**WORLD 8** 

BOAT CAPSIZES IN CONGO. KILLING

AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE: WITNESSES

MONEY 10

SAMSUNG WORKERS PROTEST

**CONTINUES TO 4TH WEEK** 

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MESSI, INTER MIAMI WIN MLS SUPPORTERS SHIELD 12 SPORTS

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## Marital rape not a crime, **Centre tells Supreme Court**

#### Government says punitive measures in place

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

The affidavit filed by the Union Home Ministry said that in a marriage, there is a continuing expectation to have reasonable sexual access from one's spouse. It clarified that such expectations do not entitle a husband to coerce his wife to have sex against her will.

However, it may be excessive and disproportionate to punish a man under anti-rape laws for such an act, the Centre said affidavit further highlighted that the parliament has already provided different remedies to protect a married woman's consent within marriage.

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



which has a direct bearing on society in general. While so, even if 'marital rape' is to be criminalised, it is not up to the Supreme Court to do so, the Centre argued.

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

whether such an act occurs within or outside a marriage. These remedies include laws punishing cruelty to married women (as it was under Section 498A under the Indian Penal Code then), laws woman's consent is not punishing acts against the

modesty of women, and Violence Act, 2005.

India DY Chandrachud with Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is currently seized of the matter. Marital rape is excluded from the ambit of "rape" by way of Exception 2 to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A similar provision is also present in the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) which replaced the IPC Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict on whether marital rape should be a criminal offence. The matter then reached the Supreme Court in September that year. 'The sexual aspect is but one of many facets of the relationship between husband and wife, on which the bedrock of their marriage rests ... Given the nature of the marital institution in our socio-legal milieu, if the legislature is of the view that, for preservation of the marital institution, the impugned Exception should be retained, it is submitted that it would not be appropriate for this Hon'ble Court to strike down the Exception," the latest affidavit added.

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

## Make-in-Odisha 2025 conclave in Delhi



Aims for investments worth Rs 5 lakh cr in 5 yrs NALINI SAHU **BHUBANESWAR** 

As part of 'Utkarsh Odisha', the State's premier business summit, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi met ambassadors of 34 different nations and members of several industry associations in New Delhi on Thursday.

Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consul-Generals and trade commissioners from across the globe attended the event.

Majhi presented Odisha's dynamic industrial landscape and emerging investment opportunities to the global audience. He aimed to foster partnerships and attract invest-

ments worth over Rs 5 lakh crore in five years by showcasing the potential and opportunities available in Odisha.

The CM held one-on-one meetings with delegations of industry bodies and associations. The meeting revolved around Odisha's industrial potential, supportive policies, ease of doing business and an investor-friendly environ-Accompanied by the CM

were Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and many senior officials of the State Government.

The CM also personally invited global stakeholders to attend the Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave-

Business leaders and investors from various sectors were invited to explore how Odisha can serve as a key destination for investments.

"I'm very grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India, for inviting us to this interactive session that is coming up in the state of Odisha," said Am $bassador\text{-}designate\, of\, Bahrain$ Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Gaoud.

Malaysia's High Commissioner to India Muzaffar Shah Mustafa said, "I'm looking forward to all the opportunities and potential collaboration with the State of Odisha. It is a very good effort by the Odisha Government to attract collaborations with international partners." "For Malaysia, we can look for the development of IT, IT services, education, tourism and other sectors. But we are open to more ideas and would like to hear it from the Chief Minister," he added.

## 'Kalabati' rice is answer to malnutrition

#### Contains proven health benefits

SAMBALPUR

Kalabati' rice, highlighted by a study by the Sambalpur University, has emerged as a nutritional powerhouse against malnutrition in Odisha. PhD scholar Payal Sharma's research reveals its potential to enhance infant health. Her formulation, Nutri Nest, featuring the black Kalabati rice and other nutrients, shows promising results on mouse pups. A patent is awaited for its wider market

availability. Paval Sharma, a PhD scholar of the Food Science Technology and Nutrition department of Sambalpur University, through her one-year-long research work, has discovered that the rice variety, which is on the verge of extinction, can

Population

NALINI SAHU

BHUBANESWAR

increases amid

ongoing threats

The latest leopard census

conducted by the Odisha For-

est Department has revealed a

rise in the State's leopard popu-

lation with 696 leopards now

This marks an increase from

the 568 leopards reported in

the 2022 census conducted by

the National Tiger Conserva-

tion Authority (NTCA). How-

ever, the current figure is still

below the 760 leopards re-

The recent State-led census was more comprehensive than

previous surveys, deploying

camera traps across 47 Forest

corded in 2018.

residing in its forests.



work wonders in combating malnutrition in babies due to its high nutritional values. As part of her research,

Sharma prepared a mixture of Kalabati rice powder, peanut, raggi, soybeans, jiggery and milk powder with the black rice being the major component in the powder mix named 'Nutri Nest'. Later, she divided 21 mouse pups into three

While the first group was

696 leopards now residing in Odisha forests

given traditional baby food, the second one was provided baby food available in the market, and the last group was fed Nutri Nest for 14 days in

The mouse pups group that consumed the rice power came up with good health as compared to others. After its application on mouse pups became a success, Sharma is now waiting for a patent.

"After observation, we

found the mice which were supplied with Nutri Nest were more healthy and weighed more than the other groups. We are yet to undertake a human trial," Sharma said.

Aparajita Priyadarshini, guide

"We have parboiled the Kalabati paddy so that it can be easily digested. We have added soybean, peanuts, raggi, jiggery and some amount of milk substitute," said Dr

the Khariar-Sunabeda land-

scape (40-50 leopards) and the

Dhenkanal landscape (20

leopards). Despite the encour-

aging increase in numbers,

conservationists warn that

poaching continues to pose a

significant threat to the sur-

vival of leopards in Odisha.

Leopards are frequently tar-

geted for their skins, bones

and other body parts, which

are highly sought-after in ille-

gal wildlife markets.

## Powered by VOLLEYBALL FOUNDATION A Grand Celebration of SPORTS, UNITY & CULTURE **Inaugural Session**



Ms. Jennifer Larson

**US Consul General** Hyderabad, India



Dr. Ary S. Graça F° President, Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), Switzerland

Event Highlights >>> >>> >>>

#### 5000

Kids showcasing their volleyball skills across 60 mini-courts in thrilling 4-a-side matches.

#### 40,000

Students creating an electric atmosphere with flag displays, cheers, and tribal dance performances.



**Guinness World Record** Attempts in volleyball.

#### KIIT and KISS will announce a scholarship program, Dr. Ary Graça-Dr. Samanta Scholarship, for volleyball athletes. KIIT/KISS will provide sponsorship to one or two athletes pursuing bachelor's or master's degree.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony will be held between KIIT/KISS and the FIVB Volleyball Foundation. This MoU will cover all forthcoming projects and partnership initiatives.
  - - World's Largest Indigenous Education Institution
    - Empowering Indigenous Children through Education

Watch LIVE on

from 10.30 a.m. onwards.

