration Department for further investigation. The cheese was sent from Bhopal to Ashok Nagar. The police were checking in the Koh-e-Fiza area and during which cheese was found in the trunk of an Ambassador car. Paneer was seized on suspicion of being sub-standard and handed over to the Food Safety Administration Department. Senior Food Safety Officer Devendra Kumar Verma said that it is being investigated whether the cheese is substandard or not. It was being taken from Sehore to Bhopal's Nadra bus stand. After this it was to be sent to Ashok Nagar via bus and it was sent from Sehore to Ashok Nagar by Amjad. Since no one else was present on the spot, samples of cheese have been taken from the driver Yakub Shah. Consumption of mawa and cheese increases during festivals. The festival season has begun. In such a situation, the consumption increases in Bhopal. Due to this, mawa comes to Bhopal from districts including Gwalior, Bhind, Morena. Many times substandard mawa is also consumed. Due to which the team of the Food Safety Administration continuously take action and checking is also done.



Street artists display effigies of demon king Ravana kept for sale at a roadside ahead of the Dussehra festival in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Governor, CM extend greetings on the festival of Dussehra

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and others have extended greetings of Dussehra to the citizens of the State. The Governor congratulated and extended good wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Dussehra (Vijaydashmi). In his message extending greetings to the people of the state on the occasion, the Governor said that Vijaydashmi is a festival of joy and gaiety. This festival is a symbol of victory of truth over evil. Patel further mentioned that valour and gallantry is worshipped in Indian Culture. The festival of Vijaydashmi gives an inspiration to seek strength and courage from the victory of Lord Shriram over Ravan and in the form of Durga puja. The Governor has prayed for prosperity of the state and its people on this occasion. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav extended greetings to people of the state on Vijaydashmi. He said that Vijaydashmi is symbolic of a prosperous

Indian culture. It is celebrated as Lord Rama's victory over Lanka after destroying Ravana, symbol of 'ahankar'. It is an occasion of victory of good over evil. He called upon people to free Madhya Pradesh of dirt, corruption, terrorism and poverty on the pious occasion of Vijaydashmi. He said that Madhya Pradesh is transforming into a strong, prosperous and fully developed state. He said that we pray to God that Madhya Pradesh moves constantly ahead on the road to development and the lives of people is always full of joy and prosperity. Chouhan extended advance greetings of Diwali too. Leader of Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Assembly Umang Singhar has congratulated the people of state on the occasion of Dussehra and upon the people of the State to pledge for eliminating evils over good in Madhya Pradesh and the country. State assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar and Principal Secretary AP Singh, extending greetings on the festival appealed to the people to celebrate the festival with fervor and amity.

Flute recital at IGRMS on Wednesday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya organize Poonam program series focusing on popular and prestigious classical music as the 38th episode of Poonam, on Wednesday, from 7 pm onwards Renowned flute player Pandit Rakesh Chaurasia will give a flute recital at the open-air stage in front of Avriti Bhawan Entry to this event is free. A famous name attached to this musician; young Rakesh is a child prodigy and the nephew of flute maestro Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia. The most accomplished of disciples of his uncle, he shows all the promise to carry the Chaurasia legacy to new heights. Just like his legendary uncle, Rakesh possesses the right balance of strength and serenity, very critical factors for an exceptional flautist. His dexterous blowing technique coupled with his training of 'Swar' and 'Tala' exudes adeptly in his emotions through the hollow piece of bamboo. Rakesh has already globe trotted many times over, enthralling audiences at classical and semi-classical concerts in Japan, Australia, Europe, South Africa and USA.

National & state level painting competition on 'Energy Conservation 2024'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

National & State level painting competition on 'Energy Conservation' is organized every year by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India since 2005. Like every year, in 2024, NHDC Limited is the nodal agency for organizing this competition in Madhya Pradesh state. The competition will be organized for school students in two categories, Category "A" (for students of classes 5, 6 & 7) and Category "B" (for students of classes 8, 9 & 10). In the first phase, the competition is organized at the school level, in which the schools will have to organize the competition at its level and select two best paintings from each both the categories along with total participation data and all required information, which has to be sent by post by the schools to NHDC Ltd. office address latest by October 20, 2024. In the school level painting competition, the common subjects for both the categories ("A" and "B") are (choose any one) - Conserve Energy, Protect Environment (or) Energy Saving is Environment Saving. Out of all the paintings received from the state, 50-50 paintings of

MKVVCL updates its services for round the clock support

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a bid to minimise downtimes for consumers, the central region power distributor has updated its services to provide round the clock support for local power disruptions. At a meeting of the Madhya Kshetra Vidut Vitran Company board, the distribution company decided that consumers in Multai, Basoda, Sironj, Biaora, Itarsi, Pipariya, the Ratibad distribution centre, Ashta, and in the Gwalior area, including Raghogarh and Kareera, will soon receive 24x7 local power disruption support. Company said arrangements are being made to ensure that maintenance teams promptly reach homes of consumers to address any power outages. The service will be upgraded service will be made available in these towns and cities in the near future. Managing Director Kshitij

The MKVVCL affirms that ensuring uninterrupted and quality power supply, and the provision of consumer services, remains its top priority. The company is making continuous efforts to guarantee adequate voltage

Singhal said that the company's recently launched WhatsApp chatbot, the Upay app, and the centralized call center at 1912 enable about 200,000 consumers find prompt solutions to their power related complaints. The Managing Director further informed that the 24/7 support will involve three separate technical line staff teams working in shifts. Each city will have seven line staff appointed for this purpose. Additionally, each team will be equipped with vehicles loaded with all necessary tools and will work in three shifts. They will also have state-of-the-art smartphones

connected to the company's centralized call centre. The Managing Director expressed faith that providing round-the-clock power repair services will enhance consumer satisfaction and facilitate revenue collection from consumers in these areas. The MKVVCL affirms that ensuring uninterrupted and quality power supply, and the provision of consumer services, remains its top priority. The company is making continuous efforts to guarantee adequate voltage and uninterrupted power supply to even last mile consumers.



State Bank of India, Jabalpur Module signed a MoU with West Central Railway on 4th October 2024. The salary package has enhanced benefits in the areas of term life insurance, accidental insurance, health insurance to name a few. This MOU was signed by Ms Purrima Jain, Dy CPO (HRD) WCR and Shri Hare Ram Singh, Deputy General Manager (B&O), AO Jabalpur, on behalf of State Bank of India. Pioneer photo

CM follows the Sanatan tradition of Kanya-Pujan

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav followed the Sanatan tradition of Kanya-Pujan and Kanya-Bhoj at CM's residence on Mahanavami of Sharadiya Navratri. Showing his immense reverence towards Matri-Shakti, Chief Minister Yadav on Friday washed the feet of nine Durga Swaroopa virgin girls and performed rituals to honour them. He reverently draped

a chunari on the girls and performed aarti. During the worship, CM Dr. Yadav also interacted with the girls and showered affection on them. After Kanya-Pujan, Chief Minister Yadav served meal to the girls with his own hands and also offered them sweets as per their taste. After Kanya Bhoj, Yadav gave Dakshina and gifts to all the girls and received

their blessings. Yadav worshipped Mokshadayini Maa Siddhidatri and extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on Mahanavami of Sharadiya Navratri. He also prayed to Mata Rani for an auspicious and happy life for everyone along with the infinite blessings of Sankalp Siddhi.

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Police administration in the State seems unbridled

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

The police administration in Madhya Pradesh seems to have become unbridled with even ruling party legislators repeatedly complaining of the high-handed behaviour of law enforcement officials in the state.

The common perception during the reign of then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was that the leader lacked control over the bureaucracy, but the situation has only worsened under the Mohan Yadav government.

Soon after taking over as Chief Minister, Mohan Yadav sent out a stern signal to officialdom in the state when he shunted the

During the Guna bus accident incident, the Chief Minister wanted to signal to the officials that no laxity would be tolerated by the new government

Collector, Superintendent of Police (SP), Transport Commissioner, and Principal Secretary of the Transport Department following a tragic bus accident under their watch.

However, such promptitude has gone missing in recent months, pushing even party legislators to cast aspersions on the working of the police in the state.

Recently, BJP legislator from Mauganj, Pradeep Patel, prostrated before the

Additional SP in his constituency due to the alleged inaction of the latter against criminals in the area.

The video of Patel has since gone viral on social media, but action on the matter from the state government or even the police department is still awaited.

A similar situation was reported from Sagar district when BJP MLA from Deori, Brijbihari Pateriya, staged a sit-in protest at the Kesli police station seeking an FIR against a govern-

ment doctor who had allegedly demanded a bribe for mentioning snake bite in the postmortem report of a poor elderly man.

The protest started at around 11 PM, and Pateriya, along with his supporters, remained there for nearly an hour. When police officials did not lodge an FIR, he tendered his resignation to the Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker; the letter was posted on social media.

With the drama continuing late into the night, sources said that senior BJP leaders intervened, and an FIR was finally registered against the doctor. The MLA circulated a letter retracting his resignation and affirming faith in the leadership of the Chief Minister.

However, no action has been initiated against the police officials responsible for neglecting the demands of the BJP legislator.

In the recent drug haul in the state capital, no action has been taken against officials under whose watch such a massive operation of producing and transporting the illicit substance was taking place.

Political observers feel that during the Guna bus accident incident, the Chief Minister wanted to signal to the officials that no laxity would be tolerated by the new government; the steps taken back then had been easier, as all the officials transferred at the time had been posted by the previous government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



Fans of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan cut a cake to celebrate his 82nd birthday in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo



Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan with young girl during a Kanya Bhoj programme on the occasion of Durga Maha Ashtami at his residence in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Police solve murder case, victim's wife, her paramour nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Kolar police have arrested two accused including a woman for killing a 45-year-old man in Kajlikhedha on Thursday; the man was killed after he found an illicit relationship of his friend with his wife.

Police said that Babul Saur used to work as laborer and he was found dead in his house, there were injury marks on the head and a sharp edged object was recovered from the spot.

The main suspects of the murder, the deceased's wife and Babul's friend were detained. In the investigation two confessed to the crime and revealed the reason behind the murder.

According to the police, the reason for the murder is illicit relationship between the deceased's

wife and his friend.

TI Sanjay Singh Soni said that Babul was originally from Orchha and used to work as a laborer for building construction site and lived in Bansal Campus in Bhopal. On Thursday night at 8.30 pm, information was received that a blood-soaked body was lying in the slum. Police reached the spot and took the body for post mortem.

It was found that Babul's wife and his friend were in a relationship and Babul caught his friend with his wife in his house four days ago. After this, he beat up the young man. With the intention of taking revenge for this, the wife and the young man killed Babul with a sharp edged weapon while he was sleeping.

Meanwhile a 19-year-old girl

committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at her house, girl was insisting for sitting in the religious ritual and took extreme step after family refused.

Police said Radhika Bundela was a resident of Ratibahad. She had left her studies after class 10. Cousin Rupendra told that on Friday morning at 11, a havan (religious ritual) was going on in the tableau outside the house. Radhika was insisting to sit for a ritual at the havan. The family did not allow her.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, POONAM SUKHWANI alias KASHISH BALWANI D/o Kanhaiya Lal Sukhwani W/o Sandeep Balwani R/o 21-A, Bicholi Hapsi Prakarati Colony Indore, Po. Indore Kanadia Road Distt. Indore Madhya Pradesh - 452016 have changed my name to KASHISH BALWANI.

PD(84)C

ESAF
ESAF SMALL FINANCE BANK

REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavan, Manmuthy, Thrissur- 680 651, Kerala.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:

DATE OF AUCTION : 22-10-2024 TIME : 2 PM TO 5 PM

AUCTION VENUE : THROUGH E-AUCTION

AUCTION ADDRESS : <https://egold.auctiontiger.net>
Contact No. 9099013705/9099013705

To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Anuppur: 63230000613243, 75230000415819, 1938977 Betul: 6323000002193, 276836, 379913, 406253, 75230000616221, 1842547, 1874846, 1875484, 1878479, 1951712 Bhopal: 63230000408950, 589427, 75230001957861, 196074 Dewas: 6323000372205, 75230001851920 Dhar: 75230001979699 Garhakota: 75230001997594 Gwalior: 63230000400734, 63230000403449, 75230001921769 Harda: 75230001975616, 1977983 Hatta: 75230001956023 Indore: 75230001790273, 1790933, 1822735 Jabalpur: 75230001914143 Katni: 75230001827426, 1942409, 1956673, 1978121 Malhar: 63230000413910, 75230000536821, 1810288 Mumbai-Panvel: 63230000385611 Nagod: 75230001998943 Narmadapuram (Hoshangabad): 75230001847118, 1853946, 1940483 Nasrullaganj: 63230000376248, 75230001421600, 1828894, 1828994, 1846160, 1904272, 1958329, 1969638, 1976104, 1977413, 1982353, 1992713 Pandhurna: 75230001944765, 1954236 Rewa: 75230000166696, 711042, 1835881, 1841399, 1873318, 1906818, 1932318, 1957171, 1957761, 1980586 Sagar: 75230000718639, 1850472, 1868688, 1956033, 1957161, 1976084, 1987233 Sausar: 75230001878319 Seonimalwa: 63230000397688 Sihora: 63230000413980, 75230001793038, 1811016, 1811196, 1906168, 1906508, 1976674 Sohagpur: 75230001837247 Ujjain: 63230000181854, 75230000928063, 1076338 Vidisha: 75230001960904.

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction.

Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.

Thrissur Date: 12-10-2024 Sd/- Authorized Signatory

Bicycles to be distributed to 4.50 lakh students of govt schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As many as 4 lakh 50 thousand free bicycles are being distributed to students of government schools in the state by the School Education Department for the year 2024-25. A provision of Rs 195 crore has been made in the departmental budget. Instructions have been given to the district officials to complete the work of bicycle distribution by November this year.

Bicycles are being distributed under the free cycle distribution scheme to students of Class 6th and 9th studying in government schools in rural areas and those residing in villages that have no government, secondary and high schools.

Under the scheme, bicycles are being provided to eligible students taking admission in Class 6 and 9.

Along with this, free cycles are also being provided to students residing in girls hostels in rural areas, and if their school is at a distance of 2 kilometers or more from the hostel. Under this scheme, free bicycles were provided to 4 lakh 7 thousand students in the state in 2023-24.

Bicycles distributed to 142 girl students in PM Shri School Narsinghpur

Free bicycles were distributed to 142 girl students of PM Shri MLB School, Narsinghpur in the Narsinghpur district. These girl students include Sonam Gond and Ankita Sahu (Class 9), both from Dongargaon village, Shivani Maurya of Pansi village, and Muskaan Lodhi of Bharwara village.

Sonam Gond, from Dongargaon village, says that the school is far from her home. Sometimes she gets late to school when she misses the bus. Now that they are getting free bicycles from the government, they will be able to reach school on time. Similarly, Ankita Sahu, of the same village, says she is a Class 9 student of PM MLB School, Narsinghpur. They have to face a lot of problems in commuting to school. Sometimes they are unable to go to school because the bus is overcrowded. Now that they will get a free bicycle, they will be able to reach school on time and will not let their studies get hampered.

Shivani Maurya, of village Pansi, and Muskaan Lodhi from Bharwara, say that sometimes they are not able to pay the bus fare. It takes a lot of time to travel from the village to the school.

CM to perform shastra puja at Maheshwar

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that Indian festivals symbolize enthusiasm and joy, announcing that this year's Dussehra will be celebrated in the state with vibrant festivities, including the traditional Shastra Puja. Extending his heartfelt greetings to the people on the occasion, Dr. Yadav shared that the state government has dedicated this year's Dussehra to Devi Ahilyabai, honoring her legacy of women's empowerment and exemplary governance. Recognizing her contributions to public welfare across the nation, the government will hold various Shastra Puja programs to both honor her legacy and educate today's generation about her impactful achievements.

Yadan said that Ministers along with MPs, MLAs and public representatives will also participate in the traditional Shastra Puja programmes being held in their areas. The Shastra Puja held in the police armoury, Kotwalis and Thanas will not be limited to one department but will become a public festival. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that he will perform Deva Shastra Puja Maheshwar, Shri Ahilyabai's capital and her cantonment Indore.

Dussehra festival to be celebrated today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Marking the victory of good over evil, the state capital will celebrate the festival of Dussehra today with the symbolic burning of Ravana effigies at Bairagarh, Gandhi Nagar, Kohfizga, Housing Board Colony, Ashoka Garden, Jamboori Grounds, Ayodhya Nagar, BHEL, MVM, and Bittan Market Dussehra grounds. Fire services are on standby, while sanitation workers of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) are working round-the-clock to ensure cleanliness and hygiene throughout the festive season. Health services at all state-run hospitals are also on alert. Teams from the central region power distributor—Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company—are on standby to immediately correct any outages due to breaks in power lines. Law enforcement officials are watching every spot in the city, and deployment has been beefed up in sensitive areas. Proceedings on the day will commence with a symbolic worship of weapons and a Bhandara at Puja Pandals before the effigy of the demon Ravana is consigned to flames. Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai joined MIC members and corporators in congratulating city residents on the occasion. In a message to the people, Rai, MIC Chair Kishan Suryavanshi, and Leader of Opposition in the Council, Shabista Asif Zaki, extended Dussehra wishes to residents in the state capital.

Divisions will also be in place for the commemorative burning of Ravana effigies at Bairagarh, Gandhi Nagar, Kohfizga, Housing Board Colony, Ashoka Garden, Jamboori Grounds, Ayodhya Nagar, BHEL, MVM, and Bittan Market Dussehra grounds. Fire services are on standby, while sanitation workers of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) are working round-the-clock to ensure cleanliness and hygiene throughout the festive season. Health services at all state-run hospitals are also on alert. Teams from the central region power distributor—Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company—are on standby to immediately correct any outages due to breaks in power lines. Law enforcement officials are watching every spot in the city, and deployment has been beefed up in sensitive areas. Proceedings on the day will commence with a symbolic worship of weapons and a Bhandara at Puja Pandals before the effigy of the demon Ravana is consigned to flames. Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai joined MIC members and corporators in congratulating city residents on the occasion. In a message to the people, Rai, MIC Chair Kishan Suryavanshi, and Leader of Opposition in the Council, Shabista Asif Zaki, extended Dussehra wishes to residents in the state capital.