The census revealed that the

Satkosia. According to the of-

fice of the Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests

(PCCF), the Forest Depart-

ment identified 284 to 296

unique leopards, significantly

more than the fewer than 100

identified in the NTCA's last

ards, about 200, was located in the Mayurbhanj-Keonjhar landscape, which includes the Similipal Tiger Reserve. Other key areas include the Satkosia-Boudh-Athmallik landscape, home to 150-160 leopards, and the Hirakud-Rairakhol-Sambalpur region, which holds 70-80 leopards. Smaller populations were recorded in

mented anti-poaching measures, the high demand for leopard parts in the black market makes the fight against poaching an uphill battle," said Gourang Charan Rout, a forest rights and wildlife conservation activist. He emphasised the need for collaboration between law enforcement and forest officials and local communities to protect leopards and maintain

"While Odisha has implethe ecological balance.

#### KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (KISS) A HOME FOR 80,000 INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

#### Divisions compared to the NTCA's limited scope in key areas like Similipal and highest concentration of leop-

**OPINION 6** 

'INTEGRAL HUMANISM'

BJP STRIVES HARD TO IMBIBE

obliterated by marriage, and its violation should result in penal consequences. However, the consequences

violations within marriage differ from those outside it, the affidavit stated. It added that a breach of consent should be punished differently, depending on

remedies under the Protection of Women from Domestic The Bench of Chief Justice of

on July 1 this year. In 2022, the

other cases, it said

### 'Irregularities' in RI, Amin recruitment

ne pioneer

## Aspirants stage protest before Minister's house

Hundreds of aspirants on Thursday staged a protest outside the residence of Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj alleging large-scale irregularities in the recruitment of district cadre posts of Revenue Inspectors (RIs), ICDS supervisors, ARIs, Amins and SFSs conducted by the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC).

The aspirants demanded



ducted in offline mode.

"Several cases of irregularities in the conduct of the examination have surfaced. Earlier yesterday, one person was also arrested in Boudh. There is no transparency in the examination," alleged an aspir-

Echoing the same, another said, "The examination is being conducted at various cybercafés. Everything is fixed as to who will get the job."

The prelims written exami-

nation for the recruitment began on September 20 and will continue till October 20. The OSSSC is conducting the recruitment drive to fill up a total of 2,895 vacant posts.

A massive rally by aspirants in Cuttack also demanded cancellation of the examinations conducted by the OSSSC due to alleged irregularities. Notably, tension had also erupted at Nayapalli in Bhubaneswar recently when aspirants created a ruckus over the conduct of the examination at a cyber café.

#### OUAT students hold demo against street vendors Allege rise in illegal activities

near campus

BHUBANESWAR

A large number of students of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) held a demonstration here on Thursday alleging rowdy behaviour by street vendors outside the college

The irate students demanded an immediate ban of the street vendors from the college boundary.

The agitators, led by student union leaders, alleged that the



street vendors are engaged in pick-pocketing and drug peddling.

The agitators also demanded for stronger safety measures due to frequent instances of eve-teasing and sexual harassment of women students outside the university gates. Despite repeated complaints, students say little progress has been made in addressing their demands.

The students alleged that outsiders often make sexist comments and insensitive re-

With street vendors every where, the university boundary has become a safe haven for the anti-socials. Dozens of men often assemble outside the campus, resulting in awkward situations for girl students

in the campus, it was learnt. When asked to mend their ways, the street vendors, many of them being locals, allegedly threaten the students with dire consequences, the students alleged.

The agitation was called off after the university authorities intervened and assured to take necessary steps in this connec-

### BBSR Chapter of Energy Swaraj Foundation

#### Launched by Centurion University

BHUBANESWAR

he Centurion University has announced the launch of a Bhubaneswar Chapter of the Energy Swaraj Foundation. The event was graced by Chetan Singh Solanki, Professor at IIT Bombay and founder of the Energy Swaraj Foundation, and Prof Supriya Pattanayak, Vice-Chancellor of Centurion University.

The launch marks a significant milestone in the promotion of sustainable energy practices with a focus on solar energy as a solution to combat climate change. The Bhubaneswar Chapter aims to advance energy selfreliance through the adoption of renewable resources, aligning with the broader mission of the Energy Swaraj

Foundation to decentralise energy solutions and achieve climate goals.

The chapter's initiatives will include organising workshops, seminars, and training sessions to educate the public on the advantages of renewable energy and how solar power can be incorporated into daily life. In addition, the chapter will implement solar energy projects in rural communities across Odisha.

across Odisha."

Prof Solanki said, "Climate change is an urgent problem that requires decentralised, practical energy solutions. Solar energy is one of the most effective ways to combat this

Chapter president Dr Bijaya Bijeta Nayak remarked, "The launch of this chapter, we believe, would have a lasting impact by educating, empowering and offering practical energy solutions to people

### **Nat'l Blood Donation Day** Walkathon held from AG Square to Red Cross Bhawan

#### Camps organised; donors feted

BHUBANESWAR

Under the guidance of honorary secretary, Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch, Bibhuti Bhusan Pattnaik, the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day was organised here on Wednesday.

To mark the Day, the honorary secretary flagged off a Walkathon from AG Square to Red Cross Bhawan in which more than 200 volunteers from different schools and colleges joined. The volunteers gave slogans related to blood donation while holding plac-

A blood donation camp was organised in which more than 20 volunteers donated blood at Red Cross Regional Blood Centre. Another camp has also



been organised at Utkal University of Culture from which 49 units of blood collected.

On the occasion, a technical session was taken by doctors to create awareness on blood donation among the volunteers. An award giving ceremony was also organised to felicitate the blood donors who have set an example in the field of blood donation.

Medical Officer RCRBC Dr Debi Prasad Rath proposed the welcome speech. Commandant of Police and joint secretary, Red Cross regional branch Police Commissionerate Cuttack and Bhubaneswar Lalitendu Mohanty joined as a guest and motivated the volunteers to involve more volunteers in blood drives to save

Medical Officer Sum Hospital Dr Girija Nandini Kanungo and Medical Officer Bachi Cancer Hospital Dr Santosh Mishra joined as guests and took a technical session on blood donation and motivated the volunteers.

Youth Red Cross officer Dr Ramesh Chandra Behera coordinated the programme. Junior Red Cross Officer Laxman Swain coordinated the award giving ceremony. Medical Officer RCRBC Dr Pradeep Kumar Moharana proposed the vote of thanks.

YRC counsellors Dr Naresh Chandra Sahoo, Dr Samsita Pattanaik, Mohan Charan Bisi, JRC counsellors like Naba Kishore Dipa, Niranjan Sahoo , Banamali Meher and volunteers like Maitreyi Mishra from KIIT University, Deepak Kumar Nisanka from BJB Autonomous College, Raja Gouda from Rajdhani College and Kajal Kanhar Maharshi Women's Degree College were felicitated as Blood Heros. Gopinath Pattnaik was also awarded for giving blood for more than 150 times in life.

### 'THRIVE' to boost tribal health, youth power



Launched by KIIT, KISS & Jhpiego

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and Jhpiego, a Johns Hopkins affiliate, on Thursday expanded their partnership with a new initiative called Tribal Health Research Innovation & Voca-Empowerment (THRIVE). A new tripartite MoU was signed in this regard between KIIT, KISS and Jhpiego in the presence of KIIT and KISS founder Dr Achyuta Samanta.

The new partnership will create two ground-breaking centres as part of the new initiative, serving as hubs for indigenous-led research, cultural preservation, and youth empowerment, aiming to address critical health and social challenges within indigenous communities

The centres will be known as the Centre for Tribal Health and Research (CTHR) and the Centre for Youth Innovation and Inclusiveness (CYII).

The KIIT VC hoped that this partnership would eventually lead to the establishment of the John Hopkins Chair while the KISS VC would accelerate the pace of youth and women empowerment in the marginalised communities.

#### In Cuttack

### DJ music allowed but with noise down

directive CUTTACK

HC issues

he Orissa High Court on Thursday allowed DJ music during the upcoming Durga Puja in Cuttack, but the court directed that the noise levels should be within 65 decibels.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) about the problems in the city, the court passed the order. Earlier, the court had or-

dered the city Deputy Com-

missioner of Police, Cuttack, to file an affidavit mentioning the steps taken by it to prevent noise pollution in the city during the coming Durga Puja festivities.

Meanwhile, the High Court expressed dissatisfaction over the poor conditions of the roads in Cuttack and ordered to finish the road works within

Some days back, the court had ordered not to construct gates on roads in the city during the Dussehra festival in a bid to avoid congestion.

## Students join INTACH Heritage Quiz

Over 1,500 from 25 schools display their talent

BHUBANESWAR

As the world moves to an increasingly concrete and cosmopolitan state, it is important to hold on to our roots. To expose young minds to the heritage that surrounds them, the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Odisha State Chapter, conducted a State Level Round of the INTACH Heritage Quiz-2024 at the MBS



Public School, Bhubaneswar. IMTACH State convener AB Tripathty gave a message to the students, teachers and parents who had accompanied the participants from different parts of the State. Former Engineer-in-Chief Binod Chandra Padhi spoke on the

culture and heritage of the State. The intellectuallycharged competition was conducted by Bhubaneswar Chapter convener Anil Dhir.

The students displayed an impressive depth of knowledge with a keen understanding of India's and Odisha's rich in December this year.

heritage. More than 1,500 students from 25 schools spread all over the State participated in the district rounds.

The first prize winning team of Janmejaya Jena and Omkar Patra from MBS Public School, Bhubaneswar displayed an outstanding performance which reflected not only their dedication to learning but also their ability to navigate complex informa-

tion with finesse. The winning team will gear up to participate in the national level to be held in New Delhi

### In city 3.5L cash snatched from woman in broad daylight

BHUBANESWAR

Street crimes like snatching of bags containing cash, chains and mobile phones by bike-borne miscreants are on the rise in the State capital city, spreading a sense of insecurity and fear among the residents, particularly women.

In a glaring example, two miscreants who came by a motorbike looted cash of Rs 3.25 lakh in broad daylight in the Chandrasekharpur police station area in the city on Thurs-

Pratima Behera and her brother were returning home after withdrawing the cash from the State Bank of India's Chandrasekharpur Phase-I branch. As they were nearing home, the miscreants came from behind, snatched the cash bag from Pratima and sped away from the spot.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim, police reached the spot, collected CCTV footage and began a

## Despite many schemes People engaged in manual scavenging neglected as ever

**→**he data provided by Minis try of Social Justice and Empowerment in its annual report 2023 shows that caste wise 70 percent of the people engaged in cleaning urban sewers and septic tanks belongs to scheduled caste while tribal, and general category constitute 8 percent each and OBC , 14 percent. 36,060 sewer and septic tank sanitary workers were profiled in the year 2023-24 from 35 States and UTs for implementation of the National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE). The scheme aims to eradicate manual sewer cleaning and rehabilitation of the workers engaged in the hazardous occupation for generations.

It is reported that 377 persons died between 2019 and 2023 due to the hazardous nature of cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in the country. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act 2013 banned manual scavenging. While celebrating Amrutkala, it is unfortunate that the caste -based occupation has been continuing in the country and remains unabated in spite of constitutional laws and



**MANAS JENA** 

dedicated Ministry, schemes and programmes to end such inhuman practice. Scavenging is not just a hazardous form of occupation but also socially treated as most demeaning and people engaged in such work often face discrimina-

tion in every aspect of social life. Odisha has started a scheme called GARIMA with similar purpose in 2020. Sanitary workers are not like other workers of any occupation but they are also one of the most vulnerable communities among

SCs. Scavenging or sanitary work is still prevalent as a customarily caste based occupation in India. As per 2011 Census, the population of Hadi community in Odisha was 2.5 lakh. They are also called by different names such as Mehenter, Behera, sweeper and scavengers. With increasing urbanization, most of them have migrated to urban locations to get engaged in sanitary work and largely concentrated in cities. In the recent past, the Government has identified about 60,000 manual scavengers from 18 States including Odisha.

Though legally manual scavenging is banned by law, it is still in practice in many places. Both men and women of the community are being engaged in the occupation and the urban bodies are the principal employer. In a caste ridden society of India, sanitary workers are looked down upon in the caste hierarchy and they are the most socially discriminated community both in rural and urban areas, given the nature of the job. They clean toilets, clogged drains by entering manholes, carrying and cleaning, disposing off all kinds of waste, garbage, dead animals, carcasses, including human excreta. They all start work early in the morning only to keep all public places, hospitals, schools, stations, bus stops, roads, and cities clean to maintain sanitation for a healthy and clean life. In spite of modernization, this particular community people are routinely engaged in large numbers with this most hated occupation which has no social respect in society. Some of them also addi-

drinking water, electricity, toilets and a house for the family. Their houses in slums routinely face eviction drives as unauthorized habitations without a rehabilitation plan. They have been always pushed to the outskirts of the cities and displaced again and again either in the name of expansion or beautification of cities without a permanent solution to their land and housing rights. It is being observed that their lit-

**SOCIAL CANVAS** 

tionally do drum beating, leather work, shoe making and bamboo work. But in spite of all their dedicated service to mankind what they have been getting? What is their socio-economic status? Few seem to bother about it.