Bhopal's newborn tragedy: social flaws responsible

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal was shocked to its conservative core after a newborn baby girl, found abandoned near the railway tracks at Bagh Umrao Dulha a day earlier, passed away at the Kamla Nehru facility at the district Hamidia Hospital.

The police have arrested three persons, including two middle-aged women and a doctor, in connection with the heartbreaking incident, which has several layers of social vulnerabilities. Police uncovered the background of the incident after a thorough scan of CCTV from the vicinity led them to the woman who had dumped the baby near a shanty where passersby had responded to her wails.

The good Samaritans took care of the child after releasing her from a plastic bag she had been packed in. Responding to their call, police took the child to the Kamla Nehru center, where the newborn breathed her last on Thursday afternoon. The woman in the footage turned out to be a nurse. She had been contracted by

The incident leaves indelible questions on social norms that force normal everyday people to act out of character for the fear of being stigmatized. Madhya Pradesh ranks high in the abandonment of newborns on roadsides and in the wild

the maternal grandmother of the newborn to deliver the baby and then abandon her at a secluded spot in the city. The nurse had in turn sought help from a medical practitioner. He has also been arrested.

The story recounted by the two led the police to the main culprit in the incident, which unmasks dichotomies of the society we live in. Corroborating the information retrieved from the trio, police reconstructed the incident and later told mediapersons that the newborn was mothered by a 14-year-old minor who had conceived after being 'raped' by her 17-year-old cousin. When the minor girl's mother came to know of the pregnancy, she forbade the teenager from talking about the incident to anyone and didn't let her step out of the house for fear

of social stigma. As the pregnancy reached the seventh month, the minor's mother contracted the nurse and fixed a deal with her to deliver the child. The women believed that the premature baby would be stillborn, but the minor delivered a healthy baby girl, who was subsequently put into a sack and finally abandoned near the railway tracks, where she was discovered by passersby on Wednesday morning. While exact details of the doctor's involvement are yet to emerge, the nurse had apparently sought help from the medical practitioner to deliver the baby secretly. The law prohibits abortions after 24 weeks. The three were later produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. The 14-year-old girl, who has lived with her mother since her

parents separation about a decade ago, has also been named as an accused by the police. She will be counseled before the police decide a future course of action for her.

The father of the baby is also accused. He may soon face action for leading a minor into an act of sex. He is a juvenile himself.

The nurse has been identified as Asma alias Firdaus, and the medical practitioner is Dr. Surendra Nahar. The name of the minor's mother has not been revealed to safeguard the identity of the teenage girl. The incident leaves indelible questions on social norms that force normal everyday people to act out of character for the fear of being stigmatized. Madhya Pradesh ranks high in the abandonment of newborns on roadsides and in the wild with hundreds of similar cases reported each year. Oblivious of the statistics, and layers of hypocrisy, social vulnerabilities and stigma surrounding her appearance near the railway tracks, the newborn left for the heavens heartbroken on Thursday afternoon. She was just three days old.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069
Bhopal Branch: Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1st Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001(Madhya Pradesh)

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

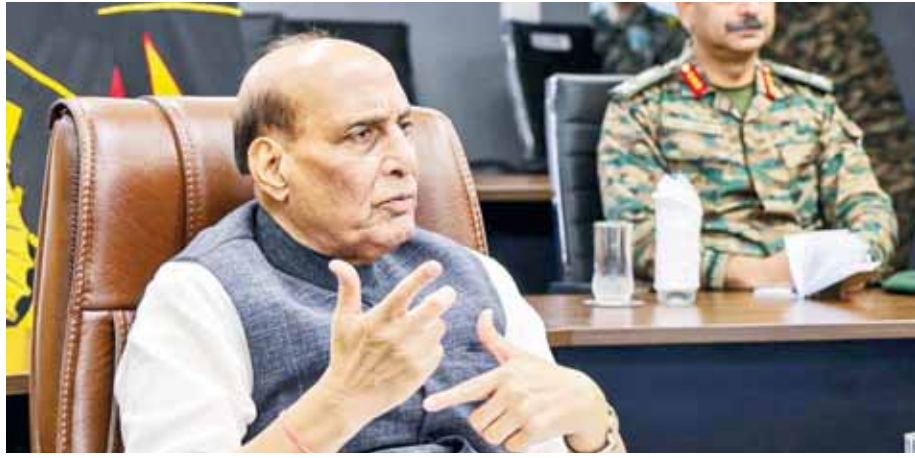
S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1	(Loan Code No. 00600002014 / Bhopal Branch) Devendra Vishvakarma (Borrower), Imarat Vai (Co-Borrower) Bundel Singh (Guarantor)	15-11-2021 & ₹ 3,32,519/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No. 360 2 PH 21 Ward No. 11 Patel Nagar Sagar Road Near Govt School Shreeji Colony, Raisen, Madhya Pradesh- 464551. Boundaries: East- House of Toran Singh, West- Plot of Prakash Saxena, North- Plot of Harlal, South- Plot of Ram Ratan Maharaj	Rs. 8,64,000/-	Rs. 86,400/-	Physical

- Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is 28-10-2024 within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on <https://bankelections.com>. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
 - Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 29-10-2024 on <https://bankelections.com> at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
 - AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever There Is Basis'.
 - The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only.
 - Auction/bidding shall be only through 'Online Electronic Bidding' through the website <https://bankelections.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
 - The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/S C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link <https://bankelections.com/registration/signup>, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider M/S C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website <https://bankelections.com>
 - For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore (Contact : 9977783890) OR the service provider M/S C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: ln@c1india.com & support@bankelections.com, Phone No. +917291981124 /25 /26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets.
 - For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com.
 - The Bid incremental amount for auction is Rs.10,000/-.
- Place : Madhya Pradesh
Date : 12-10-2024
- (Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Defence Minister urges military to be alert amid global uncertainty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said the present complex and ambiguous world situation affects everyone globally and urged military top brass to be alert, regularly modernise and prepare continuously for various contingencies. Making this assertion while addressing the Army Commanders' Conference in Sikkim, he said "Unconventional and asymmetric warfare, including hybrid war will be part of the future conventional wars and the same is evident in the recent conflicts happening in various parts of world. This necessitates that Armed Forces should keep all these facets in consideration while planning and formulating strategies. We must keep learning from the incidents to include the global ones, happened in present as also in past, so as to avert the damage control." Commenting on the current situation along the Northern



borders facing China, the defence minister expressed full confidence in the Army for any contingency though, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution will continue at all levels. The second Army Commanders' Conference this year commenced in a hybrid format on Thursday in a forward location at Gangtok. Conduct of the Senior Commanders Conference at a forward location underlines Indian Army's focus on ground realities. During the event, Indian

Army's apex leadership comprehensively deliberated upon all aspects of existing security scenarios, situation along the borders and in the hinterland and challenges for the present security apparatus. In addition, the conference is also focusing on issues pertaining to organisational restructuring, logistics, administration and human resource management. Owing to the bad weather at Gangtok, Rajnath addressed the commanders in virtual mode from an army location Sukna,

West Bengal. Referring to the situation along the Western borders with Pakistan, he complimented the Indian Army's response to cross border terrorism, however the proxy war with the adversary continues. "I compliment the excellent synergy between the CAPF/ Police forces and the Army in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The synergised operations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are contributing to

increased stability and peace in the region which was also evident in the recently conducted elections in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and for this I again compliment the Indian Army," he said. The Defence Minister commended the Army for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities which he has always been experiencing first hand during his visits to forward areas. Rajnath stressed upon the technological advancement taking place in every sphere of our life and applauded the Armed Forces for aptly incorporating them. He appreciated the Army's efforts to develop niche technologies in collaboration with civil industries, including premier educational institutions and thereby progressing towards the aim of 'Modernisation through Indigenisation' or 'Atmanirbharta'. He stated that modernisation of weapons for every soldier through Atmanirbharta is the key focus of the government and the government is completely with the Armed Forces in this aspect.

Act or face consequence: FEMA, IMA tell Mamata Banerjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Both the Federation of Medical Associations (FeMA) and the Indian Medical Association have asked Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to take cognizance of the ongoing indefinite fast of the junior doctors and resolve the impasse by acceding to their 10-point demands that include justice for the lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital who was on August 9 raped and murdered while on duty inside her hospital. In a strongly worded letter to Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee the Federation of Medical Associations (FeMA) has written that if there was a casualty among the doctors who were fasting unto death then the consequence would be uncontrollable. "We have realised that Mamata Banerjee is least interested in addressing the genuine demands" of the junior doctors who had been on a fast unto death. Threatening a complete cease work of doctors and also a bigger movement the FeMA has warned that "no amount of vote bank or police force will be able to stop the movement. We will make sure that this extreme step that you are

forcing us to take will be supported by every common man and even your own vote bank. It will soon be followed by similar action Pan India. Even central forces will not be sufficient to douse the flames," the FeMA wrote. The letter barely a few hours before Aniket Mahato a striking doctor was hospitalized in a "critical condition." Nine doctors, seven in Kolkata and two in Siliguri were sitting in fast unto death in support of their demands post the brutal rape and murder of "Abhaya" the victim doctor of RGKMCH. In a ten-point demand the doctors have been asking for a central referral system with real time monitoring so that no patient has to run from hospital to hospital losing vital time of treatment, installation of CCTV cameras, foolproof security of medical staff, end of threat syndicate inside medical colleges and related "rule of and rule by corruption," and conducting of college elections so as to end the "threat and extortion raj being perpetrated in the

colleges," the doctors said. The Bengal chapter of IMA too wrote to the Chief Minister to end the imbroglio by providing the junior doctors with a written deadline by which their demands would be fulfilled. "It (has) almost (been) a week since the young doctors of Bengal (started their) fast onto death. The Government is entirely capable of meeting all the demands. Peaceful ambience and security are not a luxury. They are a prerequisite. We appeal to your good self to settle the issues with the young generation doctors as an elder and the Head of the Government," the letter said adding how "the entire medical fraternity of India is concerned and trust you would be able to save their lives." Meanwhile, Dr Aniket Mahato, one of the junior doctors participating in the strike, was hospitalized after his condition worsened. "He is presently stable and is responding to treatment but we are keeping watch on other doctors too as their parameters are going down too we hope the Government loves its doctors and it knows how to show that love," Dr Subarna Goswami one of the senior doctors said.

Mortal remains of missing Coast Guard pilot recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The mortal remains of Commandant Rakesh Kumar Rana, the missing pilot of the Advanced Light Helicopter MK-III of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), which made an emergency landing last month, have been retrieved approximately 55 kms south west off the coast of Porbandar, defence ministry said here on Friday. After over 70 air sorties and involvement of multiple ships, the mortal remains of Commandant were retrieved on Thursday. The Commandant, who was the helicopter's pilot-in-command, was on a medical evacuation mission along with one pilot and two air crew divers to evacuate a seriously injured crew member from Motor Tanker Hari Leela. The helicopter had to make an emergency landing on September two, after which ICG along with the Indian Navy launched a massive search and rescue operation



for the missing personnel. One crew was rescued, while the mortal remains of three others were recovered on September three. "His mortal remains will be cremated as per service traditions and honour. A warm salute to the three brave souls from Rank and File of the Indian Coast Guard who laid down their lives in the line of duty," it said. The Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) of the Coast Guard with four crew members met with the

accident while trying to evacuate an injured man on board motor tanker Hari Leela, nearly 30 nautical miles from the Porbandar coast. While one of the four crew members on the helicopter, diver Gautam Kumar, was rescued immediately, three went missing. A day later, the bodies of pilot Vipin Babu and diver Karan Singh were recovered. But Rana remained missing, prompting a massive search operation.

India expresses concern over security in West Asia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday said it was "concerned" at the "deteriorating" security situation in parts of West Asia, amid reports that United Nations peacekeepers have been caught in the intensified fighting in southern Lebanon. In a statement, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) also said New Delhi continues to monitor the situation closely. "We are concerned at the deteriorating security situation along the Blue Line. We continue to monitor the situation closely," the MEA said. There are about 600 Indian soldiers as part of the UN peacekeeping force, it was learnt. The 120-km Blue Line is a United Nations-recognised demarcation line to indicate that Israel had withdrawn its military from southern Lebanon. It separates Lebanon from Israel and the Golan Heights, but it is not



an official international border. "Inviolability of UN premises must be respected by all, and appropriate measures taken to ensure the safety of UN peacekeepers and the sanctity of their mandate," the MEA said in its statement. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL),

the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, said in a statement on October 10 that "recent escalation along the Blue Line is causing widespread destruction of towns and villages in south Lebanon." "In the past days, we have seen incursions from Israel into Lebanon in Naqoura and

other areas. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers have clashed with Hizbullah elements on the ground in Lebanon," it alleged in the statement. "This morning, two peacekeepers were injured after an IDF Merkava tank fired its weapon toward an observation tower at

UNIFIL's headquarters in Naqoura, directly hitting it and causing them to fall," the UN statement read. "The injuries are fortunately, this time, not serious, but they remain in hospital," it added. The situation along the Israel-Lebanon border has escalated rapidly after the killing of former Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah. The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have accused Hezbollah of operating in areas near UNIFIL posts. In a statement, the IDF said, "The IDF is operating in southern Lebanon and maintains routine communication with UNIFIL." "This morning (Thursday), IDF troops operated in the area of Naqoura, next to a UNIFIL base. Accordingly, the IDF instructed the UN forces in the area to remain in protected spaces, following which the forces opened fire in the area," the statement added.

Ghanshyam Tiwari appointed Chairman, Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bhartiya Janta Party MP From Rajasthan, Ghanshyam Tiwari, has been appointed as the chairman of the Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. The Committee has been reconstituted by the Rajya Sabha chairman with effect from October 10. Among other members appointed as members of the Committee are Pramod Tiwari (Congress), Derek O'Brien (TMC), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Sanjay Singh (AAP), V Vijayasai Reddy (YSRCP), Sasmit Patra (BJD), Prem Chand Gupta (RJD), Medha



Vishram Kulkarni and Darshana Singh (both BJP). The Rajya Sabha chairman has also changed the nominations of members in the department related to Parliamentary Standing

Committees, with Fauzia Khan changed from Social Justice and Empowerment to Committee to the Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, V Vijayasai Reddy from Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture to Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai has also been nominated by the chairman to the Committee on Health and Family Welfare, from the Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj earlier, and Neeraj Dangi from the Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to the Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

The chairman has also nominated Seema Dwivedi to the department-related to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources. The Ethics Committee of the Rajya Sabha has the mandate to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and to examine cases referred to it with reference to ethical and other misconduct of members. In respect of procedure and other matters, the rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges apply to the Ethics Committee with such variations and modifications as the chairman, Rajya Sabha, may from time to time make.

PM Modi pays tribute to Jayaprakash Narayan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid tribute to socialist stalwart and anti-Emergency movement icon Jayaprakash Narayan on his birth anniversary. In a social media, the Prime Minister said Narayan dedicated his life to bringing positive change in the country and society. His personality and ideals will remain an inspiration for every generation, he said. Modi also paid homage to Nanaji Deshmukh, a leading member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, on his birth anniversary. Modi said, his dedication and service for the empowerment of villagers,

especially the deprived sections, will always be remembered. A fierce socialist and freedom fighter, Narayan, fondly called JP, led a popular movement against the Indira Gandhi government's alleged corruption and repressive politics in the 70s before she imposed an Emergency. He then united opposition parties and rallied the masses against Congress in the first election after the Emergency in 1977, scripting a crushing defeat for the ruling party. Associated with the RSS, Deshmukh was an active member of the anti-emergency movement and later quit politics to become a social activist who dedicated his life to improving the lives of villagers.

Modi invites EAS countries to Nalanda Conclave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday invited East Asia Summit countries for the first-ever Heads of Higher Education Conclave to be held at Nalanda University in Bihar. He extended the invitation during 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) at Vientiane, the capital of Lao People's Democratic Republic. "Reiterating the importance of the EAS mechanism and reaffirming India's support to further strengthen it, the PM recalled support received from EAS Participating Countries on the revival of Nalanda University. The PM took this opportunity to invite the EAS countries for a

Heads of Higher Education Conclave to be held at Nalanda University," an official statement said. The statement did not mention the date of the conclave. The EAS has 18 members the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) along with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States. Modi had in June inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University at Rajgir in Bihar. The University is conceived as a collaboration between India and the EAS countries.

India's vaccine regulatory system gets WHO approval

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Drug regulator Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the National Regulatory Authority of India have met the standards set up by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a functional vaccine regulatory system. A team of international experts from various countries led by WHO headquarters in Geneva reviewed India's vaccine regulatory system from September 16 to 20, the health ministry said in a statement. Safety, efficacy, and quality were the three basic parameters of assessment of vaccines, it said.



The WHO has established global standards and benchmarks for assurance of vaccine quality through the

development of tools and guidelines, benchmarking of the National Regulatory Authorities (NRA) and pre-qualification programme of vaccines, the statement said. The WHO NRA re-benchmarking was aimed to assess and document the status of the India regulatory system in the area of vaccine regulation, re-benchmark the status of the India vaccine regulatory system against the WHO NRA Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) and measuring the maturity of the system. "India has been declared 'functional' against all the core regulatory functions of the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool Version VI. India's vaccine regulatory system was

benchmarked in 2017 against Global benchmarking tool (GBT) version V which is now revised to GBT VI with raised bars and stringency in benchmarking criteria," the statement said. India retains maturity level 3 with highest marks in several functions. Speaking about the achievement, Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary, stated, "The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), in collaboration with WHO, has made exemplary efforts towards this achievement. India is one of the main players in the pharmaceutical industry worldwide and is known for its affordable vaccines and generic medicines."

Indian Navy hosts NIIO Seminar 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The third edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) Seminar, Swavlamban 2024, will take place for two days starting October 28 at Bharat Mandapam here, navy said on Friday. Giving details, officials said over the last two editions of Swavlamban, the Indian Navy has received more than 2,000 proposals from the Indian industry that have been converted into 155 challenges to facilitate development of prototypes. This initiative has enabled collaboration with more than 200 MSMEs/Startups under the iDEX Scheme. "Swavlamban 2024, is expected to build on the



experiences and insights gained through the conduct of previous editions of the seminar, and provide new and substantial impetus to the innovation and indigenisation endeavour. The event will showcase products of niche technologies such as air and surface surveillance, autonomous systems in surface, aerial and underwater domains, AI and quantum technologies, they said.