They have very insignificant representation in education, government jobs and education in comparison to other SC groups. Almost all of them live in slums for generations without homestead land and even struggle every day to access basic amenities such as safe eracy rate is comparatively lower than other communities. Their children become rag pickers, child labourers and largely dropouts. There has been no major change in their life even with 75 years of institutional interventions, protective laws, and a host of schemes. Why

In almost all urban bodies in Odisha, sanitary work has been slowly moving towards privatization and contractual appointments are the order of the day. It is a fact that no one has been them get less than minimum wage for eight hours of hard work. The principal employer has no role to ensure minimum wage of these vulnerable helpless workers. The kind of work they have been doing is most hazardous as they are more prone to TB, skin diseases and water borne diseases due to long exposure to dust, wastes and unhygienic places. It is the duty of the employer to provide all kinds of protective equipment, masks, gloves, boots, helmets ,rest and holidays and sickness leave but such provisions are still a far cry for them. It has been frequently reported that a few of them die in roadside manholes, soak pits and waste pits while cleaning. Unfortunately such deaths largely remain unrecorded by urban bodies. The trade unions, civil society organisations and other such bodies have made very little visible intervention to change their social condition.

getting wage as semi-skilled or

skilled workers. Even many of

The PMS Act 2013 and schemes such as NAMASTE and GARIMA are all attempts aiming at correcting the historical injustice and indignity and establishing the right

to live with dignity as a fundamental right. There is a provision in the Act for allocation of residential plots and assistance for construction of houses. Besides, committees under the district Collectors with representatives of community including women should be formed to look after their welfare but it has not been implemented with seri-

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis exists since 1993, and the National Safai Karmachari Finance and Development Corporation since 1997 with a share capital of Rs 700 crore to look into the specific issues of scavenger communities. There are schemes for skill development, self employment with loan at lower rate of interest and subsidy. The SC and ST Finance Cooperative Corporation is the nodal agency in the State for implementation of such schemes. The various public sector and private companies are also contributing out of their CSR funds for the rehabilitation of the scavengers. But still these people live under subhuman conditions with no improvement in their lives.

(manasbbsr15gmail.com)

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## 81-yr-old invalid widow denied pension

draws attention of Puri DM KAMAL LOCHAN DIXIT **ASTARANG** 

Vidulata Raut (81), an unemployed widow of Alsahi panchayat under Astarang block, has not received old age allowance for last three years. Social worker Amie Ranjan Barik has drawn attention to this by complaining with the Puri district Collector.

Vidulata has been unable to



walk for almost three years, said Amie who first brought the old woman's plight to the attention of the local admincount and email. As there was no success, he himself went to Puri and filed a complaint in the district Collector's Com-

"If a person does not have a bank account then there is a rule to go to him and pay the allowance. Here why a disabled person is neglected in getting her due is the biggest question,"

According to the medical report, the woman has been lying at home since January 2021 due to leg fracture and

old age. "It is regrettable that the local panchayat representative or the block executive officer did not bring this to the attention of the Social Security Department," lamented Amie.

When asked, Officer -incharge of Social Security Department block, Nandana Nivedita said that if a beneficiary does not take the allowance for 3 months, it is automatically cut off as per the government

Protest against Kalyan Mandap built on school land

as playground on Zilla School's name<sup>3</sup>

**UBACHAK MOHANTY BALESWAR** 

The Balasore Civil Society threatened to take to streets if its demand for recording a patch of land, now used as playground, in the name of Baleswar Zilla School is not fulfilled.

This was announced by the members of the outfit after a protest meeting held in front of the Baleswar collectorate on



"A token protest was held which was participated by people and leaders of a crosssection of society. All suo motu came forward to save one of the oldest school's pride. It is decided that a series of agitations would be undertaken including Baleswar Bandh and a dharna in Bhubaneswar during the coming Assembly ses-

sion if our demand is not accepted," said outfit's secretary Manoj Nayak.

The patch of land measuring 4.72 acre was allotted to the Zilla School in exchange for a land (Permit Field) which was originally with the school in 2002 following the intervention of the then district Collector but the land couldn't be recorded in the

In Jagatsinghpur

school, said sources. "Recently, we came to

know that on the patch of land which is presently used as the playground of the Zilla School, construction is going on for a Kalyan Mandap by the Baleswar Municipality. This work is going on keeping the PTA and alumni etc in the dark," alleged Gournaga Panigrajhi, a member of the

He said that under no circumstances would the school's playground be allowed to be used for a Kalyan Mandap by the civic body.

## On Gandhi Jayanti 108-ft Tricolour hoisted in Patnagarh



BALANGIR

A 108-foot monumental Tricolour was unfurled at the Ramai High School in Patnagarh on the Gandhi Jayanti day. The Flag Foundation of India (FFOI) unfurled it in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo.

With this, the FFOI continued its mission to promote the

display of the Indian National flag with pride and honour and to raise awareness about its significance. The flag was dedicated to the nation by FFOI president Naveen Jindal.

The Patnagarh ceremony was also attended by senior Indian Army officers. "This event will forever be itched in the history of India," said Jindal CSR Group Head Prashant Hota

## Minor rape victim gets rehab; NHRC closes case

KENDRAPADA

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on September 30 closed a case after considering the report submitted by the District Magistrate and SP of Jagatsinghpur related to sexual abuse of a minor class-VI student by the father of her

Since the first phase of the compensation has been paid to the victim and recommendation has been made to provide the second phase of the compensation to the victim, no further intervention of the Commission is required in the instant case, the Commission stated.

The NHRC passed the order acting on a petition filed by lawyer and rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

Tripathy alleged that one minor girl was allegedly raped by her tuition teacher's father, on 23.10.2023, in a village under Kujanga police limits, of Jagatsinghpur district.

The petitioner narrated the shocking incident as thus. Nearly 15 to 20 students, including girls went to a woman teacher's house at Balitutha for daily tuition. In the absence of the teacher, her father taught

Munda tribals do Dassain dance to greet Dussehra

However, taking advantage of his daughter's absence, prime accused Subash Muduli allegedly raped the minor girl, a Class VI student, at regular intervals. Muduli disclosed the complicity of his colleague Rabindra Das, 50, in the crime. The horrible situation poses extreme violation of human rights, petitioner Tripathy stated and sought intervention of the Commission for ensuring justice to the minor victim.

The Commission vide its proceedings dated 26.06.2024 directed the Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate, Jagatsinghpur to submit fresh report over the payment

of compensation to the victim in the case

Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, report dated 13.08.2024 of the Collector and Magistrate, District Jagatsinghpur informed that payment of Rs. 1 lakh (25% of the recommended amount of Rs 4 lakh as first phase) has been paid to the victim and second phase is pending at Government level. Report dated 09.08.2024 of the Superintendent of Police, Jagatsinghpur, stated that GER was submitted for the victim's monetary compensation with recommendation of Rs 4 lakh. All action of the case

## Man gets 10-yr jail term for raping minor girl

agatsinghpur Fast Track Court Judge Ajaya Kumar Mohanty on Tuesday sentenced a person to 10 years' imprisonment for raping a minor girl of the district.

The court also slapped a fine of Rs 30, 000 on the convict identified as Ramakanta Majhi of Malahunka village in the Kujanga area of the district. In default, he has to undergo another six months' rigorous imprisonment.

The accused had kidnapped a 15-year-old girl on May 28, 2019 and kept a sexual relationship with her. He had taken

the victim to Khordha and later to Bengaluru and Rajasthan.

Based on the complaint of the victim's family, the Kujang police had registered a kidnapping case and later arrested Ramakanta from Jaipur in Rajasthan along with the girl.

After examining deposition of 10 witnesses and evidence provided by the prosecution, the court pronounced the judgement. The court also directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay Rs 7 lakh as compensation to the girl, informed prosecution advocate Dola Govinda Dash.