Domain specific interactive sessions on October 29 at Bharat Mandapam will provide an opportunity for interaction among policy makers, innovators, startups, MSMEs, financial institutions and venture capitalists to discuss and deliberate on issues such as emerging technologies, future warfare, indigenisation, boosting innovation ecosystem and inculcating an innovative culture.

Row erupts over JPNIC as SP, BJP clash

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Jayaprakash Narayan International Centre (JPNIC) in Lucknow, home to a museum honoring the iconic socialist leader, has become the focal point of a political standoff between Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with Akhilesh even asking Nitish Kumar to sever ties with NDA.

The row erupted during Jayaprakash Narayan's birth anniversary, with SP accusing the BJP of preventing their tribute to the revered leader. Late Thursday night, entrances to the JPNIC were barricaded with tin sheets, and security was heightened Friday morning with heavy police presence, a day before Mr. Yadav's planned visit to

garland the statue of Narayan inside the complex. Sharing videos of the barricades outside his residence, Mr. Yadav accused the BJP government of obstructing his tribute. "Whether it is the BJP or their government, every action is a symbol of negativity. Barricades have been put up to prevent us from honoring Jayaprakash Narayanji on his birth anniversary, just like last time," Yadav said.

Responding to the allegations, BJP spokesperson Alok Awasthi defended the government's actions and asserted that the BJP holds great respect for Jayaprakash Narayan, hailing him as a "symbol of simplicity." However, Awasthi sharply criticized Yadav, questioning his alignment with Narayan's values.

"Mr. Akhilesh Yadav, do you



even possess a single quality of Jai Prakash Narayan? You lead a luxurious life. During your tenure, lawlessness, hooliganism, and corruption were rampant," Awasthi said. He added that Yadav's actions were contrary to the principles upheld by both Jayaprakash Narayan and socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia.

With his visit to the JPNIC blocked, Mr. Yadav garlanded a bust of Jayaprakash Narayan mounted on a vehicle outside his residence. Photographs of the tribute were widely shared, accompanied by the defiant message: "Socialists are not afraid of dictatorship."

Yadav also made a political appeal to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, a former ally of Narayan, calling on him to sever ties with the BJP over the incident. Nitish Kumar's

Janata Dal (United) party, which is allied with the BJP, plays a significant role in the NDA government.

"What does the government want to hide by blocking the gate with tin sheets?" Yadav questioned late Thursday night. "A museum was built here to honor a great socialist thinker. Why is the government doing this?"

Birth Anniversary Standoff

This marks the second consecutive year that Yadav has been prevented from paying his respects at the JPNIC. In 2022, he famously scaled a wall to garland the statue, a symbolic act he cited as evidence of the government's hostility towards socialists. "Every year on this day, socialists gathered here to honor Jayaprakashji. He never bowed before the government of his time, and we won't either," Yadav declared.

The JPNIC, inaugurated by Akhilesh Yadav in 2016 during his tenure as Chief Minister, has been mired in controversy since the BJP came to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2017. Yadav has repeatedly alleged that construction at the center was deliberately stalled after the BJP's electoral victory and accused the government of planning to sell off the property.

The LDA, responsible for the maintenance of the JPNIC, has stood by its decision to deny Yadav access to the site. In its official statement, the authority reiterated concerns over the ongoing construction and the potential hazards posed by recent heavy rains. The letter also mentioned the heightened security risk posed by Yadav's Z+ security cover, a status shared only by the Prime Minister.

Mayawati rules out future alliances with regional parties

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) Supremo Mayawati announced on Friday that her party will no longer form alliances with regional forces in Uttar Pradesh or any other state, citing the poor performance of previous partnerships.

This move, she said, is aimed at protecting the morale of her party workers and preserving the BSP's political movement. Mayawati also reiterated her stance of maintaining a distance from both the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led INDIA alliance. The decision was made during a review meeting held to analyze the "bitter experiences" from the Haryana Assembly election results and prior Punjab elections. In a series of posts on X (formerly Twitter), the former four-time Uttar Pradesh chief minister expressed her dissatisfaction with past alliances.



"The BSP had consistently transferred its votes to alliance partners during elections in Uttar Pradesh and other states, but these partners failed to reciprocate. This led to disappointing results, which demoralized our party workers and hurt the party's movement," Mayawati said. She emphasized the impor-

ance of shielding the party cadres from further disappointment, which could potentially damage the party's progress. Referring to the recent Haryana elections, where the BSP had partnered with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) but failed to win any seats, she highlighted how the lack of reciprocation from allies had cost them.

"In light of the Haryana assembly election results and the previous Punjab elections, today's review meeting for Haryana and Punjab has decided that the BSP will no longer form alliances with regional parties. We will also continue to distance ourselves from both the BJP/NDA and the Congress/INDIA alliances, as we have done in

the past," Mayawati declared. She reaffirmed that the BSP remains committed to its core ideology of empowering the Bahujan Samaj (the marginalized sections of society) and upholding Ambedkarite values. She pointed out that, despite efforts by "casteist forces" to weaken the BSP, it remains the only party dedicated to this mission.

"The BSP is not a party that merges with others for selfish reasons. Instead, it is a movement aimed at uniting the various sections of the Bahujan Samaj into a powerful political force, based on mutual cooperation and brotherhood, to elevate them to a ruling class status," she added.

In the Haryana elections, the BSP, in alliance with INLD, failed to win any seats. After the results, Mayawati blamed the "casteist people of the Jat community" for not voting for BSP candidates, despite the party's efforts to transfer its vote base to the alliance partner.

Ratan Tata Memorial meeting held at Kasaragod

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

No citizens in Kasaragod have met Ratan Tata, India's leading industrialist. But that did not prevent them from organizing a memorial meeting on Friday in honor of Ratan Tata who breathed his last late Wednesday night.

"It is because of the philanthropy of Tata that we are all alive today. When Covid-19 struck Kasaragod in a major way in 2019, the district was declared a no go area and all boundaries with Karnataka and other districts in the State were shut down. This made Kasaragod a ghost district as hundreds died without getting medical care," said Sukumaran Periyachoor, patron of Saparya, a socio-cultural platform which organized the meeting.

The district was short of hospitals and residents had to depend on hospitals in Karnataka's Mangalore for



medical aid. Since the borders of the district were shut off, there was no means for the locals to commute to Karnataka for treatment. "It was at this juncture Ratan Tata came across our plight and he ordered the immediate setting up of a specialty hospital to treat Covid-19 patients. A full-fledged hospital was set up in record time of three months at Chattanchal. It was a 600-bed hospital and treated more than 6000 Covid-19 patients. The hospital cost the Tata Trusts more than Rs 60 crore," said Sukumaran who expressed his

gratitude to The Pioneer, the only newspaper that highlighted the concern of the people in the delay associated with the opening of the hospital. "While the media in Kerala ignored the sufferings of the Kasaragod people, The Pioneer was the only newspaper which highlighted the delay in commissioning the hospital because of the lethargy and indecisiveness of the Government," said Sreedevi Ambalapuram, who paid glowing tributes to Ratan Tata in the meeting.

The resolution adopted in the meeting described the philanthropy works carried out by the Tata Trusts as proof of value based economy. "Though none of us has seen Ratan Tata in person, we were all praying for his recovery and longevity so that more and more people could get the benefits showered by Tata Trusts, of which he was the soul and energy," said Premachandran Chombala.

ED registers money laundering case into recent drug seizure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday registered a money laundering case into the recent narcotics seizure worth over 7,000 crore in the national Capital and conducted searches in Delhi, Mumbai, Gurugram and some other cities. Delhi police which is probing the city's biggest-ever seizure of cocaine worth over Rs 7,000 crore, has issued look-out circulars (LOCs) against six people, including an Indian-origin UK national who fled the country before the latest recovery of 208 kg of the drug from west Delhi. The Delhi Police Special Cell on October 2 seized over 560 kg cocaine and 40 kg hydroponic marijuana, estimated to be worth Rs 5,620 crore, from a godown in the Mahipalpur area of south Delhi. According to police, a total of seven persons have been arrested by the police till now in the case.

ED sources said the federal agency raided the premises of various accused and suspects including that of Tushar Goel and his wife in Vasant Enclave and Rajouri Garden areas of Delhi. The residential premises of Himanshu Kumar in Prem Nagar in Delhi and that of Bharat Kumar in Nalasopara, Mumbai, are also being searched.

"The business premises of Tushar Books Publication Private Limited and Tulip Publications Private Limited in the Jhandewalan area of Delhi and ABN Buildtech Private Limited in Gurugram were also raided," a source said. In the second such narcotics haul, the Delhi Police Thursday seized 208 kg of cocaine worth Rs 2,080 crore from a rented shop in west Delhi on Thursday.

The drug was kept concealed in plastic packets of snacks with "Tasty Treat" and "Chatpata Mixture" written on those. About 20-25 such hauls, they said.

Meanwhile, Delhi police has issued look-out circulars (LOCs) against six people,

including an Indian-origin UK national who fled the country before the latest recovery of 208 kg of the drug from west Delhi. According to police sources, the UK national, Savinder Singh, came to India last month to supervise the transportation and delivery of the 208-kg consignment suspected to have been brought from South American countries. The sources said Singh spent around 25 days in three separate locations in Delhi before fleeing to the United Kingdom soon after the arrest of the first four members of the syndicate. These arrests were effected on October 2. "As of now, we have issued LOCs against half-a-dozen people, some of them foreign nationals. One of them is the person who kept 208 kg of cocaine hidden in west Delhi's Ramesh Nagar and fled to the UK," a police officer, who is privy to the investigations, said. The officer said a dozen people suspected to be involved in the syndicate are on the radar of the Delhi Police. Earlier, police had issued an LOC against the syndicate's kingpin, Virender Basoya alias Veeru, who is believed to be staying in Dubai. Basoya was allegedly running the syndicate with the help of India-based Tushar Goyal and UK-based Jitender Gill alias Jassi and Savinder Singh, police said. Goyal and Gill have been arrested while Basoya and Singh are yet to be nabbed, the officer said.

In the second big drugs haul in a week, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police seized 208 kg of cocaine worth Rs 2,080 crore from a rented shop in west Delhi on Thursday.

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Ashuras too have begun to celebrate Durga Pujas

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The "big breaking news" is: The hedge of stated 'discord' between the "descendants of Gods and Ashuras" is obliterating fast. Unlike their ancestors the Ashuras are joining Durga Puja celebrations in a big way. Cut to Jalpaiguri in North Bengal where the members of Ashura tribe --- many of whom consider themselves the descendants of demon kings --- have cast off the age old "stigma" of being the descendants of Mahishasura to take part in the festivities. "We are proud of our Ashura culture ... when we come to celebrate Durga Pujas it is an assimilation of culture and not representation of hostilities," says Jamini an amateur artist from the community. "Till even a few years ago the members of our tribe would not go out and mingle with the people in Durga Pujas as our ancestors did nothing of

that sort ... we remained confined in our homes in these 10 days of Durga Pujas ... but modern education seems to have broken that barrier," said Rajiv Ashur of Nagrakata in Jalpaiguri. "We as children would not go to pandals though we were attracted by the pomp as people mostly the descendants of the Aryans would think that we were bad being the descendants of Mahishashur ... but our mythology says that he was a good king ... however that sense of stigma is diminishing and the people are taking part in the festivities as social beings ... even they come to our festivals," he says.

His grandfather Charu Ashur though however refuses to visit the pandal as he thinks that Mahishasur --- the demon God who was slain by the Mother Goddess to rid the Universe of evil --- "was a very benevolent king who did great good to his subjects



but for the intervention of the Gods who tried to impose their will on the Ashuras taking away their lands and everything leading to a battle in which he was eventually martyred." Charu however does not come in the way of h is grand-

children mingling with the children of Durga as "past is past ... now time has come when all should live together happily sharing mutual respect for each other." However Usha Ashur who has done her Masters in sociology is vehement in pre-

serving her culture. "There is no problem mingling but why should be done by demeaning of our ancestors. According to her the myth that "the war between Gods and Demons is an eternal battle between good and evil" and that "the alleged epitome of evil that is Mahishasur is finally forgiven by the Goddess, should also be discarded" as "this leads to "continual marginalisation and exclusion of Mahishasur's descendants from the cultural mainstream."

But once again she has no problem joining in the festivities but with a caution "this must not mean white-washing of the Ashura culture." Her own brother who is a member in a Durga Puja community in Jalpaiguri says, "how can you resist the children who get a good opportunity to get new clothes, sweets, and a long drawn off from the schools ... their friends are

from what you call the traditional Aryan communities ... so it is better to get the cultures to mingle." But he does not reject his sisters' views that the Ashura community and its culture must not be allowed to be overwhelmed by the Aryan majoritarian culture. According to the 1991 census, the population of Ashurs --- one of the 40 scheduled tribes of Bengal --- was about 4864. Of these, the total number is 3108 in Jalpaiguri. There were some Ashurs in Darjeeling and Cooch Behar districts too. Bikash Ashur a private teacher and also member of a Puja club says "the time has come when Ashur or Shur should be identified by the inner quality and not the looks or descent ... after all the Hindu mythology itself says that the Gods and Ashuras were siblings with one being the descendant of Aditi and the other of Diti."

Development of Gurugram district my priority; says Badshahpur MLA

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Newly elected Badshahpur MLA and senior BJP leader Rao Narbir Singh said that the development of Gurugram district is his priority. In his first instructions after winning the elections, he said the foundation stone would be laid soon for making Gurugram free from garbage and dirt and for the construction of a civil hospital and bus stand. Gurugram district is now going to move towards new changes of development. Singh asserted that along with winning most of the seats in southern Haryana, the BJP government is going to be formed in Haryana for the third time.

"BJP government has worked on the principle of Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas and has brought equal development in the whole of Haryana," Singh said. At the same time, people



want to get so much work done so that in future, the BJP candidate does not have to go to seek votes and people themselves come and give their votes and support to the BJP," he lamented. Singh said he had instructed the administrative officials to make Gurugram a garbage-free beautiful city. Illegal constructions made in the green belt should also be removed, the work of which has also started. We want that all types of garbage, polythene and dirt should be disposed of by Diwali.

The construction work of the civil hospital will be started in one to one and a half months and the foundation stone of the bus stand will also be laid within three months, he said. Apart from this, to improve the education system, model schools will be built in Gurugram under the CSR fund. In which better education will be provided. The metro rail project will also be expanded in Gurugram.

Ahead of commissioning, IAF aircraft lands at Mumbai International Airport

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant milestone witnessed months ahead of the commissioning of the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), a C-295 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) landed on its runway on Friday afternoon.

The C-295, a medium tactical transport aircraft, landed around 1215 hrs after which it was accorded a water salute. As the transport aircraft touched the NMIA's runway, there was a stunning flypast by Sukhoi-30 fighter jets of the IAF. The inaugural landing of aircraft marked a new beginning in the country's aviation sector.

The NMIA has been developed by the Navi Mumbai International Airport Pvt Ltd (NMIAL), which is a special-purpose vehicle formed by the Adani Airports Holdings Ltd (AAHL) and City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra



Ltd (CIDCO). The CIDCO is the nodal agency for the project. A Greenfield airport, NMIA will serve as the second international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), to be operated alongside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) of Mumbai. The NMIA is expected to absorb 10 million passengers in its first operational year and 25 million passengers in the two subsequent years and ultimately 40 million by 2030 to 35. The importance of NMIA should be realized from the fact

that the Mumbai airport currently handles 26 million passengers annually and the traffic flow has now increased to 45 million passengers and the figure will go up to 119 million by 2035. After the landing of the transport aircraft, chief minister Eknath Shinde inspected the runway at the airport, and congratulated the IAF officers present. He also sat in the cockpit of the The C-295. "After the successful testing of the runway, it will soon be possible for us to operate domestic and international flights from this airport," Shinde said. "A historic moment for Navi Mumbai as we celebrate the first landing on the new airport with the Indian Air Force's C-295! Grateful for the support of IAF, including a stunning low pass by the Su-30. This marks the dawn of a new era in Indian aviation, where the sky is no longer the limit. Together, we soar higher," AAHL Director Jeet Adani wrote on micro-blogging site "X".



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India acts East

PM Modi visits Laos for the 21st India-ASEAN Summit; says the 21st century belongs to India and ASEAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Laos for the 21st India-ASEAN Summit reestablishes India's diplomatic engagement with Southeast Asian nations. With a focus on enhancing connectivity and resilience, Modi announced a comprehensive 10-point action plan aimed at fortifying the India-ASEAN partnership. This initiative not only underscores the importance of regional collaboration in a time of global uncertainty but also highlights the potential for growth within the 21st-century landscape, which PM Modi asserts 'belongs to India and ASEAN.' PM Modi emphasised the critical need for friendship and cooperation among India and ASEAN countries, especially as tensions rise globally, with conflicts affecting various regions. He reiterated that India-ASEAN friendship, coordination dialogue and cooperation are essential at a time when several parts of the world are facing conflicts and tensions. The summit also coincides with the review of a decade of India's Act East Policy, which has significantly contributed to the doubling of India-ASEAN trade to over USD 130 billion in the past ten years.



The Prime Minister's vision for deeper ties with ASEAN encompasses several key areas. One of the important initiatives is the enhancement of connectivity, marked by the establishment of direct flight connections with seven ASEAN nations. This move aims to facilitate easier travel and trade, further integrating the economies of the region. In the realm of technology, PM Modi announced the launch of fintech connectivity with Singapore, setting a precedent for future collaborations across the ASEAN region. This initiative promotes technological advancement and financial inclusion, essential for emerging economies. Cultural ties are also a focal point, with efforts to restore shared heritage in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia reflecting India's commitment to preserving regional history and identity. Moreover, Modi stressed the urgency of completing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITIGA) review to unlock greater economic potential for both parties. He highlighted the significance of educational exchanges. Over 300 students from ASEAN countries have benefitted from scholarships at Nalanda University, fostering deeper educational ties. As regional tensions persist, especially concerning maritime disputes in the South China Sea and the ongoing crisis in Myanmar, PM Modi's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative underscores the need for collaborative efforts in ensuring regional stability and security. This approach, along with a commitment to humanitarian cooperation, highlights India's readiness to support ASEAN nations in times of natural disasters. India's vision is firmly anchored in a people-centric approach, indicating a commitment to sustainable development that addresses the needs and aspirations of citizens across both regions. Indeed India and ASEAN nations have much in common; they share heritage and values which date back to centuries. It is time to revive them.