### Parla MLA encourages RAA, inspects hostel



PARALAKHEMUNDI

Paralakhemundi BJD MLA Rupesh Panigrahi participated as the chief guest in the Rastriya Abishkar Abhijan (RAA) event held at the Tagore Memorial High School at Upalada of Gosani block in Gajapati district.

Notably, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the RAA to encourage children to learn science and mathematics. As an engineer, Panigrahi motivated the students not to be scared of science but understand each subject with interest so that they can become engineers, doctors and scientists in their careers.

He gave away awards to the

quiz and other events' winners. Other guests in the function included Gajapati ZP President G Tirupati Rao, Gosani Block Chairman N Bir Raju, ZP Member S Balaraju, senior leader S Gajapati Rao and the Gosani Block BEO.

He made a surpris the 100-bed hostel of the high school and found mismanagement in service and infrastructure. He advised Headmistress P Bharati to improve the hostel environment so that the students feel comfortable and assured her to help her wherever needed. Rupesh, an education entrepreneur, is a first-time MLA and the only BJD MLA in Gajapati district and the son of Hi-Tech Medical College Chairman Tirupati Panigrahi.

#### The dance form now on verge of extinction

■ KEONJHAR

The 'Dassain Dance' is a unique kind of group dance of tribal community that is performed by mostly Munda tribal community during the Dussehra in Keonjhar district. However, the tribal dance form is on the verge of extinction these days. With tribals doing the dance, it indicates to the rural people that Dussehra is round the corner.

Sources said th people practicing 'mantra and tatntra' usually take part in the dance. "During the dance, the tribal performers receive rice, spices, money etc that are donated by the villagers. The tribals worship their deity of power on the day of Dussehra with the donation. Later they organise a feast among them," said Karunakar Barik, a writer.

In this dance, the tribal people dress up colourfully and visit village to village with



ments, a month before the Dussehra. The tribal male persons get them painted in different colours and dress up in costumes of male, female, eunuch, animal and bird. They use instruments called 'Bhuan Baja' made of bamboo, leather and pitcher in the dance. They dance with the beat of sound produced from the brass or silver bowl and plate. They sing by uttering the

line 'Bhung se se Bhung, se Bere se' during the dance. One of them is dressed in a funny manner to make the villagers

month till the Dussehra. On the day of Dussehra they offer puja to please the 'deity of atra' and hone for success ful training on tantra.

Dr B Behera, a writer of tribal culture, said, " It is a very old form of dance of Munda community. But due to the advent of modernisation it is gradually limited to a few villages now. Earlier many groups visited different villages in the district and performed dances. It not only gave them amusement, but also helped them bond with the fellow vil-

#### K'mal boy who cracked NEET seeks govt support for study His family is unable to bear

has been completed.

PHULBANI

 $S_{
m ankarshan\ Mandal\ from}$ Tumudibandha village in Kandhamal district cracked the NEET exam despite financial hardships. Son of daily labourers Manik and Devaki Mandal, Sankarshan's dreams are now threatened by lack of funds for his medical educa-

The family seeks assistance from the Odisha Government to overcome this challenge. Sankarshan was born into an underprivileged family. Growing up with limited educational opportunities, Sankarshan attended Chakapada Adarsha Vidyalaya for his schooling. He prepared diligently for NEET with limited resources, relying heavily on the internet to crack the all-India exam on his second attempt.

But his hopes are shattered as his parents' meagre earnings are barely sufficient for daily

'Sriballav was a politician class apart'



sustenance, making funding kind of help through a scheme for his medical education seem to us, it will be helpful," said a impossible. Sankarshan's parents swell with pride at their son's accomplishment, yet they are burdened with worry about how to finance his future education and career.

"We are worried about his studies. If the Government provides some financial aid, it will be helpful," said Sankarshan's mother, Devaki Mandal

"It is a blessing of God that he is good at studies. If the Government provides some

disheartened Manik Mandal, Sankarshan's father. Sankarshan's neighbours

and well-wishers, like Hemanta Mondal, hope that the administration or private institutions will step in to support the talented young man.

"We're hoping that either the Government or private organisations will step in to support Sankarshan, ensuring that his golden future doesn't get cut short due to lack of money," said Hemanta.

## IIM S'pur's 5-day IDE Bootcamp ends

160 participants from diverse regions join PNS SAMBALPUR

The IIM Sambalpur concluded the first phase of the second edition of the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp in its campus. The initiative, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) in partnership with Wadhwani Foundation. The event attracted over 160 participants from diverse regions, including Odisha, West Bengal, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, and

Chhattisgarh. Conducted from September 23 to 27, this five-day programme offered an immersive experience aimed at developing essential skills in innovation, design, and entre-



preneurship with an objective to enhance and foster the innovation, design, and entrepreneurial capabilities of students across India.

The event also featured an exhibition highlighting innovators and start-ups, with over 50 start-ups showcasing their unique products. The exhibition had been inaugurated by CMD of MCLUday A Kaole, Associate Partner at IBM Anindya Ghosh and a prominent business leader and entrepreneur Dr Annurag Batra. The exhibition presented various offerings across various sectors, including health, hospitality, artificial intelligence, smart home systems, and women's care, among others

which was participated by

Start-ups from across the na-National and international

experts specializing in product design, ergonomics, design thinking, and pitching skills conducted intensive training sessions for the participants. Furthermore, start-up founders and business leaders delivered motivational addresses, sharing their practical experiences and insights. More than 15 faculty members provided mentorship to the students throughout the event.

Shamsher Singh Hura, CEO of JAS Group and Nishita Baliarsingh, Co-Founder and CEO of Nexus Power graced the event, apart from representatives from the AICTE and Wadhwani Foundation Master Trainers.

#### Rich tributes paid to late Min, MP

on his birth anniv SAMBALPUR

Rich tributes were paid to former Minister, Parliamentarian, trade union leader and educationist Sriballav Panigrahi on his 84th Birth Anniversary Commemoration organised at his hometown in Sambalpur on September 29.

State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari was the chief guest at commemoration. Sriballav's old associate and friend, former Minister and **Pradesh Congress Committee** president Niranjan Patnaik was the guest of honor. Talcher MLA Braja Kishore Pradhan and former Minister Prakash Chandra Debta were guest speakers.

Prominent citizens from all walks of life joined together to remember the contribu-



tions of Sriballav.

Minister Pujari in his address as the chief guest said after assuming the role of Odisha's Revenue Minister, the topmost name that came to his mind was Sriballav Panigrahi's.