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PICTALK



An artist paints effigies of the demon king Ravana on the Dussehra, in Prayagraj

Strengthening RTI Act with practical reforms



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

As the Right to Information (RTI) Act completes 19 years, it is time to amend the rules and expand its scope to ensure it continues to serve its purpose effectively

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, implemented on October 12, 2005, marked a monumental step toward government transparency and accountability in India. Over the years, the Act has been instrumental in exposing corruption and various scams, empowering citizens to demand information from public authorities. However, while the Act has undeniably brought about significant reform, certain amendments to the RTI rules—not the Act itself—are necessary to prevent misuse, streamline the process, and reduce the burden on the courts.

Addressing Misuse and Unnecessary Litigation

One of the key challenges facing the RTI framework today is the misuse of the system by individuals and groups, often leading to unnecessary appeals and challenges in courts. The Central Information Commission (CIC), tasked with handling RTI appeals, is often burdened by frivolous cases that clog the system and delay the resolution of genuine complaints. Amendments to the RTI rules, particularly in the area of public-private partnerships (PPPs), sports bodies, and cooperatives, could alleviate some of this pressure.

By declaring PPPs, sports bodies, and cooperatives as public authorities under the RTI Act, a significant amount of time and resources could be saved. These entities often handle substantial public funds, and their exclusion from RTI coverage has raised questions about transparency. Including them under the Act would not only enhance accountability but also reduce the number of cases that reach Information Commissions and courts, streamlining the entire RTI process.

Bringing Government Allotments Under RTI

A critical area that requires attention is the issue of government land and accommodation allotments. Many government-owned properties are allotted at subsidised rates, often raising concerns about favouritism or corruption. To address this, all such allotments should be brought



under the purview of the RTI Act. Moreover, future allotments should be made conditional upon compliance with the Act, ensuring that beneficiaries are transparent about the process and accountable to the public. This move would further reduce the burden on Information Commissions, as it would discourage non-compliant beneficiaries from evading public scrutiny. It would also provide citizens with a tool to question and monitor how public resources are being allocated, contributing to more transparent governance.

Streamlining High Offices' RTI Applications

High offices such as those of the President, Prime Minister, and Chief Ministers often receive RTI applications that may not be directly related to their functions. To improve efficiency, these offices should only address RTI applications that pertain specifically to their roles. Any other applications should be returned to the applicant, along with advice on which department or authority they should approach instead. This measure would reduce the workload on these high offices while ensuring that citizens receive the information they seek from the correct sources.

Bringing Private Sector Banks Under RTI

The financial sector has long been an area where greater transparency is needed, particularly in light of recent scan-



ONE OF THE KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE RTI FRAMEWORK TODAY IS THE MISUSE OF THE SYSTEM BY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, OFTEN LEADING TO UNNECESSARY APPEALS AND CHALLENGES IN COURTS

dals and issues of financial mismanagement. While public sector banks are already subject to RTI, the private sector remains outside the Act's purview. This is a matter of concern, given the extensive use of public funds by private banks and the critical role they play in the economy. To address this gap, private sector banks should be brought under the RTI Act. This would allow citizens to seek information about their financial practices, thereby increasing accountability in the sector.

Standardising RTI Fees and Preventing Misuse

Another issue that plagues the current RTI framework is the inconsistency in application fees across states. RTI fees should be standardised nationwide at Rs 50, which would cover the cost of 20 photocopied pages. Furthermore, no fees should be charged for appeals. These changes would simplify the process for citizens and eliminate confusion regarding varying charges in different states. However, there is also a need to address the misuse of free RTI applications by certain vested interests. For instance, contractors have been known to exploit Below Poverty Line (BPL) workers by having them file RTI requests on their behalf, thus avoiding fees. To prevent this, the free provision for BPL applicants should be limited to 20 pages. Any additional pages should incur a nominal charge, ensur-

ing that the system is not abused while still providing free access to information for genuinely disadvantaged individuals.

Enhancing Accessibility and Digital Integration

To further streamline the RTI process, post offices across the country should accept post-free RTI applications. This would make it easier for citizens, particularly those in rural areas, to file applications without worrying about postage costs. In addition, a mandatory requirement for ID proof, as seen in states like Punjab and Haryana, should be implemented nationwide. This would prevent misuse of the RTI system and ensure that applications are being filed by genuine individuals seeking information. The introduction of online RTI portals has been a positive step in recent years, but there is still room for improvement. All states should adopt the National Informatics Centre (NIC)-designed RTI websites, which allow for greater standardisation and ease of use. These portals should feature auto-emailed responses and alerts, keeping applicants informed of the status of their requests. Moreover, outdated state-specific RTI laws, such as the Delhi RTI Act, should be repealed in favor of the national RTI Act to ensure uniformity across the country.

(The writer is a RTI activist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIAN WORKERS ARE OVERBURDENED

Madam — "Work more, take less" is the mantra of the Indian employers of all sectors who are hell-bent on extracting more and more work from their employees while the emolument is not parallel to the labour at all. Consequently, stress tends to percolate through the workplace as shown by two work-related deaths of young employees in private companies. An International Labour Organisation (ILO) report that Indians work 46.7 hours per week, much higher than their American, Japanese, South African and Chinese counterparts, speaks volumes about the workload taken by an average Indian worker.

It is documented in other papers, too, that more than sixty percent of the Indian workers are stressed at work, while in general the Asian countries' workforce is more burdened by work. The primary cause for all this can be traced to the burgeoning unemployment in the country and the dearth of the right job for the right person. Employers' proclivity to recruit less to save their coffers has compounded the problem. Egoistic and haughty employers, fretting and fuming over no real reason, have pushed an already overstressed Indian worker to the edge. There is no time to waste: balancing work with rest should engage everyone's attention including that of the government.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

INDIA-MALDIVES RELATIONS IMPROVE

Madam—India and its neighbour Maldives recently concluded a bilateral summit and agreed upon numerous deals. This came after a strain of ties between the two nations for almost one year after Mohamed Muizzu became president of the Island nation. India came forward to help the Maldives recover from its economic distress by signing a currency swap deal of around 385 million dollars. The two nations also agreed to enhance strategic and defence cooperation in the future. This visit has

Sports promote social unity



From time immemorial, sports have always been more than just games; they are powerful agents of social change, capable of uniting people, breaking down religion and caste barriers, and driving positive transformations in society. From local community

games to international tournaments, sports have a unique way of bringing people together, fostering a sense of community, and promoting health and well-being. One of the most compelling aspects of sport is its ability to bridge cultural gaps. Whether it's a small-town soccer match or the grandeur of the Olympic Games, sports create a common ground where individuals can connect and share experiences.

This shared passion fosters mutual respect and understanding, promoting peace and camaraderie among different cultures. The impact of sports on society is profound, touching on aspects of culture, economy, and personal development. As we move forward, embracing the positive aspects of sport while addressing its challenges will ensure that it continues to be a powerful force for good in the world.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

THE BJP WINS HARYANA

Madam — Contrary to all expectations and predictions, the BJP was able to retain Haryana for the third time. All pollsters, analysts and exit polls have been proved wrong. Politics is an unforgiving game and the defeat of the Congress has created ripples in opposition unity as the Congress will have lost its bargaining power.

The victory for BJP will undoubtedly give them a lot of confidence to face assembly elections in Jharkhand and the all important Maharashtra. It is not in the best interests of Indian democracy to use caste equations to try and win elections. All parties are guilty of the practice of pandering to particular castes for gaining their votes. Time and again, it has been seen that in a one-to-one fight, the Congress is no match for the well-oiled BJP election fighting machinery.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

brought positivity amidst reports of the Maldives being closer to China. New Delhi also extended its Rupaya card system to the Maldives, which can also improve people-to-people ties among the two nations.

Good relations between the two countries will lead to peaceful South Asia. The partnership between New Delhi and Male will also counter China's aggressive expansion motives in the region. Traditionally, the Maldives has always been a good friend to India, but in the last one year, administrative and people-to-people ties have become strained between the two nations. Recently, both countries took the initiative to make it better. These steps resulted in this bilateral talk. The deals signed between the two nations will help both countries boost their economies. This will also benefit the region as well. India should also try to change the anti-Indian sentiments in the island nation and push for Indian businesses to expand and invest in a country with a rich tourism industry.

Deba Prasad Nayak | New Delhi

A new era of global opportunities awaits India in higher education

With initiatives like 'Study in India' and the recognition of qualifications of other countries, India is positioning itself as a growing hub for international education



SAHIL GUPTA

India offers tremendous opportunities in various sectors, the education is no different. Internationalisation of this sector was envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), and the Government of India has taken effective steps over the last 4 years towards achieving this goal. Initiatives such as Study in India, Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) setting up campuses in India, collaborations between Indian institutions and FHEIs, and mutual recognition of qualifications between governments are already seeing positive results. Enabling FHEIs to set up their campuses in India was allowed through Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) regulations as well as by the University Grants Commission (UGC). These regulations aim to attract top-ranked global universities and institutions to India and offer Indian students a chance to avail global certifications at comparatively affordable costs in their home country. We have already seen Deakin University operationalise its



campus in July this year and the University of Wollongong preparing for their launch, both at GIFT City. The University of Southampton (UK), ranked 80th in the 2025 QS World Rankings, became the first university to receive a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the Indian Government to establish its campus in India. We are also seeing Indian institutions set up campuses overseas as part of the internationalisation initiative. IIT Delhi has set up its first international campus in Zanzibar. The UGC Institutions of Eminence (IoE) guidelines enable IoEs to set up their campuses overseas and BITS Pilani and Manipal Academy took advantage of the window to do their forays outside India. While there is a lot of inter-

est from other private universities to set up campuses overseas, promulgating an enabling framework through regulations by the government would catalyze this interest further. In May 2022, the government revamped the collaboration guidelines to allow for joint degree, dual degree and twinning programmes between Indian institutions and FHEIs. We have already seen a lot of traction in this space, with Manipal Institute of Technology tying up with Deakin, the University of Australia, and Shoolini University offering dual degrees with the University of Melbourne being some recent examples.

Studying in India is another initiative towards the internationalisation of the Indian education system. It is a flagship programme of the Government of India in line with PM Modi's vision. The website portal acts as a single window system for admission and visa applications for foreign students wanting to pursue higher education in India, with more than 60,000 students already registering through this portal. The

bation of internationalisation of education is also being taken forward through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and the Mutual Recognition of Qualification (MRQ) Agreement between India and other countries, which aims to facilitate student and faculty exchanges.

There are around 50 plus active MoUs (including France, and Germany) with a few under negotiation. MRQs have been signed with a few countries as well and some are under negotiation. A fabulous start to an era of transformation of the Indian education landscape! Is there a need to do more? A more targeted approach, probably through a campaign run with Indian consulates in overseas countries, could further the cause of internationalisation. FHEIs are now rethinking their strategy. Possibly an opportunity for India to tap - open an FHEI campus in India and offer itself as an alternate education hub in the region.

(The writer is Partner, Deloitte India, inputs by Guncha Prakash, Assistant Manager, Deloitte India; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

OVERCOMING ANXIETY: THE RIGHT WAY

Mindfulness, mental resilience and stress-relieving activities are essential to combat anxiety



RAVI VALLURI

Sameer was armed with a degree in management from an estimable institute. Having specialised in the field of marketing management, he was well versed in the 4Ps of marketing. At this juncture of his life, the young trainee fantasised about joining an FMCG company, earning an exorbitant salary and over a period acquiring an opulent property in an up-market area of the town. But there was an element of hesitation in his mind about successfully crossing the final hurdle – the interview. As the mind was not in the present moment and instead fixated on the future it remained anxious and continuously agitated. Thus, it was not in a state of equilibrium, equipoise, or equanimity. Meanwhile, Siddhartha, his school mate majored in architecture and apprenticed at a celebrated architectural firm in the city. Siddhartha however, was not content in designing buildings.

He possessed a febrile mind that ached to pursue a greenfield area called entertainment design. The strapping self-taught himself and acquired ultra-modern and newfangled skill sets. Fortified with the newly acquired knowledge he prepared a portfolio consisting of visionary and ingenious graphics, sketches and paintings. Yet, mentally he was anxious, tense and strained as to what lay in future. It is a normal human tendency to be apprehensive before anxious situations as it is not in the present moment. Several individuals become splenetic and waspish. Invariably there is a churning in the abdomen region and the mind is subsumed with anxiety. Arjuna, in possession of a lethal arsenal, was numbed seeing the mammoth army of the Kauravas. This, even though Lord Krishna was his charioteer! At zero hour, before the showdown at Kurukshetra, he lay down his weaponry. The consummate warrior could not distinguish between righteousness and malevolence. The demons in his mind were



eventually dispelled through the Vishwarupa Darshan of Lord Krishna and the song celestial – The Bhagavad Gita. Psychologists have advanced a two-pronged strategy to combat such inhospitable states, firstly by closely monitoring the piquant state and taking prompt and effective action and second, by avoiding and blunting the situation. Monitoring involves taking several proactive steps which help in the preparation of the mind. Advanced and well-rehearsed preparation before a significant event; this is tapasya and no one can relax on this ground.

The mind should be resolute and robust, to practice incessantly like the celebrated archer Arjuna. In the process, the individual de-clutters the mind and gets rid of the baggage of anxiety and fear. The Inoculation Technique is another effective strategy. An individual insulates the self against the perils of stress through constant exposure to rehearsals and role-playing.

This mentally toughens up the candidate to be prepared for the scrutiny and appraisal with utmost confidence and credence. Further, adopting a positive dispensation is invaluable. In addition, there are blunting tactics and strategies which help to augment the above. It is perspicacious and canny to drown in physical activity. It could be going for long walks, swimming, hitting the gym, taking up a sport or learning yogic techniques to de-stress the mind. These activities release endorphins which assuage the mind. Simultaneously, an individual will appear chiselled and smart. There are other ways to remain happy. For instance, join the Happiness Programme of the Art of Living to learn the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya which calms the body and mind. Learn pranayama and various techniques of meditation to remain in the present moment. Only when a human being is in the present moment is he insulated from anxiety and manages inexpedient and onerous situations?

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

‘Fourth transformation’ of Mexico embraces inclusivity



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Claudia Sheinbaum’s leadership promises to reshape the nation’s trajectory away from its violent past, embracing inclusive and human-centred policies

Claudia Sheinbaum’s swearing-in on October 1 as Mexico’s first female President marks a transformative moment not only for gender equality but also within the broader historical trajectory shaped by violence, revolution and the ongoing pursuit of justice. In a nation long burdened by colonial legacies and systemic inequality, her presidency signals a paradigm shift towards more inclusive and human-centred governance. Declaring a “fourth transformation,” Sheinbaum’s leadership reflects the weight of Mexico’s tumultuous history and the lives lost in its struggles. Her rise to power disrupts the deeply entrenched male-dominated political sphere, accentuating the resilience of women fighting for representation in a country plagued by gender-based violence and femicide.

Historically, Mexico has undergone significant transformations marked by bloodshed and resistance. The country’s struggle for independence from Spanish colonial rule in the early 19th century was fuelled by revolutionary fervour and the desire for self-determination. Statesmen like Miguel Hidalgo and José María Morelos emerged as symbols of resistance, galvanising the population against colonial oppression. The violent conflicts that followed laid the groundwork for a nation striving for autonomy, albeit at a considerable human cost. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the divide between church and state catalysed further revolutions and conflicts. The Liberal Reform, led by figures such as Benito Juárez, sought to dismantle the power of the Catholic Church and establish a secular state.

This period was marked by violence and civil strife, as conservative factions resisted these changes. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 further exemplified the nation’s tumultuous journey, with leaders like Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa rallying for agrarian reform and social justice. The revolution, while transformative, came at a heavy price, resulting in the loss of countless lives and widespread suffering. The bloodshed that characterised these early transformations stands in stark contrast to Sheinbaum’s vision for the fourth transformation, which she advocates as a path of non-violence and reconciliation. She seeks to distance her administration from the militarised approach that has defined previous efforts to combat crime and violence. In her inaugural speech, she emphasised that “we must turn the page on the cycles of violence that have plagued our country.” By framing her presidency as a continuation of a peaceful and humanistic governance model, she aims to redefine Mexico’s political structure.

The economic model embraced by Sheinbaum’s administration marks a significant departure from the neoliberal policies that have dominated Mexico for decades. The neoliberal framework, characterised by deregulation, resource exploitation, privatisation, and an emphasis on unethical free-market principles, has often exacerbated social inequalities and marginalised vulnerable populations. In contrast, Sheinbaum’s “Mexican Humanist” approach seeks to prioritise social welfare, equity, and sustainable development. This shift is not merely a matter of policy but represents a broader socio-political transformation in the way governance is conceived. Sheinbaum advocates for a model that empowers communities and fosters inclusivity, stating, “We must build



IN THE CONTEXT OF CLAUDIA SHEINBAUM’S PRESIDENCY, THE ENDURING LEGACY OF CIA COVERT OPERATIONS AND FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS LOOMS LARGE

a Mexico where no one is left behind.” This vision reflects a recognition that systemic issues require collective solutions and that the voices of marginalised communities must be heard in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Yet, while Sheinbaum’s approach has garnered support from many, it also faces criticism and scepticism from those who question the feasibility of her proposed reforms. Critics argue that the structural challenges posed by organised crime and entrenched political corruption may undermine her efforts to implement meaningful change. The harsh realities of violence and inequality persist, and many Mexicans remain wary of promises that may be difficult to fulfil in the face of overwhelming opposition. The historical backdrop of Mexico’s political volatility illuminates the formidable challenges in achieving authentic progress, as the legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and systemic oppression remain deeply ingrained.

The ongoing struggles for justice and equality have come at a profound cost, with the violence woven into Mexico’s history continuing to influence the present and complicate future paths.

The Zapatista movement, which arose in the 1990s in response to neoliberal policies and the marginalisation of Indigenous communities, stands as a powerful testament to the fight for social justice. Led by Subcomandante Marcos, the Zapatistas championed self-determination, autonomy, and the acknowledgement of Indigenous rights, challenging dominant political narratives and inspiring a new generation of activists, including Sheinbaum. Yet, their movement also reveals the challenges inherent in revolutionary politics; while their promise of non-violence

and social justice aligns with Sheinbaum’s vision, navigating the realities of power and governance often demands difficult compromises. The pressing challenge remains: how to dismantle deeply rooted systems of inequality and violence without mirroring the oppressive methods of the past. Sheinbaum’s fourth transformation for Mexico calls for a reevaluation of economic policies and a fundamental shift in political culture, emphasising transparency, accountability, and democratic principles that prioritise the needs of the many.

She stresses the importance of restoring faith in institutions and rebuilding the nation’s social fabric. However, the ongoing issues of alleged corruption and political machinations, exacerbated by her predecessor López Obrador’s concentration of power and undermining of democratic institutions, raise concerns about the sustainability of her reforms. In the context of Claudia Sheinbaum’s presidency, the enduring legacy of CIA covert operations and foreign interventions looms large. Historically, the United States has intervened in Latin America to safeguard its interests, often undermining democratic governance and social justice.

The repercussions of these interventions have fostered a deep-seated distrust and scepticism toward foreign influence in Mexico’s internal affairs. As Sheinbaum endeavours to establish a nation committed to human rights and social justice, she must grapple with the pervasive effects of these historical injustices and the Western media narratives that distort the actual picture of Mexican society. In terms of international relations, Sheinbaum vehemently opposes foreign intervention, particularly regarding the US blockade against Cuba, which harms ordinary cit-

izens rather than the government. She advocates for cooperation rather than militarisation in addressing drug-related violence, emphasising that the drug market is intricately linked to US consumer demand. As she aptly stated, “We must honour our past, learn from our struggles, and build a future that reflects the aspirations of all Mexicans.” Yet, the pursuit of a more just and equitable Mexico demands collective action, engagement from diverse communities, and a steadfast commitment to dismantling systemic barriers, as Sheinbaum seeks to embody the hopes of a nation shaped by resilience and struggle. However, the structural challenges, as Enrique Dussel, an Argentine-Mexican philosopher, explained in his writings, continue to haunt Mexico, posing real threats to the stability of political leadership. He emphasises the need for integrating diverse cultural perspectives and fostering dialogue from the Global South, as seen in his concept of transmodernity. Dussel also highlights the coloniality of power, illustrating how historical injustices persist in contemporary governance, perpetuating inequality. Furthermore, his ethics of the Other calls for recognising the experiences of marginalised individuals as central to any discourse on justice. Additionally, the aporia of borders illustrates the contradictions communities face at national edges, such as the Mexico-US border, where ideals of freedom and security often clash. Addressing these issues demands a nuanced approach that acknowledges the voices of those usually left unheard, which presents a significant challenge for the historic administration of Dr Sheinbaum.

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

Half of the world’s GDP at risk due to environmental degradation

The conservation and restoration of depleted forests are essential steps to combat climate change

Climate change has become an important challenge for the whole world. Conservation and restoration of depleted forests can become a necessary step to deal with this challenge.

Regarding this, many companies around the world have pledged to plant over 12 billion trees in the next seven years. The report published by the World Economic Forum on Nature and Biodiversity on January 18, 2024, clarifies that half of the world’s GDP, i.e. about \$44 trillion, is in danger. Which is due to the loss of nature.

To save it, more than 100 companies have pledged to conserve, restore and plant new trees of over 12 billion



RAJEEV AACHARYA

trees in more than 100 countries. This report states that companies around the world are working together through the World Economic Forum’s It.org initiative.

It aims to support the global movement to protect over 12 billion trees by 2030. In January 2024, It.org welcomed this resolution by

five new companies Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Burberry China, Go To Group, RPG Enterprises and Vale. Member companies of It.org are committed to implementing the goal in line with the Paris Agreement to save trees and reduce carbon emissions. Tree conservation is not only important for environmental sustainability, but it is also a part of our cultural and religious heritage. Trees learn from each other. That research was published on May 28, 2024 in the Current Forestry Reports magazine of Springer Nature, America.

This research is based on the topic that how trees planted in agro-forestry and urban

other and flourish. According to the research, both systems can be seen as natural solutions. Both systems also have similarities in ownership and management responsibilities. For example, most of the agricultural land in the Global North is privately owned, just as a large part of the green cover is seen in cities.

Increasing the density of trees improves air quality. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore conducted a study in 2023 on the role of trees in the urban environment. This study was mainly done in urban areas of Bangalore. It was found that trees in urban areas play an important role in improving air quality as well as controlling



temperature. In this research, it was told that the higher the density of

trees, the greater the increase in air quality and the effect of heat can also be reduced.

This study also found that the mental and physical health of people living in green areas improves. The density of trees prevents soil erosion.

A study conducted by the University of Sydney, Australia, says that dense cover of trees can control the flow of water and help prevent soil erosion. This study also stated that the conservation of trees helps in reducing the effects of climate change. All these studies confirm how important the conservation of trees is for our future. In Indian culture, importance has been given to the conservation of trees since the beginning. According to Matasya Purana, “Dashakoopasama Vaapi, Dashavaapisamo

Hradah. Dashahradasamo Putro, Dashputrasamo Drumah.” That is, one tree is equal to ten sons. Similarly, it is said in Vishnu Purana that the person who plants a tree earns virtue not only in his life but also for the coming generations.

Planting and caring for trees has been described as an important religious and social work in Indian scriptures. At present, planting trees is not only to save lives but also to save the earth. Let us take resolve to conserve nature. Each one of us must take a pledge to plant at least 5 trees, only then this disaster of global warming can be dealt with.

(The writer is an environmentalist; views are personal)

Nobel Peace prize awarded to Japanese organisation for work against N-weapons

AP ■ OSLO

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organisation of survivors of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for its activism against nuclear weapons. Jørgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the award was made as the "taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure."

Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a shift in his country's nuclear doctrine, in a move aimed at discouraging the West from allowing Ukraine to strike Russia with longer-range weapons. It appeared to significantly lower the threshold for the possible use of Russia's nuclear arsenal. Watne Frydnes said the Nobel com-

mittee "wishes to honour all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their costly experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace." Hidankyo's Hiroshima branch chairperson, Tomoyuki Mimaki, who was standing by at the city hall for the announcement, cheered and teared up when he received the news.

"Is it really true? Unbelievable!" Mimaki screamed.

Efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons have been honoured before by the Nobel committee. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the peace prize in 2017, and in 1995 Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs won for "their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in interna-

tional politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms."

This year's prize was awarded against a backdrop of devastating conflicts raging in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan.

"It is very clear that threats of using nuclear weapons are putting pressure on the important international norm, the taboo of using nuclear weapons," Watne Frydnes said in response to a question on whether the rhetoric from Russia surrounding nuclear weapons in its invasion of Ukraine had influenced this year's decision.

"And therefore it is alarming to see how threats of use is also damaging this norm. To uphold an international strong taboo against the use is crucial for all of humanity," he added. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on X that

"the spectre of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still looms over humanity. This makes the advocacy of Nihon Hidankyo invaluable. This Nobel Peace Prize sends a powerful message. We have the duty to remember. And an even greater duty to protect the next generations from the horrors of nuclear war."

Alfred Nobel stated in his will that the peace prize should be awarded for "the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Last year's prize went to jailed Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi for her advocacy of women's rights and democracy, and against the death penalty. The Nobel committee said it also was a recognition of "the hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple" who demonstrated against "Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women." In a year of conflict, there had been some speculation that the Norwegian Nobel Committee that decides on the winner would opt not to award a prize at all. The prize has been withheld 19 times since 1901, including during both world wars. The last time it was not awarded was in 1972. In the Middle East, spiraling levels of violence in the past year have killed tens of thousands of people, including women and children. The war, sparked by a bloody raid into Israel by Hamas-led militants on Oct. 7, 2023, that left about 1,200 people dead, mostly civilians, has spilled into the wider region. In the past week, Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon to pursue

Hezbollah militants firing rockets into Israel, while Iran -- which backs both Hamas and Hezbollah -- fired ballistic missiles into Israel. Israel has yet to respond, but its defense minister vowed this week that its retaliation would be both devastating and surprising.

The war in Gaza has killed more than 42,000 people, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count but says more than half are women and children. In Lebanon, more than 1,400 people have been killed, with thousands more injured and around 1 million displaced since mid-September, when the Israeli military dramatically expanded its offensive against Hezbollah.

The war in Ukraine, sparked by Russia's invasion, is heading toward

its third winter with a massive loss of human life on both sides. The UN has confirmed more than 11,000 Ukrainian civilian dead, but that doesn't take into account as many as 25,000 Ukrainians believed killed during the Russian capture of the city of Mariupol or unreported deaths in occupied regions.

The Nobel prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (USD 1 million). Unlike the other prizes that are selected and announced in Stockholm, founder Alfred Nobel decreed the peace prize be decided and awarded in Oslo by the five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee. The Nobel season ends Monday with the announcement of the winner of the economics prize, formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Trump says India biggest tariff charger; vows to reciprocate if elected to power

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Vowing to introduce a reciprocal tax if elected to power, former US president Donald Trump on Thursday alleged that India, among all major countries, imposes the highest tariffs on foreign products.

"Perhaps the most important element of my plan to make America extraordinarily wealthy again is reciprocity. It's a word that's very important in my plan because we generally don't charge tariffs. I started that process, it was so great, with the vans and the small trucks, etc. We really don't charge. China will charge us a 200 per cent tariff. Brazil is a big charger. The biggest charger of all is India," Trump said in a major economic policy speech in Detroit.

"India is a very big charger. We have a great relationship with India. I did. And especially the leader, Modi. He's a great leader. Great man. Really is a great

man. He's brought it together. He's done a great job. But they probably charge as much," he said.

"I mean, I think they probably charge more than, in many ways, China. But they do it with a smile. They do it... Sort of a nicer charge. They said, thank you so much for purchasing from India. Harley Davidson came to the White House a long time ago during my third year or second year. I met with them. They were based in Wisconsin. I said, how's business? Good, good. What are the bad countries? Well, India is very tough. And they gave me some others. Why? Tariffs. I said, what are they? And they said like 150 per cent, some massive amount," Trump told the members of the Detroit Economic Club.

"I said so do you sell many motorcycles because you think people want to buy a Harley. No, we sell very few in India, but they want us to go there. They said, if you go there and



build your plant there, we're not going to charge you anything. I mean, you can do whatever you want. I said I don't like that. And I see they went, they built the plant, and now they do their business with India. They probably do it outside of India too. They built a very big plant in many countries, they do that. Then all of a sudden, you hear that they're leaving Milwaukee or they're leaving wherever they may be located," he said.

Thursday's remarks by Trump come following his praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this week. Trump described Modi as "the nicest human being," saying the Indian leader is "a friend of mine." "Modi, India. He's a

friend of mine. He's great. Before him, they were replacing them every year. It's very unstable. He came over. He's a friend of mine. But on the outside, he looks like he's your father. He's the nicest, but he's a total killer," he said.

Trump recalled Modi's visit to Houston in 2019 to attend the 'Howdy Modi' event during his tenure and said: "It was beautiful. It's like 80,000 people going crazy. We were walking around."

The Republican candidate said he shared a "very good relationship" with Modi.

Recalling that there were a couple of occasions where somebody was threatening India, Trump said: "I told Modi, let me help as I am very good with those people. To which he aggressively responded, 'I will do it. I will do it. And I would do anything necessary. We have defeated them for hundreds of years.' I said 'Whoa, what just happened there,'" he added.

22 killed in airstrikes in central Beirut

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli airstrikes on central Beirut on Thursday left two neighborhoods smoldering, killed 22 people and wounded dozens, Lebanon's health ministry said, as well as further escalating Israel's bloody conflict with Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon. The air raid on central Beirut — the deadliest in over a year of war — apparently targeted two residential buildings in separate neighborhoods simultaneously, according to an AP photographer at the scene. It brought down one eight-story building and wiped out the lower floors of the other.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reported strikes. Israeli airstrikes have been far more common in Beirut's tightly packed southern suburbs, where Hezbollah bases many of its operations. After the strikes, Hezbollah's Al Manar TV reported that an attempt to kill Wafiq Safa, a top

security official with the group, had failed. It said that Safa had not been inside of either of the targeted buildings.

Thursday's strikes followed a year of tit-for-tat exchanges between Hezbollah and Israel that boiled over into all-out war in recent weeks, with Israel carrying out waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and launching a ground invasion. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire to more populated areas deeper inside Israel, causing few casualties but disrupting daily life. The attack came the same day Israeli forces fired on United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon and wounded two of them, drawing widespread condemnation and prompting Italy's Defense Ministry to summon Israel's ambassador in protest. Witnesses reported a large number of ambulances and people gathering in the rubble of two Beirut sites that were hit, in the Ras al-Nabaa neighborhood and Burj Abi Haidar

area. The Lebanese Health Ministry said 22 people were killed and 117 others wounded, without elaborating on their identities. Recent Israeli airstrikes in neighborhoods adjoining Beirut, in particular the densely populated southern suburbs, have killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and other senior commanders. Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in support of Hamas and the Palestinians, drawing Israeli airstrikes in retaliation. Hezbollah kept up rocket fire into Israel on Thursday, setting off air raid sirens in parts of northern Israel. Several drones heading toward Israel were intercepted, the military said. Iran — which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups across the region — launched some 180 ballistic missiles at Israel last week in retaliation for the killing of top Hamas and Hezbollah militants.

Zelensky meets Pope, pushes his 'victory plan'

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis met Volodymyr Zelensky at the Vatican on Friday, the latest step on the Ukrainian president's European tour to win support for his proposed "victory plan" aimed at ending the war with Russia. The pope and the Ukrainian leader held private talks for 35 minutes. After their private meeting at the Sala della Biblioteca and the presentation of the Ukrainian delegation, Francis gave Zelensky a bronze plaque depicting a flower and an inscription reading: "Peace is a fragile flower." In turn, Zelensky gifted the pontiff with an oil painting portraying "The massacre of Bucha. The story of Marichka." Bucha, a suburb northwest of Kyiv, was occupied by Russian troops shortly after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and witnessed some of Russia's worst atrocities against civilians. Later Friday, Zelensky met the Vatican's secretary of state, Pietro Parolin, accompanied by Archbishop Paul Richard

Russia attacks Ukraine's grain-exporting Odesa region

AP ■ KYIV

A nighttime Russian missile strike on Odesa killed at least four people including a 16-year-old girl, regional authorities said Friday, in the latest in a series of attacks this week on the southern Ukrainian region that are likely intended to disrupt the country's grain exports. Four Russian missile and drone attacks on the Odesa region this week have killed 14 people and wounded around 20, according to local officials. The strikes have hit merchant ships and damaged port infrastructure in the region, which is a vital hub for Ukraine's agricultural exports through the Black Sea.

An attack on Odesa late Wednesday killed nine people and hit a container ship sailing under the Panamanian flag — the third attack on a merchant vessel in four days, according to

regional Gov. Oleh Kiper. The apparent Russian effort to frustrate Ukraine's exports, which bring vital revenue for a national economy battered by more than two years of war, coincided with a renewed push by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to ensure continuing military and financial support from his country's Western partners. Russia last year tore up an agreement that allowed Ukraine — one of the world's biggest suppliers of grain and other food staples, especially to developing nations — to export produce safely through the Black Sea. Months later, amid successful Ukrainian attacks on Russia's Black Sea fleet which forced its navy to back away from the coast, Ukraine established a shipping corridor that hugs the coast down to Turkey and opens a way to the Mediterranean Sea.

Galagher, secretary for relations with states and international organizations. "The discussions were dedicated to the state of the war and the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, as well as the ways in which it could be brought to an end, leading to just and stable peace in the country," the Vatican said in a statement,

adding that "some matters relating to the religious life of the country were also examined." Since the first Russian attack on Kyiv, there have been multiple contacts between Francis and Zelensky, through visits, letters and phone calls. The pope sparked some criticism from Ukrainian leaders in March when he suggested they should have the courage of the "white flag" negotiating an end to the war with Russia, in what was interpreted by many as a call to surrender. Francis has repeatedly and strongly for an end to the war, focusing on prisoner exchanges and on reaching a diplomatic solution to the Ukrainian conflict.

Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi was sent as a special envoy on a mission to ease tensions among the parties at war, meeting with political and ecclesiastical leaders around the world. His mission was, in particular, to encourage exchanges of Russian and Ukrainian prisoners and to find a way to facilitate the return of children forcibly deported from Ukraine to Russia.

Zelensky is city-hopping across Europe to promote a plan that he said "aims to create the right conditions for a just end to the war" against Russia, unveiling the proposals to European allies after a summit with President Joe Biden was derailed by Hurricane Milton. On Thursday, Zelensky met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London, French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome. He is expected to travel to Germany later on Friday to hold talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

UN peacekeepers caught in intensified fighting

AP ■ BEIRUT

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, said in a statement that its headquarters and positions "have been repeatedly hit" by Israeli forces. It said an Israeli tank "directly" fired on an observation tower at the force's headquarters in the town of Naqoura, Lebanon, and that soldiers had attacked a bunker near where peacekeepers were sheltering, damaging vehicles and a communication system. It said an Israeli drone was seen flying to the bunker's entrance. The two UNIFIL troops wounded in the attacks and hospitalized are Indonesian, Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said. The Israeli military acknowledged opening fire at a UN base in southern Lebanon on Thursday and said it had ordered the peacekeepers to "remain in protected spaces."

Later Thursday, the UN peacekeeping chief said 300 peacekeepers in frontline positions on southern Lebanon's border have been temporarily moved to larger bases, and plans to move another 200 will depend on security conditions as the conflict escalates. Jean-Pierre Lacroix told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council that peacekeepers with UNIFIL are staying in their positions, but because of air and ground attacks they cannot conduct patrols.



UNIFIL, which has more than 10,000 peacekeepers from dozens of countries, was created to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon after Israel's 1978 invasion. The United Nations expanded its mission following the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, allowing peacekeepers to patrol a buffer zone set up along the border. Israel accuses Hezbollah of establishing militant infrastructure along the border in violation of the UN Security Council resolution that ended the 2006 war. The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, sharply condemned Israeli strikes that hit UNIFIL positions as "an inadmissible act, for which there is no justification."