Pujari said that in his life he has had the opportunity to connect with various politicians of different idealogies and across the policitical spectrum. He said he constantly evaluated various leaders and if honesty, integrity, clarity of

thought, knowledge, morality and uncompromising nature on one's own principles were into account, Sriballavbabu's was right on top of his list. He would keep Sriballav Panigrahi ahead of all other leaders because of these qualities, said Pujari. He assured all help to the Sriballav and Sunanda Panigrahi Foun-

Guest of honour Patnaik recalled his association with Sirbally for over 60 years. He regaled the crowd with many interesting anecdotes about his relationship with Sriballav. He said Sriballav, even when

he was not in power, had an unique abilty to find ways and means to get public works done. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and the Railway Division in Sambalpur happened only because of his dogged efforts. After Naba Krusha Chowdhary, major land reforms were excuted under his watch. Extolling him as a man of character, Patnaik said Sriballav was an

ideal politician and today's generation should be inspried by him. Guest Speaker and 4time Talcher MLA Pradhan said that Sriballavbabu was his political godfather. He said he came into politics only because Sriballavbabu was confident about his abilities. Former Minister Debta said

that Sriballavbabu was responsible for his getting nominated as Congress Candidate in 1974. Not tolerating any kind of injustice, Sriballavbabu was a committed and strong personality, he added. Among others who spoke

included general sectretary of Orissa Collieries Mazdoor Sangh Soubhagya Pradhan, , former general secretary, Heavy Water Workers Union, Talcher Akshay Biswal and retired Judge Manoranjan Mohanty. The function was presided over by chairperson of Sriballav and Sunanda Panigrahi Foundation and former MLA Dr Raseswari Panigrahi.

## India rejects USCIRF report as political bias J and K Assembly polls show

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ndia on Thursday took strong exception to a US Commission

International Religious Freedom report claiming worsening religious freedom in the country and said it is a biased organization with a

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

We would urge USCIRF to



driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to productively on addressing human rights issues in the flagged the alleged worsening of religious freedom in India

"Newagency PTI reported from Washington a US federal government commission has flagged the alleged worsening

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

section on India describes the

use of misinformation and disinformation -- including hate speech by government officials -- to incite violent attacks against religious minorities and their places of worship, the US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said in a statement.

In its annual report, the USCIRF also recommended that the US Department of State designate India as a "Country of Particular Concern" for engaging in systematic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom. The state department has so far refrained from accepting the recommendations.

This report highlights how, throughout 2024, individuals have been killed, beaten, and lynched by vigilante groups, religious leaders have been arbitrarily arrested, and homes and places of worship

These events constitute particularly severe violations of religious freedom," the

USCIRF said. Beginning with the previous Manmohan Singh-led Singh-led government, India has consistently denied visas to USCIRF members to visit the country, citing "interference" in its internal affairs, it added. India and several Indian-American groups have in the past accused the USCIRF of biased, unscientific and agenda-driven reporting to

"It (the report) further describes changes to and enforcement of India's legal framework to target and disenfranchise religious minorities, including the Citizenship Amendment Act, a uniform civil code, and several state-level conversion and cow slaughter

malign the country.

## 69.69 per cent turnout: ECI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Voter turnout of 69.69 per cent has been recorded in third phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, with women outnumbering men in casting votes, the Election Commission said Thursday.

Overall, 63.88 per cent turnout has been recorded at polling stations, as against 58.58 per cent in the Lok Sabha polls, the poll panel noted.

In phase-three of the polls on October one, when 40 seats went for voting in the Union Territory, the turnout of male voters was recorded at 69.37 per cent as compared to 70.02 per cent of women, the Election Commission (EC) said. Nearly 44 per cent of voters from the third gender

votes in this phase. Referring to the overall turnout, the Commission said it stood at 63.88 per cent with male participation recorded at

category came to cast their

64.68 per cent. The overall women turnout was recorded at 63.04 per cent and that of the third gender at 38.24 per

The final votes polled will be available post-counting with counting of postal ballots. Postal ballots include postal ballots given to service voters,

absentee voters (those above 85 years of age, persons with disabilities, those part of essential services) and voters on election duty, the EC Daily account of such postal

ballots received, as per established guidelines, are given to all candidates, it said.

### Modi greets people on Navaratri festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

## Indian researchers develop road safety sensor prototype

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A prototype of a road safety sensor that can be implanted at high-risk turning points where accidents are frequent, has been developed by Indian researchers from a new polymer nanocomposite with pressure sensing and energy harvesting properties.

The prototype may be implanted in the movable ramp and secured to the road just 100 meters before acute and fatal turning points. Thus, any vehicle approaching from the opposite side will see the signal on a screen and be alerted, according to from Department of Science and Technology which has funded the project under INSPIRE

programme.
This prototype works on the principle of piezoelectric effect so it can generate energy that can be stored and used further to power electronic gadgets as well, Developed by the scientists from the Centre for Nano and Soft matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengluru, the novel polymer nanocomposite, from which the prototype has been crafted, has been made of transition dichalcogenide,

Scientists, Ankur Verma, Dr. Arjun Hari Madhu, Dr. Subash Cherumannil Karumuthil synthesised vanadium disulfide (VS2) with a very high surface charge which has the capacity of improving the piezoelectric characteristics of polymers. Polymer nanocomposite films

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Air Marshal S P Dharkar, an accomplished fighter pilot with 3,600 hours of

flying experience, on

of Air Staff on

were prepared by integrating these nanoparticles at various concentrations into a wellknown piezoelectric polymer, poly (vinylidene difluoride)

Further they investigated how

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

was established, with the prototype as a pressure

This study demonstrates that PVDF-VŚ2 nanocomposites will provide significant value to flexible, long-term energy

generating and pressure sensing applications. This work was recently published in the Journal of Material Chemistry A and an Indian patent application filed.
This study is part of an

ongoing project "Materials for self powered powered energy generating and pressure sensing devices".

Scientists are constantly trying to develop new materials for self-powered energy generating pressure sensing devices and using them for several applications. Flexible, applications. portable, long-lasting, and wearable sensors and energy harvesting devices can play an essential part in today's artificial intelligence era. Polymers and nanoparticles serve critical roles in today's flexible electronic systems,

#### Modi to address Kautilya economic conclave in Delhi PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

**D**rime Minister Narendra PModi will address the Kautilya Economic Conclave here on Friday, his office has said. The third edition of the conclave will be held from October four to six, the PMO

said. The conclave will focus on themes such as financing green transition, geoeconomic fragmentation and implications for growth, and principles for policy action to preserve resilience.

Both Indian and international scholars are slated to discuss some of the most important issues confronting the Indian economy and economies of the Global South, the PMO



## India joins IMDRF as affiliate member, enhancing global collaboration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), a development that will open invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide while strengthening the "Brand India" in the global market. The Union Health Ministry

said on Thursday, the IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonisation convergence.

Its members include national regulatory authorities of the JŠ, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the UK, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore and World Health Organisation (WHO).

"To achieve global alignment in its medical device regulatory system, enhance the competitiveness of the domestic industry and boost transnational prominence, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under the Union Health Ministry, applied for Affiliate Membership in the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) in 2024," the Ministry said in

a statement. "After review of India's application for affiliate membership and meeting Thursday assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Air Staff. He P Singh who became the September 30. Air Marshal Dharkar has flown various types of fighter jets and trainer aircraft and commanded a MiG-27

discussions by the IMDRF

Management Committee (MC) with the senior officers

of CDSCO during the 26th Session of IMDRF held in

September 2024 at Seattle, Washington, USA, the CDSCO has received approval from IMDRF as an

affiliate member of the

Becoming an affiliate member of the IMDRF will

open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and

collaboration with regulatory

authorities worldwide, it said.