Hurricane Milton leaves 8 dead, Florida in darkness

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG (FLORIDA)

Rescue teams plucked Florida residents from the flotsam of Hurricane Milton on Thursday after the storm smashed through coastal communities where it tore homes into pieces, filled streets with mud and spawned a barrage of deadly tornadoes. At least eight people were dead.

Arriving just two weeks after the misery wrought by Hurricane Helene, the system also knocked out power to more than 3 million customers, flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off a baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane.

Among the most dramatic rescues, Hillsborough County officers found a 14-year-old boy floating on a piece of fence and pulled him onto a boat. A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued a man who was left clinging to an ice chest in the Gulf of Mexico after his fishing boat was stranded in waters roiled by Hurricane Milton. The agency estimated the man had survived winds of 75 to 90 mph (121 to 145 kph) and

waves up to 25 feet (7.6 metres) high during his night on the water.

"This man survived in a nightmare scenario for even the most experienced mariner," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Dana Grady said. Despite the destruction, many people expressed relief that Milton wasn't worse. The hurricane spared Tampa a direct hit, and the lethal storm surge that scientists feared never materialised.

The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall late Wednesday as a Category 3 hurricane in Siesta Key, about 70 miles (112 kilometres) south of Tampa. Damage was widespread, and water levels may continue to rise for days, but Gov. Ron DeSantis said it was not "the worst-case scenario."

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"You face two hurricanes in a couple of weeks — not easy to go through — but I've seen a lot of resilience throughout this state," the governor told a briefing in Sarasota. He said he was "very confident that this area is going to bounce back very, very quickly." Five people were killed in tor-

nadoes in the Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida's Atlantic Coast, where homes were destroyed, authorities said. Police also found a woman dead under a fallen tree branch in Tampa. In Volusia County, authorities said two people, a 79-year-old woman in Ormond Beach and a 54-year-old woman in Port Orange, were also killed when trees fell on homes.

Speaking at a White House briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said there were reports of as many as 10 fatalities from tornadoes, but he cautioned that the number was tentative. At least 340 people and 49 pets have been rescued in ongoing efforts, DeSantis said Thursday afternoon.

South of Tampa, Natasha Shannon and her husband, Terry, felt lucky to be alive after the hurricane peeled the tin roof off their cinder block home in Palmetto. They spent the night in a shelter with their three children and two grandchildren after she pushed them to leave.

"I said, Baby, we got to go. Because we're not going to



survive this," she said. They returned to find the roof torn into sheets across the street, shredded insulation hanging from exposed ceiling beams and their belongings soaked. "It ain't much but it was ours," she said. "What little bit we did have is gone." The worst storm surge appeared to be in Sarasota

County, where it was 8 to 10 feet (2.5 to 3 metres) — lower than in the worst place during Helene. The storm also dumped up to 18 inches (45 centimetres) of rain in some areas. Officials in the hard-hit Florida counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota and Lee urged people to stay home,

warning of downed power lines, trees in roads, blocked bridges and flooding. Among the dozens of tornadoes was a twister that hit the tiny barrier island of Matlacha, just off Fort Myers. The fishing-and-tourism village also endured a surge, with many of the colorful buildings sustaining serious damage. Tom

Reynolds, 90, spent the morning sweeping out 4 feet (1.2 metres) of mud and water and collecting chunks of aluminum siding torn off by a twister that also picked up a car and threw it across the road.

Elsewhere on the island, a house was blown into a street, temporarily blocking it. Some structures caught fire. Reynolds said he planned to repair the home he built three decades ago. "What else am I going to do?" he said.

In contrast, city workers on Anna Maria Island were grateful not to be wading through floodwaters as they picked up debris Thursday morning, two weeks after Helene battered buildings and blew in piles of sand up to 6 feet (1.8 m) high. Those piles may have helped shield homes from further damage, said Jeremi Roberts of the State Emergency Response Team. "I'm shocked it's not more," city worker Kati Sands said as she cleared the streets of siding and broken lights. "We lost so much with Helene, there wasn't much left."

Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead

across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton's winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage.

Power was knocked out across much of the state. More than 3.4 million homes and businesses were without electricity, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

The fabric that serves as the roof of Tropicana Field — home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team in St. Petersburg — was ripped to shreds by fierce winds. Debris littered the field.

About 80,000 people spent the night in shelters, and thousands of others fled after authorities issued mandatory evacuation orders across 15 Florida counties with a total population of about 7.2 million people. In Punta Gorda, a 10-foot (3-metre) surge from the Peace River swept into the historic district, damaging homes and depositing six boats along one riverside street. It was the third surge to hit the neighbourhood in three months.

Harris as prepared to be President as any nominee in past: Obama

PTI ■ WASHINGTON Vice President Kamala Harris is as prepared for this job as any nominee for the president in the past, former president Barack Obama said on Thursday, noting that the November election will be "tight" between her and Republican candidate Donald Trump. "Kamala is as prepared for the job as any nominee for president has ever been. That's who Kamala is. And in the White House, she will have an outstanding partner in Governor Tim Walz," Obama told a cheering crowd in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a battleground State, as the former president came out to address his first campaign rally for Harris in this election cycle. "If you elect Kamala and Tim, they won't be focused on their problems, they'll be focused on yours. They understand that too many folks here in Pennsylvania and across the country are struggling to pay the bills. Even though wages are steadily growing and inflation is finally slowing, the price of everything from health care to housing to groceries, it's still too high," he said. "That takes a real bite out of the paycheck. It hurts. The question is, who's really going to do something about it? That's what you should be asking yourself. Now, Donald Trump plans to do what he did last time - give another massive tax cut to billionaires and big corporations," he said. Addressing thousands of his supporters in this battleground State, Obama said the election is going to be tight. "This election is going to be tight because there are a lot of Americans who are still struggling out there. They're striving to make life better for themselves, for their families, and for their kids," he said. "Let's face it. As a country, we've been through a lot these last few years. We had a historic pandemic wreaking havoc on communities and businesses. Disruptions from the pandemic then caused prices to spike, and that put a strain on family budgets. In many ways, it's felt like the aspirations of working people have taken a backseat to the priorities of the rich and the powerful. So, I get why people are looking to shake things up," he said. Obama said he understood people's frustration and their feeling that they (President Joe Biden and Vice President Harris) could do better. "What I cannot understand is why anybody would think that Donald Trump will shake things up in a way that is good for you. I don't understand that. Because there is absolutely no evidence that this man thinks about anybody but himself," he said. "Donald Trump is a 78-year-old billionaire who has not stopped whining about his problems since he rode down his golden escalator nine years ago. You've got the tweets in all CAPS, the ranting and the raving about crazy conspiracy theories. You've got the two-hour speeches, word salad... it's like Fidel Castro, just on and on," he alleged. "Constant attempts to sell you stuff. Who does that? Selling you gold sneakers and USD 100,000 watch and, most recently, a Trump Bible. He wants you to buy the Word of God, Donald Trump edition. Got his name right there next to Matthew and Luke. It's crazy. And the reason he does it is because all he cares about is his ego, money and his status," Obama said. "He's not thinking about you. Donald Trump sees power as

nothing more than a means to an end. He wants the middle class to pay the price for another huge tax cut that would mostly help him and his country club buddies. Doesn't care if he costs more women their reproductive freedom, because it won't make a difference in his life," he alleged. "Most of all, Donald Trump wants us to think that this country is hopelessly divided between us and them, between real Americans who support him and the outsiders who don't. Because having people divided and angry, he figures, boosts his chances of being elected. He doesn't care who gets hurt," Obama said. "Think about it. Just the other day, we learned that on January 6, a couple of years ago, Donald Trump was told that Mike Pence was in the Capitol about 40 feet from an angry mob chanting, hang Mike Pence. And his response was 'So what?' If Donald Trump does not care that a mob might attack his vice president, do you think he cares about you? We do not need four more years of that. We don't need four more years of arrogance, bumbling, bluster and division. America's ready to turn the page," Obama said. Eight years out of power, Obama has been one of the Democratic Party's most reliable surrogates to galvanize voters. As the nation's first Black president, Obama's appearance for Harris underscores the history-making nature of her own political career. Harris, the first woman, Black person or person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president, would be the first woman to serve as president if elected next month. Obama also appeared at a Harris fundraiser in California and spoke at the Democratic National Convention in August.

US worried about China's actions in disputed sea: Blinken

AP ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS) US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Southeast Asian leaders Friday that the US is concerned about China's "increasingly dangerous and unlawful" activities in the disputed South China Sea during an annual summit meeting, and pledged the US will continue to uphold freedom of navigation in the vital sea trade route. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations' meeting with Blinken followed a series of violent confrontations at sea between China and ASEAN members Philippines and Vietnam, which have fueled concerns that China's increasingly assertive actions in the waterways could spiral into a full-scale conflict. China, which claims almost the entire sea, has overlapping claims with ASEAN members Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as Taiwan. About a third of global trade transits through the sea, which is also rich in fishing stocks, gas and oil. Beijing has refused to recognize a 2016 international arbitration

support freedom of navigation, and freedom of overflight in the Indo Pacific. The US has no claims in the South China Sea, but has deployed navy ships and fighter jets to patrol the water in a challenge to China's claims. Chinese and Philippine vessels have clashed repeatedly this year, and Vietnam said last week that Chinese forces assaulted its fishermen in the disputed sea. China has also sent patrol vessels to areas that Indonesia and Malaysia claim as exclusive economic zones. The US has warned repeatedly that it's obligated to defend the Philippines — its oldest treaty ally in Asia — if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under armed attack, including in the South China Sea. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. complained to summit leaders on Thursday that his country "continues to be subject to harassment and intimidation" by China. He said it was "regrettable that the overall situation in the South China Sea remains tense and unchanged" due to China's actions, which he said violated international law.

Remains of British climber believed found 100 years after Everest ascent

AP ■ LONDON with his co-climber, the legendary George Mallory, near Everest's peak on June 8, 1924. The pair, who were seeking to become the first people to conquer Everest, were last seen around 800 feet (245 metres) from the summit before they disappeared. Their fate has been debated by climbers and historians alike, with some postulating that they had stood atop of the world before heading down and disappearing. Mallory's body was found in 1999 but there was no evidence that could point to the two having reached Everest's summit at 29,032 feet (8,849 metres). There is still no such evidence, though the apparent discovery of Irvine's remains could narrow the search for a Kodak Vest Pocket camera lent to the climbers by expedition member Howard Somervell. For mountaineers, it's the equivalent of the Holy Grail — whether there is photographic proof on that camera to show that the two did reach the summit before Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. The sock and boot were found at a lower altitude than Mallory's remains, on the

Central Rongbuk Glacier below the North Face of Mount Everest. "This was a monumental and emotional moment for us and our entire team on the ground, and we just hope this can finally bring peace of mind to his relatives and the climbing world at large," said climb team member and National Geographic explorer Jimmy Chin. Chin did not say exactly where the remains were found because he wants to discourage trophy hunters. But he's confident that other items — and maybe even the camera — are nearby. "It certainly reduces the search area," he told National Geographic. The Irvine family has volunteered to compare DNA test results with the remains to confirm his identity. His great-niece and biographer, Julie Summers, said she reacted emotionally when she found out about the discovery. "I have lived with this story since I was a 7-year-old when my father told us about the mystery of Uncle Sandy on Everest," she said.

20 killed in attack on miners in Pakistan

PTI ■ KARACHI Ullah Nasir, the attackers used hand grenades and rocket launchers in the attack. He said that there are ten coal mines located in the area. Nasir said that the attackers also set ablaze mining machinery before fleeing the scene. Johar Khan Shadizai, a doctor in Dukki, said: "We have received 20 bodies and six injured so far at the district hospital." No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. Police, paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) and rescue teams rushed to the spot after the attack. Police sources said that the death toll may rise as some injured miners were in critical condition. SHO Dukki Hamaryan Khan said the armed men first gathered the miners in different groups and then sprayed bullets on them. Heavy contingents of police and FC have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to arrest the culprits. Pakistan has witnessed a worrying surge in terrorist attacks in the ongoing year with fatalities in the first three quarters surpassing the numbers recorded in all of 2023.

PD(847)A I, hitherto known as Sudhanshu S/o Shri Vir Singh R/o H.No-D-257, Street No.4, Pratap Nagar, Saboli, Dist: North East Delhi-110093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sudhanshu Chaudhary.

PD(85)C I, Khushi Gupta, D/o Kanhiya Lal Gupta, R/o Plot No-230 Flat No-309 Gali No-8, Patel Garden Kakrola Dwarka, Dwarka-110078, Delhi, India has changed my name from Khushi to Khushi Gupta and my father name has also changed from Kanhiya Lal to Kanhiya Lal Gupta For all Purposes.

PD(848)C I, Jatinder Luthra S/o Des Raj Luthra R/o A 204, Rishabh Paradise, Ahinsa Khand 2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. The last paper of the registry of my flat no. A-204, Rishabh Paradise Ahinsa Khand 2, Indirapuram whose book no. 1, volume no. 2856, pages 515 to 564, No. 5510 is lost somewhere. Anyone who finds it please call and inform. Phone No. 7814284177

LOST & FOUND

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Rajbir Singh S/o Mr. Hari Ram through Khatlon Jambandi is the owner of property bearing address Freehold Residential House No. A/95 on Ground Floor & First Floor addressing area 30 sq. yds, falling under Khata No. 3095, situated at Harsih Vihar, Phase II, Gali No. 5 in Village-Brahmapura @ Bhopa, Pargana-Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad (U.P.). A registered General Power of Attorney dated on 10.01.2000 was executed by Mr. Rajbir Singh in favour of Mr. Vedpal S/o Mr. Nyadara & Mrs. Sukhbir W/o Mr. Vedpal. Further, another General Power of Attorney dated 30.06.2021 was issued by Mr. Vedpal and Mrs. Sukhbir in favour of Mr. Anuj Sharma S/o Mr. Saurabh and the property now being known to Mr. Devashish & Mr. Sanjay (intending borrower) and the same is being financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

TAPAN RAGHAV (ADVOCATE) Ch. No. G-220, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032. Email: raghavth.legal@gmail.com, M. - 9800995222

PUBLIC NOTICE (In case of chain title deed) NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Manju Atri was owner of Property Bearing No. G-1/295 area measuring 44.1/2 Sq. yds., Out of Khata No. 77/15 Situated at Village- Hastnaji Abadi known as Uttam Nagar and the property now being known to Mr. Manju Atri (hereinafter referred to as "said property") vide Sale Deed dated 09.09.2005 regd. as doc. no. 25085 executed by Dhanraj Pal Singh in favour of Subash Chander Atri in respect of said property. Subash Chander Atri expired on 25.05.2020 leaving behind Sh. Nikhil Atri, Smt. Manju Atri & Sh. Gurvesh Atri as his legal heirs. Sh. Nikhil Atri & Sh. Gurvesh Atri relinquished their shares to Smt. Manju Atri vide Relinquishment deed dated 27.08.2024 as regd. doc. no. 2024/25/23252. Smt. Manju Atri intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned property to Sh. Vikas Sharma who has agreed to create mortgage in respect of said property with the name of my/our clients IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Branch Address: Plot No. 6B, Pusa Road, Rajendranagar, New Delhi-110006) in individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, trust, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any documents relating to said property. The said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at my address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claims, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 07 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client. Place: Noida Dated: 11th day of Oct. 2024. Sd/- Law Writers: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 Landline(s): +910120-3101683 e-mail: accounts@lwnorth.in

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gaurav Batra S/o Shri Ram Batra R/o 8/71, Geeta Colony, Delhi, inform that Gourav Batra (as mentioned in 10th class marksheet) and Gaurav Batra both are the one and same person.

PD(847)A I, hitherto known as Sudhanshu S/o Shri Vir Singh R/o H.No-D-257, Street No.4, Pratap Nagar, Saboli, Dist: North East Delhi-110093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sudhanshu Chaudhary.

PD(85)C I, Khushi Gupta, D/o Kanhiya Lal Gupta, R/o Plot No-230 Flat No-309 Gali No-8, Patel Garden Kakrola Dwarka, Dwarka-110078, Delhi, India has changed my name from Khushi to Khushi Gupta and my father name has also changed from Kanhiya Lal to Kanhiya Lal Gupta For all Purposes.