The membership helps to

harmonise regulatory requirements across the globe, which reduces

complexities for manufacturers and helps safeguard public health by

promoting collaboration, harmonising regulations and

As an affiliate member, India

will participate in IMDRF

open sessions for information

exchange on technical topics

with other regulators, to

discuss the latest medical

device regulatory strategies and trends, provide feedback

on its experience and

perspectives and use IMDRF

documents in part or in

whole as the basis for its

regulatory framework for medical devices, said the

This membership will also

enable Indian medical device

manufacturers to meet the

regulatory requirements of

IMDRF member countries,

thereby strengthening the

"Brand India" in the global

statement.

market, it said.

promoting convergence.

affiliate

forum," it said.

He is an experienced qualified flying instructor, fighter strike leader and instrument rating instructor.

Commissioned in the fighter stream in 1985, he is an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC),



National Defence Academy (NDA), Defence Services Staff College and the US Air College. He has commanded a frontline fighter unit and served as the first Director General of the Defence Space Agency.

Air Marshal Dharkar was serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command prior to taking over as Vice Chief of Air Staff. He has also served

as the assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Training) at the air headquarters.

As the Director General of the Defence Space Agency (DSA), he was responsible for handling all aspects related to setting up of the new organisation.

The DSA would control and oversee all aspects of space exploitation in the military domain by the Indian defence

## Air Marshal SP Dharkar appointed Congress demands urgent relief for Bihar flood victims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $E^{\rm xpressing\ concern\ over\ the}_{\rm flood\ situation\ in\ Bihar,}$ Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday demanded that the should expedite the relief and rescue operations. According to the disaster management department, the number of people affected by flood has

reached 14.62 lakh. "The flood situation in Bihar is becoming terrible. Nearly 15 lakh people in 17 districts are affected by the floods and the news of many deaths in the last few days is extremely painful," Kharge said in a social media post in Hindi. The Congress president said the bridges have collapsed



have been destroyed due to the disaster, especially in north Bihar.

"We demand from the Centre and state government that the relief and rescue operations should be expedited so that the victims can get immediate help," Kharge said.

"We thank the Indian Air Force, NDRF and SDRF teams wholeheartedly for the

help they are providing in these difficult circumstances. But we still need all possible help from the state government agencies," he Kharge also urged the Centre

provide victim and help the state government.

The Congress president said the farmers, whose crops have been destroyed should also get compensation. The Congress workers are expected to be ready to serve the victims, he added.

According to the state disaster management department, packets of food and other relief materials are being airdropped by the IAF helicopters in the 17 flood-

## Climate change fuels gender-based violence in Bangladesh

Vice Chief of Air Staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

¬hirty-two-year-old I Srestha, a mother of three from southern Bangladesh, has long relied on agriculture, cultivating rice and vegetables. However, the increasing frequency of floods due to climate change has dramatically impacted her family's livelihood. With no income, Srestha's

husband, Shabbir, became increasingly stressed and frustrated. As months passed without financial relief, Shabbir's mood worsened. He began to lash out at Srestha, blaming her for their situation.

What started as verbal arguments escalated into physical violence. Srestha found herself trapped in a cycle of fear and helplessness, often trying to placate Shabbir

to avoid further conflict. However, Srestha's precarious situation is not an isolated case. She represents many women facing climate change-induced gender-



based violence which is set to aggravate in near future as impacts of global warming intensifies, as per a new analysis published in the PLOS Climate. A first of its kind analysis

based on the data from 156

countries including India between 1993 and 2019 has shown that climate shockssuch as floods, storms, and landslides—are linked to higher rates of intimate partner violence in the two years following such events, particularly in patriarchal societies where violence against women is normalised. The study led by UCL researchers in collaboration with Exeter also shows that violence rates were found to be low in countries having a higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP). potential benefits of a

## life expectancy: Study PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

If smoking were cut down to Ljust five per cent of current levels by 2050, men could expect an increase in life expectancy by about one year, while women might see an increase of 0.2 years, a recent study published in The Lancet Public Health has said.

Achieving the five per cent smoking target could prevent 876 million years of life lost due to premature death, highlighting the profound impact of reducing tobacco

The study suggests that banning the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products any country. could prevent an estimated 1.2 million lung cancer deaths For instance, noted the study, across 185 countries by 2095. New Zealand had enacted a Notably, about two-thirds of law to prohibit the sale of tobacco to individuals born these preventable deaths would occur in low- and on or after January 1, 2009, middle-income countries, but this legislation was where younger populations repealed earlier this year. may be more vulnerable to the effects of tobacco.

Stein Emil Vollset, a senior author of the study from the The researchers analysed the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the



Reducing smoking could boost

University of Washington, tobacco-free generation policy, which aims to restrict emphasised the critical need tobacco sales to those born to sustain and enhance efforts to reduce smoking rates after a specific year. This approach, however, has not yet been fully implemented in worldwide. He noted that the potential

for avoiding millions of premature deaths underscores importance comprehensive control policies.

The study's estimates regarding preventable deaths were derived from analysing the implications of banning tobacco sales on lung cancer mortality among people born between 2006 and 2010.

must not lose momentum in efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate smoking around the world. Our findings highlight that millions of premature deaths could be avoided by bringing an end to smoking, said Vollset.

Commenting on the study's observation, a representative from Mothers Against Vaping, a united front of concerned mothers combating the escalating vaping crisis asserted that there is a need to highlight health hazards of New-Age Gateway devices like ecigarettes, vapes, and heatnot-burn devices for India to meet its tobacco control goals for the youth.

In fact, the authors of the Lancet study have advocated for not only maintaining existing tobacco control measures but implementing new strategies to address the ongoing risks associated with smoking which are major reasons for many preventable diseases including cancers.

## BJP proposes renaming Sealdah station | Indian Army aims to crack terrorists' after Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

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

The proposal to change the name of the country's sixth oldest railway station after Mumbai VT, Howrah, Chennai, Kanpur and Vadodara was given by BJP Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya before Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav during his visit to Kolkata on Wednesday.

"But what is in a name?" asked Trinamool Congress' Kunal Ghosh who wondered why the name of only Mukherjee and why not Swami Vivekananda who lived nearby, barely a mile or two away from the Station at Shimla Street should be considered.

"Why the station should not be named after Swami Vivekananda because after returning from his glorious trip to Chicago his ship came to Budge Budge from where he took a train to Sealdah It is from this place where thou-



sands of young people assembled and dragged his cart by hand," Ghosh said.

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

Historically speaking: British architect Walter Glanville in 1869 designed the Sealdah Main Railway Station as it stands today pursuing a Victorian-Gothic form.