PD(848)C I, Jatinder Luthra S/o Des Raj Luthra R/o A 204, Rishabh Paradise, Ahinsa Khand 2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. The last paper of the registry of my flat no. A-204, Rishabh Paradise Ahinsa Khand 2, Indirapuram whose book no. 1, volume no. 2856, pages 515 to 564, No. 5510 is lost somewhere. Anyone who finds it please call and inform. Phone No. 7814284177

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that MRS. GNESHA DEVI is the owner of a plot of land measuring 14914 Sq Yds. i.e. 12470 Sq. Meters, with area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. i.e. 42 Sq. Meters, out of Gata No. 1013, Situated at Kaska Khurja, Bahar, Chauri Pargana & Tehsil Khurja, District Bulandshahr, U.P. to be financed Capital Gopal Capital Ltd. The Original Sale Deed dated 24.02.2011 vide Doc. No. 2996 pertains to the aforesaid property has been lost and LAR NO. 2024000086796 has been registered on 07/30/2024 with LAR Pradeesh Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original Sale Deed dated 24.02.2011, then kindly inform the undersigned with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid original Sale Deed shall be treated as void in respect of the subject property. Ranjan Kumar Jais (Advocate) Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110021 Mob:-91-8076183232

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the share certificates No 310084 for 350 shares bearing distinctive No(s) 13536087-13536436 standing in the name of Nandini Vaish in the books of M/s Dalmia Bharat Limited, has been lost/misplaced and the advertiser has applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof. Any person(s) who has/have claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents viz KFin Technologies Ltd., SELENIUM TOWER B, PLOT NO 31 & 32, GACHIBOWLI, FINANCIAL DISTRICT, NANAKRAMANGA, SERILINGAMPALLY, HYDERABAD - 500032, TELANGANA, Toll Free No: 1800-309-4001 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares. Date: 11th October, 2024 Name of the shareholder: Nandini Vaish Place: New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that SHRI LOKESH MOHAN SHARMA is the absolute owner of the built-up plot no. 201, Block-C-4, situated in the Layout Plan of Capita Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Known as Capital Apartment at Plot No. 3, Vasundra Krishna, (Hence State Bank of India, Home Loan property). Ownership was acquired through a Conveyance Deed Dated 04.12.2001, which was duly registered with the office of Sub-Registrar, Delhi, as doc. no. 18322, Book 1, Vol No. 881, Page No. 92 on 04.12.2001 as per the Owner's Bonafide Deed dated 04.12.2001 documents for the entire built-up property, including the (i) original conveyance deed dated 04.12.2001 executed by Delhi Development Authority in favor of Shri Lokesh Sharma @ Shri Lokesh Mohan Sharma, which was duly registered with the office of Sub Registrar, Delhi, as doc. no. 18322, Book 1, Vol No. 881, Page No. 92 on 04.12.2001 & original substitution letter issued by the society in favour of Mrs. S. Poonam & Shri Jawahar Lal are currently unavailable for verification, as they have been lost/misplaced. A lost report regarding these documents has been filed with the Delhi Police Crime Branch, vide L.R. No. 205791/2024 dated 06.09.2020. The owner has asserted that the said property is free from all encumbrances, an agreement to sell has been executed for the sale of the said property to Ms. Shrutii Banwal, and the owner intends to create a charge, VIZ mortgage or otherwise, on the property for the purpose of availing a housing loan or credit facility from the State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, Thapar House, Janpath, New Delhi, any person(s) or financial institution claiming any right or interest in the said property regarding the said property based on the aforementioned lost documents is hereby requested to contact the aforementioned SBI branch as well as the undersigned at the email address: ratish3193@gmail.com within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, any such claim shall be deemed null and void, and the title to the property shall be considered clear, marketable, free from defects or encumbrances, and open to creating an eligible mortgage. Ranjan Kumar Jais (Advocate) Chamber:231, Western Wing Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054, Mobile: -9990647903

PUBLIC NOTICE To whomsoever it may concern Our Client HDFC Bank Ltd States That Mr. Satpal Sharma is the Absolute Owners of Property Bearing Address House No. 480, Sector 19, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045 by virtue of Sale Deed Duly Registered On 23/05/2018 Vide Reg No. 5210. That the Original Documents Of The Said Property i.e. Sale Deed Duly Registered on 23/05/2018 Vide Reg No. 5210 is misplaced by Our Clients Panel Lawyers Office Namely Advocate Chandra Kishore Jha While in their Custody and is Considered Lost. The Said Property is Absolutely Free From Any Encumbrance Whatsoever. It is also Stated That in Case The Sale Deed Duly Registered On 23/05/2018 Vide Reg No. 5210 is Found by Our Clients Panel Lawyers Office, Same Shall be Kept in The Safe Custody of Our Client And Returned To The Property Owner. If Any Person Finds The Said Sale Deed Registered on 23/05/2018 Vide Reg No. 5210 Or Has Any Claim or Interest Over The Said Property, He/She is Requested to Forward The Information or their Claims along with the relevant Documents to us Within 15 days of this Public Notice. If you do not receive any Information or Claim from Any Person Within 15 Days, It Will Be Strictly Presumed that This Property is Absolutely Free From Any Claim or Encumbrance and No One has any Claim over This Property. Ravi Chopra, Advocate, Office No.1, First Floor, Dda Market Pockets-1, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110096, Mobile No. 9811020745

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby notified that my client SH. ARUN GUPTA son of late Jai Parkash Gupta, R/o House No. 104, New 10-A, Khasra No. 96561, Ground Floor, Sri Ram Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 is the owner and in possession of one shop on the ground floor in property bearing No.VI/4450, Mohalla Darawara, Nai Sarak, Delhi-110006 (the said property) vide registered sale deed dated 8.8.2012 having purchased the same from Smt. Yashoda W/o late Sh. Notan Dass Behrani & Others. That the previous original title documents of the said property i.e. original sale deed dated 28.11.1990 being registration No.6354 book No.1 volume 5377 on pages 144 to 148 registered on 28.11.1990 before Sub Registrar-I, North, Kashmir Gate, Delhi and Relinquishment Deed executed by Smt. Kanchan Lachari registered as document No.7697 in additional book No.1 volume 4492 on pages 23 to 26 registered on 25.7.2012 in the office of Sub Registrar-I, North, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, are misplaced/lost and are not traceable. Any person(s) having any claim, right in to or upon the said property or any part thereof on the strength of the aforesaid misplaced/lost documents or otherwise is hereby required to notify the same in writing along with supporting documents to the undersigned with 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim and/or objection, if any, shall be considered as vague and abandoned and should not be binding in law upon my client. M.P. Bansal Advocate Delhi High Court Ch. No. 268-269, Civil Wing, District Courts, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054 M.: 9810220752

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs), Name of Branch. Row 1: Prasant Kumar Mohanty/Banshree Pattanayak/LBDF800003753998/LBGUR00004047850, Flat No.1535/GC-05, 14th Floor, Tower-E, GC-05/5th Avenue, Gaur City, Situated at Plot No.GH-01, Sector-4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ October 09, 2024, May 14, 2024 Rs. 26,66,842/-, Khurda (Orissa)/Noida/Ghaziabad

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: October 11, 2024 Place: Noida & Ghaziabad Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005 The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Physical Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs), Name of Branch. Row 1: Sanjay Kapoor/ Airvoice Aviation Pvt Ltd/ Anamika Kapoor/ LBDEL00001801026, Two Servant Quarters on The Terrace as Part of The Mortgaged Property i.e. House No-s 569, Front Portion 3rd Floor, Greater Kailash Part II, Delhi./ October 09, 2024, June 19, 2021 Rs. 40,48,623/-, Delhi/ NCR. Row 2: Sanjay Kapoor/ Airvoice Aviation Pvt. Ltd./ Anamika Kapoor/ LBDEL00002447141/LBDEL00003155923/LBDEL00002448345, Two Servant Quarters on The Terrace As Part of The Mortgaged Property i.e. House No-s 569, Front Portion 3rd Floor, Greater Kailash Part II, Delhi./ October 09, 2024, June 23, 2021 Rs. 1,77,98,784/-, Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: October 11, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

One killed in elevator mishap at gold mine in Colorado

AP ■ DENVER One person was killed and 12 people were rescued after being trapped for about six hours at the bottom of a former Colorado gold mine when an elevator malfunctioned at the tourist site, authorities said. The elevator was descending into the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine near the town of Cripple Creek when it had a mechanical problem around 500 feet (152 metres) beneath the surface, creating a "severe danger for the participants," Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell said. The cause of the visitor's death was not immediately provided. The 12 adults who were trapped about 1,000 feet below ground had access to water and used radios to communicate with authorities, who told them there was an elevator issue, Mikesell said.

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE "APPENDIX IV-A" [SEE PROVISIO TO RULE 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the CLIX Housing Finance Limited (CLIX) (Secured Creditors), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of CLIX Housing Finance Limited (CLIX), Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 13.11.2024, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditors from following Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s). The reserve price and earnest money to be deposited is mentioned below respectively.

BSES BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi ... A Joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 12.10.2024 E-tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as per the following details:-

RBI asks banks to ensure easier accessibility for persons with disabilities

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday asked banks to review their payment systems to ensure easier accessibility to persons with disabilities. All sections of the population, including differently-abled persons, are increasingly adopting digital payment systems, it said in a circular.

"To promote effective access, payment system participants (PSPs, that is, banks and authorised non-bank payment system providers) are advised to review their payment systems/devices in terms of accessibility to Persons with Disabilities," it noted.



Based on the review, banks and non-bank payment system providers may carry out the necessary modifications in payment systems and devices like point-of-sale machines, which can be accessed and used by persons with

disabilities with ease, the RBI said. The RBI also asked them to refer to the accessibility standards issued by the Ministry of Finance in February. While selecting potential solutions for the purpose, care should be taken to ensure that the modifications or enhancements do not compromise security aspects of the systems, the central bank said. PSPs have been asked to submit to the Reserve Bank, within one month, details of their systems/devices that need to be modified, along with a time-bound plan of action for achieving the same.

Life insurers' new premiums rise 14 per cent to ₹ 35,020 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Life insurers recorded a 14 per cent rise in underwriting new business with a premium collection of Rs 35,020 crore in September. New business premiums stood at Rs 30,716 crore in same month a year ago. The new business premium collection in the first half of FY25 rose 19 per cent to Rs 1,89,214 crore from Rs 1,58,377 crore in the same period last year, as per the monthly data released by the industry body Life Insurance Council. Driven by a strong demand for enhanced insurance protection from individual consumers, new policy issuances too increased by 45.49 per cent on a year-on-year basis in the month, resulting in the addition of new 32,17,880 policies vis-à-vis 22,11,680 policies in the



year-ago period, it said. According to data released by the Life Insurance Council, the life insurance industry saw individual single premiums growing 13 per cent to close at Rs 5,142 crore for September while year-to-date growth stood at 14.99 per cent. Meanwhile, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) collected new premium of Rs 20,369 crore as against Rs 18,126 crore in September 2023, recording a growth of 25 per cent. However, private sector put together grew 12 per cent to Rs 73,664 crore as against Rs 65,734 crore garnered in the same month a year ago. The life insurance industry in India has been making significant strides by expanding access to insurance and making an effort to reach out to areas and segments of the country's population that were previously underserved when it comes to their insurance needs, it said.

Markets close lower; Sensex drops 230 points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Friday, dragged by selling in banking, utility and financial stocks as investors turned cautious ahead of key macro data. Besides, a mixed trend in global equity markets and unabated foreign fund outflows also hit investors' sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 230.05 points or 0.28 per cent to close at 81,381.36. During the day, it

declined 307.26 points or 0.37 per cent to a low of 81,304.15. The NSE Nifty slipped 34.20 points or 0.14 per cent to 24,964.25. It hit an intraday low of 24,920.05. From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, Power Grid, Axis Bank and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones were among the laggards. The government is scheduled to release IIP data later in the day.

PwC India partners with Meta for AI solutions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

PwC India has announced a collaboration with Meta to expand and scale its open-source AI solutions to enterprises and citizen services on Meta's Llama models. This collaboration will promote the adoption of the Llama open-source platform and help PwC develop innovative solutions powered by Generative AI (GenAI) on a global scale, the consultancy firm said in a release. In light of the Indian government's announcement to launch the IndiaAI Mission and its investment in building a robust AI ecosystem, the moment is ideal for businesses to harness the potential of GenAI, it added. "With Llama Models, we see a unique opportunity to democratise this technology across industries, and drive innovation while solving real-world challenges. Together, we aspire



to create a more digitally enabled future for our clients and our communities - to create value and drive meaningful change at scale," Sanjeev Krishan, Chairperson of PwC India, said. The collaboration will help PwC India and Meta to democratise GenAI and make it more accessible to businesses by jointly building and deploying enterprise-grade and citizen-service GenAI solutions. It aims to create an ecosystem of GenAI solutions that will be built on Meta's technical expertise and powerful Llama open-source platform along with PwC India's domain expertise. Sandhya Devanathan, Vice President and Head at Meta India, said Gen AI solutions, including Llama, are poised to revolutionise India's businesses and accelerate the country's digital transformation journey. "By harnessing the power of natural language understanding and generation, Llama can unlock new efficiencies, enhance customer experiences, and drive data-driven decision-making. As India strives to become a leading digital economy, Gen AI will be instrumental in empowering businesses to innovate, scale, and compete on a global stage," Devanathan said.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री
नया भोपाल संभाग लोक निर्माण विभाग
भोपाल (म.प्र.)
निविदा सूचना

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 11/व.ले.लि./2024-25 भोपाल, दिनांक 24.09.2024

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उल्लेखित कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	पोर्टल टेण्डर क्र.	कार्य का नाम	आमंत्रण क्र.	टेंके की अनु. राशि (रु. लाख में)	अमानत राशि
1	2024_PWDRB_371616_1	उपसंभाग क्र.-2, लो.नि.वि. भोपाल के अंतर्गत सेक्शन क्र.-27 एवं अन्य शासकीय आवास गृहों में ए.आर./एस.आर./अनुसंधान/सौख्य कार्य।	प्रथम आमंत्रण	58.00	58000.00
2	2024_PWDRB_371617_1	उपसंभाग क्र.-2, लो.नि.वि. भोपाल के अंतर्गत शासकीय आवास गृहों के छतों पर जल अवरोधक का कार्य।	प्रथम आमंत्रण	46.00	50000.00
3	2024_PWDRB_371618_1	उपसंभाग क्र.-2, लो.नि.वि. भोपाल के अंतर्गत सेक्शन क्र.-27 एवं अन्य शासकीय आवास गृहों में रंगाई, पुताई एवं पेंटिंग का कार्य।	प्रथम आमंत्रण	62.00	62000.00
योग :-				166.00	

उपरोक्त वेबसाइट ऑनलाइन भुगतान करने के उपरांत निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डाक्यूमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो सकेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय एवं समीक्षण करने की अंतिम तिथि 18.10.2024 सार्य 5.30 बजे निर्धारित है। निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन होने पर उसे उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखा जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन यंत्री
नया भोपाल संभाग ला.नि.वि.
भोपाल (म.प्र.)

G-17462/24

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, नर्मदा विकास संभाग क्रमांक-23, 59 अरेरा हिल्स, नर्मदा भवन, भोपाल (म.प्र.)

फोन :- 0755-2761257 E-Mail:- eenvda23@gmail.com

पत्र क्रमांक. 2348/व.ले.लि.-23/2024-25, भोपाल, दिनांक : 09.10.2024

:: निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::

ई-टेण्डरिंग पद्धति द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिये ऑनलाइन निविदायें नर्मदा घाटी विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

निविदा की संक्षिप्त जानकारी निम्नानुसार है :-

स. क्र.	नि.आ. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर राशि (रुपये में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रुपये में)	उत्प्रेषण की श्रेणी	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	01 (IVth Call)	नर्मदा घाटी विकास प्राधिकरण के मुख्यालय नर्मदा भवन 59, अरेरा हिल्स, भोपाल स्थित 33/0.433 के.व्ही.ए. विद्युत उपकेंद्र, 2x500 के.व्ही.ए. ट्रांसफार्मर, 250 के.व्ही.ए. डीजल जनरेटर सेट, इलेक्ट्रिकल पैनल, स्पेशल डी.बी. पैनल, पावर फेक्टर कंटेनर पैनल, बाह्य विद्युतीकरण एवं केबलिंग कार्य का वार्षिक रख-रखाव एवं संचालन कार्य एक वर्ष के लिए।	Rs. 12.41 लाख	Rs. 24,820.00 हजार आठ हजार सात सौ बीस मात्र)	Rs. 2000.00 (रु. दो हजार मात्र)	लोक निर्माण विभाग द्वारा पंजीकृत नवीन कोई भी श्रेणी एवं मुख्य निरीक्षक म.प्र. शासन द्वारा जारी अ श्रेणी का विद्युत टेकेदारी का वैध पंजीयन प्रमाण-पत्र	एक वर्ष (वर्षाकाल सहित)
2.	05 (IInd Call)	नर्मदा घाटी विकास प्राधिकरण के मुख्यालय नर्मदा भवन में ओटिस एलिवेटर की स्थापित 02 नया 08 पैसेन्जर लिफ्ट का वार्षिक मरम्मत का कार्य एक वर्ष के लिए।	Rs. 3.98 लाख (रु. उन्नीस लाख उन्नीस हजार मात्र)	Rs. 7,960.00 (रु. सात हजार नौ सौ सात मात्र)	Rs. 2,000.00 (रु. दो हजार मात्र)	मिर्माता लिट Company अथवा मिर्माता लिट Company द्वारा अधिकृत Dealer/ Agent/Service Provider एवं मुख्य निरीक्षक म.प्र. शासन द्वारा जारी अ श्रेणी का विद्युत टेकेदारी का वैध पंजीयन प्रमाण-पत्र	एक वर्ष (वर्षाकाल सहित)
3.	06 (IInd Call)	नर्मदा घाटी विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिकारियों को 06 नया बोलरो अथवा समकक्ष निरीक्षण वाहन स्थानीय एवं बाहरी यात्रा हेतु एक वर्ष के लिए उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य।	Rs. 50.10 लाख (रु. पचास लाख दस हजार मात्र)	Rs. 50,100.00 (रु. पचास लाख दस हजार एक सौ मात्र)	Rs. 10,000.00 (रु. दस हजार मात्र)	पंजीकृत ट्रेलर एजेंसियों या ख्याति प्राप्त फर्मों, जिसका गुमास्ता हो।	एक वर्ष (वर्षाकाल सहित)

1. निविदा कार्य के प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि : दिनांक 21.10.2024, 17:30 तक

2. धरोहर राशि एवं अर्हता दस्तावेज वेबसाइट पर खोलने की अनुमानित तिथि : दिनांक 23.10.2024, 10:30

निविदा प्रपत्र केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से निविदा मूल्य डेबिट कार्ड/ईटरेट बैंकिंग के माध्यम से जमा कर क्रय किये जा सकते हैं।

निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी एवं संशोधन के लिये वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in का अवलोकन करें।

कार्यपालन यंत्री,
नर्मदा विकास संभाग क्रमांक 23,
59, अरेरा हिल्स, नर्मदा भवन, भोपाल

G-17478/24

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Union Bank of India, RO Narmadapuram
Ground Floor, Plot No 46/4, Ward No.25 NH-69,
Near Geeta Bhawan, Rasuliya Hoshangabad, M.P.461001

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

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 29-10-2024 for recovery of below mentioned amount plus interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses due to the Union Bank of India Secured Creditor from below mentioned borrowers & Guarantor details are hereunder :

Name of Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Property of Borrower	Reserve Price		Outstanding Amount as per Demand notice
		EMD		
Union Bank of India, Hoshangabad Branch : Narayanganj, Tarahatta, Distt. Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh		₹	₹	
Borrowers : Deepesh Chawara s/o Omkar Chawara R/o Balaji Palace, Near Railway Station, Hosangabad	All that part and parcel of Residential Bungalow No. 6 admeasuring 1250 sq.ft. situated at Mouza Mangalmay Colony, Malakhedi, Municipal Ward No. 15, PC No. 17 Settlement No. 257 Teh. & Dist. Hosangabad, Owners: Deepesh Chawara s/o Omkar Chawara, Boundaries: North: Plot No. 7, South: Road, East : Road, West :Plot No. 34	₹ 3,00,000/-	₹ 11,88,526.94	₹ 11,88,526.94 + Interest & Charges
Rajesh Chawra S/o Omkar Chawara R/o Gram Bagra Tawa Mohgaon Teh. Bawal, Hosangabad		₹ 3,00,000/-	₹ 11,88,526.94	₹ 11,88,526.94 + Interest & Charges
		Symbolic Possession		Demand Notice Dt. 13/04/2022
*The Sale shall be subject to the outcome of SA No. 970/2022 pending before DRT, Jabalpur"				
Date and Time of e-auction of above mentioned properties : 29-10-2024, 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m. (With 10 minutes unlimited auto extension)				
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.unionbankofindia.co.in & https://ebkray.in For Registration and Login and bidding Rules visit https://ebkray.in Date: 10.10.2024, Place: Narmadapuram				
Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India				

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069
Vidisha Branch: 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha-464001, MP

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1	(Loan Code No. 07600001009 / Vidisha Branch) Shubham Upadhyay (Borrower), Hembati Upadhyay (Co-Borrowers)	11-01-2023 & ₹ 6,27,290/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Part Of K/H No 73 2 4 74 2 Ward No 39 Brahmin Samaj Colony Sector A Sawaliya Colony Vill Teelakhedi, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh- 464001. Boundaries: East- Rest Land of Seller, West- Plot of R.N. Dixit, North- Proposed Road, South- Open Land of Deegar	Rs. 7,68,000/-	Rs. 76,800/-	Physical

1. Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is 11-11-2024 within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on <https://bankeauctions.com>. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

2. Date of Opening of the Bid/ Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 12-11-2024 on <https://bankeauctions.com> at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

3. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As is Where is Basis", "As is What is Basis" and "Whatever there is There is Basis".

4. The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of "Aadhar Housing Finance Limited" Only.

5. Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

6. The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link <https://bankeauctions.com/registration/> and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>

7. For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore (Contact : 9977783890) OR the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: tn@ctindia.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No. +917291981124/25/26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets.

8. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com.

9. The Bid Incremental amount for auction is Rs.10,000/-.

Place : Madhya Pradesh
Date : 12-10-2024

(Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Jio Finance app launches with diverse services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jio Financial Services on Friday announced the launch of a new and improved JioFinance App that offers a range of services, including loans, savings accounts, UPI bill payments, recharges, and digital insurance. A beta version of the JioFinance app was launched on May 30, 2024. Over six million users have experienced Jio Financial Services Ltd's (JFSL) new-age digital platform, and the valuable customer feedback received was instrumental in improving the app's overall user experience. "A wide array of financial products and services have been added since the Beta launch, including loans on mutual funds, home loans (including Balance Transfer), and loans against property.



These loans are available at competitive terms and will offer substantial savings for our customers," JFSL said in a statement. The new app is now available on the Google Play Store, Apple App Store and MyJio, with a wide range of attractive offerings, it said. On the savings front, the digital savings account from Jio Payments Bank Ltd (JPBL), which can be opened digitally in 5 minutes, offers a secure bank account with biometric authentication and a physical debit card, it said.

TCS stock falls two per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) fell 2 per cent on Friday after its September quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. The scrip of the Mumbai-based company slipped 1.93 per cent to close at Rs 4,146 apiece on the NSE. On the BSE, stock of TCS went down by 1.84 per cent to end at Rs 4,150.60 per piece. In terms of volume, 57.59 lakh equity shares were traded on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and 2.86 lakh shares exchanged hands on the BSE during the day. It emerged as the biggest laggard among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty firms. TCS, the country's largest IT services firm, on Thursday reported a 4.99 per cent increase in September quarter net profit at Rs 11,909 crore, held back by a narrowing of profit margin.

INDIA EYE SERIES SWEEP, WITH RUNS FROM OPENERS

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Disrespectful nature, India will be eagerly pursuing the twin goals of a series sweep and monitoring the progress of impressive second-line players during the third and final T20 against Bangladesh here on Saturday. India have already bagged the series 2-0 after wins at Gwalior and New Delhi.

This Indian bunch under Gautam Gambhir has shown an insatiable hunger for victory, and doubters can glance back at its result-oriented approach during the rain-marred Kanpur Test against the same opposition a few days ago.

Hence, they are unlikely to show any laxity here too as a 3-0 sweep will sit nicely along with the 2-0 margin in the preceding Test series.

Beyond the obvious, India will also look to add new pieces to their white ball jigsaw puzzle ahead of some important assignments such as the Champions Trophy.

So, in a season teeming with showpiece events globally as well as bilaterally, it's critical for the team to have multiple backup options.

In that context, it's clear that Gambhir and his colleagues in the backroom have set in motion the process of finding able support cast to frontline



players keeping in mind the long-term goals such as the ICC event next year.

Be it pacer Mayank Yadav or spinner Varun Chakravarthy, Gambhir wants to take a closer look at them and assess their readiness for the sterner assays ahead.

They haven't been disappointing either in this series.

Mayank, who missed a lot of action since IPL 2024 due to an injury, bowled at over 150

clicks while Chakravarthy returned with a three-wicket haul in his first outing in blue in three years at Gwalior.

The team management will also keep a close eye on the journey of Nitish Kumar Reddy, highly impressive in the Delhi T20 while smashing a 34-ball 74 and returning with a couple of wickets.

Opening woes Among these slivers of positives, the outings of Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma

stick out like a sore thumb. Samson has given a chance to open the innings in this series and it's a godsend in T20s, giving the batter a chance to exploit the six power play

overs. But the Kerala man has two modest outings to show so far - a 19-ball 29, a missed chance to make a fifty in a small chase of 128, and a 7-ball 10.

Samson will have to come up with something special here not to slip away from the

eyesight of management, unless they want to give a go to Jitesh Sharma, the second wicketkeeper batter in the

squad. Similarly, the backroom staff would want a substantial outing from Abhishek who too

has produced lukewarm 15 and 16 in the last two matches. The failure of openers has put a bit of strain on the middle-order, as the hosts were 41 for three inside the power play segment before the middle-

order bailed them out in the second T20.

Apart from that, the team think-tank will decide whether to hand a match to some other worthy names on the bench like leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi and all-rounder Harshit Rana.

As for Bangladesh, the visitors will strive to taste that elusive victory on this tour.

For that, they will need a consistent effort, particularly from seniors like captain Najmul Hossain Shanto, Litton Das and Mustafizur Rahman who all have been disappointing till now.

SQUADS:

India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav, Tilak Varma.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Captain), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmud Ullah, Litton Kumar Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hassan Miraz, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shorif Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.



Latham wants New Zealand to play with freedom in India

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand's new Test captain Tom Latham feels the only way to challenge an almost invincible India in their own backyard is by playing fearless cricket.

Latham has taken over the captaincy from Tim Southee ahead of the three-match Test series in India beginning on October 16 in Bengaluru.

"It's an exciting challenging going over to India and once we can go over there, hopefully play with a bit of freedom, bit of no fear and try and take it to them. If we do that hopefully, it gives ourselves a good chance," said Latham ahead of the team's departure to India on Friday.

While India have won their last 18 series at home, New Zealand come to India on the back of four successive series defeats in the World Test Championship, most recently against Sri Lanka. New Zealand have won only two Tests in India with their last one coming back in 1988.

"In India we've seen teams that have done well out there in the past have been quite aggressive towards them, especially with the bat they've looked to play a few shots, but also put them under pressure... Rather than sitting and waiting for something to happen."

"We'll decide on how we want to play when we get over there, but guys have got plans around how they like to approach things and hopefully we can fine-tune those."

Despite the 0-2 defeat in Sri Lanka, left-handed Latham

reckons they got a few things right in the island nation.

"We actually did some really good things in Sri Lanka. We fell on the wrong side of the results but there were some good things. The approach we had with the bat, apart from that one innings, I thought we played really well."

"So it's about continuing that as much as we can and trying to play a brand of cricket that we are proud of playing," he said.

Latham's predecessor Southee has not been at his best with the ball over the 12 months. The emergence of pacer Will O'Rourke means Southee is not a sure starter in the playing eleven.

The skipper, however, backed the veteran.

"If you look back, think in Bangalore (Southee) took seven wickets last time we toured there," Latham said.

"Someone with that amount of experience who's done it for many years there's certainly no reason why he can't get back to where he's been in the past. He's been a fantastic bowler for us for many years, there's a reason why he's so high on the wicket list for New Zealand."

"He'll have a similar role that he has always had whether it's as captain or in the past, someone like that who has a wealth of experience, a wealth of knowledge in all conditions and he's done it for many years and has been successful. We'll certainly be tapping into his mind, his ideas, so looking forward to it," he added.

The first Test will be played in Bengaluru, second in Pune and third in Mumbai.

England completes record-filled test match with innings win over Pakistan



AP ■ MULTAN

England notched one of its most memorable test wins as it beat Pakistan by an innings and 47 runs on the fifth and final day of the first cricket test on Friday.

Pakistan was bowled out for 220 inside the first session as Salman Ali Agha (63) and Aamer Jamal (55 not out) delayed the inevitable with their fighting half centuries.

Ill No. 11 Abrar Ahmed couldn't bat due to a fever as Pakistan suffered the

embarrassment of becoming the first test-playing country to lose a match by an innings after scoring over 500 runs in the first innings.

Left-arm spinner Jack Leach picked up all the three wickets on the final morning to finish with 4-30 after fast bowlers Gus Atkinson and debutant Brydon Carse had mopped the Pakistan top-order on the fourth evening.

Resuming on 152-6, Agha and Jamal resisted for an hour and stretched their partnership to 109 before Leach struck in his

first over when he had Agha trapped leg before wicket off a straight delivery.

Leach then finished off the tail quickly by grabbing a stunning low return catch of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah was stumped after hitting the left-arm spinner for a straight six.

England had broken number of test records when it amassed 823-7 declared on the back of Harry Brook's belligerent triple century and Joe Root's impeccable 262 in reply to Pakistan's first innings score of 556.

On Wednesday, Root also became England's highest test run-scorer.

Pakistan woeful run in test cricket continued with skipper Shan Masood losing his sixth successive test since being elevated as captain last year. It was also Pakistan's seventh loss at home in 11 test matches with the last win coming against South Africa in February 2021.

The second test begins at Multan from next Tuesday with the final test scheduled for Rawalpindi from Oct.

Slow start for Shubhankar in French Open golf

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma's patchy form continued as he carded a topsy-turvy one-over 72 in the opening round of the FedEx Open de France that left him tied 77th in the standings here.

Sharma struck four birdies against five bogeys.

He was one of the early starters and stumbled to a bogey on the second hole but quickly made amends with two fine birdies on the fourth and the sixth.

On the back nine, he had a good start with a birdie to go to two-under.

Then came three bogeys on the trot from 11th to the 13th and he was not able to recover from that, managing a birdie-bogey finish in the last two holes.

The cut looks likely at even par or better and Sharma will need a solid round to make the cut, after missing out last week.

Joe Dean, Thorbjorn Olesen and Jesper Svensson shared



the first-round lead after carding identical six-under 65s.

The trio made the most of soft conditions at Le Golf National after almost 80 millimetres of rain fell on Wednesday, causing the ground staff to work through the night to make the course playable.

Englishman Dean, making his first appearance at this venue, posted the early clubhouse lead after carding four birdies

and an eagle.

He was then joined at the top of the leaderboard by Olesen, who has fond memories of the Albatross Course as a member of Thomas Bjorn's victorious 2018 Ryder Cup side.

The Dane was one-under after playing the back-nine, but then reeled off four consecutive birdies from the first before adding a seventh gain of the day on the par-four seventh hole.

England loses to Greece as Carsley experiment backfires and France wins without Mbappé

AP ■ LONDON

Lee Carsley ran into the first problems of his tenure as England's interim coach after a bold team selection backfired in a 2-1 home loss to Greece in the Nations League on Thursday. Erling Haaland became Norway's record scorer at the age of 24 with a double in his country's 3-0 win over Slovakia, while France - playing without Kylian Mbappé and the retired Antoine Griezmann - still had far too much for Israel in a 4-1 victory.

After leading England to back-to-back victories since becoming temporary coach after the European Championship, Carsley felt emboldened enough to field a team without a recognized striker in the absence of injured captain Harry Kane.

The lineup looked interesting and exciting on paper but resembled a mess on the field as Greece repeatedly picked off England and got in behind a stretched defense.

Vangelis Pavlidis scored the opener for the visitors at Wembley Stadium in the 49th, Jude Bellingham equalized in the 87th, only for Pavlidis to take advantage of more sloppy defending to grab Greece's winner in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

Greece's players, who also had three goals disallowed in the game, celebrated one of their most famous wins by gathering together and holding up the No. 2 jersey of George Baldock, the Panathinaikos defender who was found dead in his Athens home on Wednesday at age 31. Baldock played 12 matches for Greece and there was a period of silence in tribute to the right back



ahead of the game, with players wearing black armbands.

"We gave everything for him," Pavlidis said in a tribute to Baldock, who he described as a "special guy." It was England's first loss to Greece, which is ranked No. 48 in the world ranking, in 10 matches between the teams and deals a major blow to Carsley's hopes of becoming coach of the national team on a permanent basis.

It was meant to be fluid set-up, with in-form Chelsea playmaker Cole Palmer starting a competitive international for the first time for England and deployed in central midfield, with Phil Foden and Bellingham splitting time as the furthest player forward in an attack filled with midfielders.

It didn't work. "We never really gave ourselves a chance to see whether it was the

right decision or wrong," said Carsley, who insisted it was not an "experiment."

"With the players we've got, we've got to be courageous at times with our systems and be creative. I thought it was important to try something different. I never at any point thought I've got it cracked. It was a case of, let's try something different."

Haaland scored twice to move onto

34 goals for Norway, one more than the previous record-holder Jorgen Juve from the 1930s. Haaland, who has already scored 11 goals for Manchester City this season in all competitions, was captaining Norway for the first time in his 36th international appearance.

Alexander Sorloth also scored for Norway.

Mbappé wasn't called up by France because of a minor injury, even though he has since played for Real Madrid, while the surprise retirement of Griezmann - a stalwart for coach Didier Deschamps for the past decade - gave it the feel of a new era for Les Bleus.

Goals by Matteo Guendouzi in the 87th and Bradley Barcola in the 89th wrapped up France's win against Israel, after Eduardo Camavinga and Christopher Nkunku netted in the first half. The game was played in Budapest, with Israeli teams having played home matches in neutral countries such as Hungary and Cyprus for security reasons since the Hamas attacks one year ago.

Italy forward Lorenzo Pellegrini's red card proved decisive as his team squandered a two-goal lead and drew with Belgium 2-2 in Rome.

Italy went in front after barely 60 seconds, through right wing back Andrea Cambiaso, and striker Mateo Retegui made it 2-0 in the 24th.

Pellegrini was sent off for a foul on Arthur Theate that initially earned him a booking but was upgraded to a red card in the 40th after a VAR review. From the resulting free kick, Maxim De Cuyper tucked away a fine finish from a well-worked move and Leandro Trossard equalized in the 61st.



Toyota returns to Formula 1

AP ■ TOKYO

Toyota is returning to Formula 1 after 15 years as the Japanese automaker becomes a "technical partner" of American racing team Haas.

There will be Toyota branding on the Haas cars starting from next week's United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, and the auto giant's racing division will provide "design, technical and manufacturing services" to the North Carolina-based team.

This doesn't mean a return of the Toyota works team which raced in F1 for eight seasons until 2009, however.

Haas will still race under its own name and Toyota isn't going to be supplying engines like it did for other teams in the 2000s.

Haas already has an agreement to use Ferrari engines through 2028 as part of an existing partnership which dates to Haas' first F1 season in 2016. Haas previously extended its Ferrari deal in July to cover the new F1 regulations coming in 2026.

The announcement of the "multi-year agreement" seemed to suggest Toyota could seek to place a driver with Haas, which doesn't have

a spare seat for next year.

The head of Toyota's Gazoo racing division, Tomoya Takahashi, said in a statement Friday that Toyota would aim to "cultivate drivers, engineers, and mechanics" in its partnership with Haas. The team has already signed Ferrari reserve Oliver Bearman and the experienced Esteban Ocon, who's currently at Alpine, as its drivers for 2025.

Toyota spent lavishly when it joined F1 in 2002 as it attempted to build a title-winning team, but never won a race despite several near-misses.

Toyota made a sudden announcement at the end of the 2009 season that it was leaving F1 as part of a cost-cutting program even though it had almost finished designing its car for the following season.

Since then, Toyota has focused on other forms of auto racing like NASCAR, the Le Mans 24-hour race - where it has a rivalry with Ferrari - and rallying.

The Toyota-Haas F1 announcement Friday came just over a week after the company was among three big Japanese firms which pulled sponsorship money out of the Olympics.



धर्म, न्याय और सत्य से प्रेरित विकास का संदेश
समृद्ध और खुशहाल मध्यप्रदेश

मां अहिल्या देवी के
300वें जन्म जयंती वर्ष के अवसर पर
दशहरा शस्त्र पूजन कार्यक्रम

मुख्य अतिथि

डॉ. मोहन यादव

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

12 अक्टूबर, 2024

पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे
मल्हारगंज जिनिंग ग्राउंड
महेश्वर

अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
डी आर पी पुलिस लाइन
इंदौर



विजयादशमी की
प्रदेशवासियों को
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

“ शस्त्र पूजन सनातन संस्कृति और परंपरा का अभिन्न अंग है। शस्त्र बिना न शास्त्र की रक्षा सम्भव है, न ही राष्ट्र की। विजयादशमी के सुअवसर पर सनातन संस्कृति की ध्वजवाहिका देवी अहिल्याबाई होलकर के 300वें जन्म जयंती वर्ष पर प्रदेश स्तरीय शस्त्र पूजन कार्यक्रम का आयोजन हो रहा है। लोकमाता देवी अहिल्याबाई, जो महिला सशक्तिकरण की अद्वितीय प्रतीक हैं, उनका पुण्य स्मरण करते हुए हम उन्हें कृतज्ञतापूर्ण नमन करते हैं। ”

-डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

सांस्कृतिक विरासत का संरक्षण एवं धार्मिक पर्यटन को विकसित करता मध्यप्रदेश

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