Sealdah which has 20 platforms today had only four in 1862 standing out amidst muddy, marshy and potholed

vicinity. It was a part of the East Bengal Railway and then Assam Bengal Railway set up in 1857 for the sake of establishing connectivity with northern and southern Bengal

present North East. Incidentally there was a tram terminus located just outside Sealdah Station before the year 1978 from where the concept of horse tram carriage started. Historically speaking Sealdah owes its name to Sealdihi or a village infested by jackals.

which then comprised a large

province including Bihar,

Odisha and portions of the

In fact the station itself was built clearing a huge Pipal tree surrounded with bushes, swamps and marshes and heavily colonized by jackals on two sides of the great Maratha Ditch (a canal) that surrounded the city and where today runs the Upper and Lower Circular Roads more lately called the Acharya Prafulla Chandra (APC) Road and Acharya Jagadish Chandra (AJC) Road. The Maratha Ditch was dug up to prevent Maratha invasions in those days. So historically today's Sealdah Station stands by the Maratha Ditch so to say.

The Maratha Ditch could not however prevent Bengal Nawab Siraj ud Daulah from invading Kolkata in 1756 when he crossed the mighty canal and attacked the British garrison "causing a great loss to the white men's families by bundling about 64 of them including women inside an underground chamber leading to 43 deaths."

Others however, put the figure to 146 captured and 123 dead. Sealdah stood witness to the brief but cruel battle between the Nawab and the British who avenged the cruelty post Battle of Plassey by allowing Siraj to be cut into pieces and ferried about the Murshidabad town on a bullock cart.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that his ministry was contemplating a Rs 60,000-crore investment schemes in Bengal and was awaiting the cooperation of the

## encrypted communication networks

MOHIT KANDHARI

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

Briefing media persons in Srinagar Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said, "We are aware that terrorists operating in the valley are using ultra communication networks, which have layers of encryption. While presently it is affording them the secrecy that they want I assure you that work is happening in this direction and soon we will be able to crack that encryption and I am hoping that will further dent their ecosystem and net-

The senior Army officer also claimed that the active number of terrorists in the region has also come down to 80 and no fresh recruitment has taken place in recent months in the

"There are around 80 active terrorists in Kashmir. The figure has gone down. Their number will be further down by midnext year," he said.

He estimated that between 25 and 30 foreign terrorists remain

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

He further stated that successful infiltration attempts were not mostly made in Kashmir but at other places.

Referring to the frequent attacks in Pir Pranjal range, Rajiv Ghai said that there were chances that the terrorists may attempt to take shelter in Kashmir. "Terrorists keep moving as they cannot survive in one place," he said. Sharing his assessment of the

prevailing security scenario Lt Gen Ghai said Kashmir has

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

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the GoC said that during the past year-and-a-half, numerous attempts counter infiltration steps were taken while simultaneously prosecuting a very robust and successful counterterrorist campaign within Kashmir. "While doing this, we have been very conscious of our responsibility and nationbuilding. So we have maintained our connection with the people of Kashmir," the army officer said.

He said that the region is seeing a new beginning as numerous significant events are taking place besides development.

"This is because of the efforts put in by (Chinar corps) 15 Corps, police, CAPF, police and numerous other security agencies," the GoC said.

While he praised the improving security situation over the last two years, Lt. Gen. Ghai cautioned that maintaining peace remains the primary challenge, and vigilance must be maintained, particularly in counter-terrorism efforts at the LoC and within the valley.

## claims on gold smuggling allegations



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

But this is in stark contrast to his stance during the 21st September press meet when he had said that out of the 147 kg smuggled gold seized in the State during the last three years, Malappuram accounted for 124.47 kg of yellow metal and Rs 87.22 crore of hawala cash out of Rs 122.5 crore seized during the period. It is widely believed that the

chief minister retracted his statement on smuggled gold and hawala cash under pressure from leaders of a minority community who were offended by his disclosures. The chief minister had also said during the media meeting that the money generated out of smuggling and hawala cash transactions were being pumped into the State for anti-national activ-While Vijayan did not dis-

close the reasons behind the sudden change in his stance, he gave a clean chit to the Chennai based English newspaper for carrying in its column an apology for publishing a statement attributed to him which he said he had not told the journalist who had interviewed him in New Delhi. The said interview which was carried in the 30th September edition of the paper had featured the chief minister's allegation that large scale gold smuggling and hawala cash was taking place in Malappuram district. "I did not tell this reporter anything on this issue. When I was asked about Anvar and gold smuggling, my reply was that I had made it clear in the press meet held on 21st September itself and do not have much time to elaborate further on the topic," said Vijayan who patted the Chennai newspaper for its decision to run a public apol-

## Vijayan retracts | CPI(M) demands 12 seats in MVA alliance



T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Ahead of the formalisation of the seat-sharing tie-up among the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the the MVA leadership to alloits smaller ally -Communist Party of India (Marxist) – has staked claim

for 12 seats. Confirming the development, CPI (M)'s Maharashtra State Committee Dr Uday Narkar said on Thursday: "We have attended a couple of meetings of the MVA....We have asked

cate us 12 seats".

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

the other Assembly con-stituencies from where the CPI (M) wants to contest areL Vikramgad in Palghar dis-trict, Shahpur in Thane dis-trict, Kalwan, Dindori, Nashik West and Igatpuri in Nashik district, Kinwat in Nanded district, Maidragan in Bead district, Majalgaon in Beed district, Pathari in Parbhani district, Solapur City Central in Solapur district and Akole in Ahmednagar district.

'For the past several years, we have been very active in the constituencies where we would field our candidates. We are part of the INDIA block at the national level. We expect the MVS to allocate the seats we have asked for," Dr Narkar said.

The All India

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

The three major constituents of the MVA are Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar) and the Shiv Sena (UBT). The Samajwadi Party, CPI, CPI (M), Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) are the smaller constituents of the MVA. It is doubtful whether the

MVA will allocate 12 seats. If anything, the MVA may con-sider allocating 3 to 4 four seats to the CPI (M), as against 12 seats demanded by the latter. Because, the MVA's three major constituents will have to accommodate its other small allies like the SP, CPI and PWP.

On their part, the Congress, NCP (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT) have so far not yet commented on the demand for 12 seats made by the CPI

### **SC** halts Isha Foundation probe

seen a good year so far like last year. "We need a few more

good years to make peace a

permanent feature here. I

believe maintaining this peace-

ful atmosphere is the biggest challenge for the security forces," the GoC 15 Corps said.

Lt Gen Ghai said that there has-

n't been any active recruit-

ment of terrorists this year.

"The numbers were down to a

dozen last year and this year it is next to nil," the GoC said.

He said as far as the terrorist-

initiated incidents in Kashmir,

they are between far and few.

"Some incidents were reported

where soft targets were made

by even an untrained person

using a pistol," the army officer said. To a query whether any

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the police probe into the alleged illegal confinement of two women at spiritual leader Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation ashram at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. Transferring to itself a habeas corpus petition of a man alleging that his two daughters were held captive inside the premises of the Foundation, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud directed the Tamil Nadu Police to not take any further action in pursuance of the Madras High Court's direction asking it to inquire into the alleged illegal confinement of the

'You can't let in the Army or the police into an establishment like this," the bench observed during the hearing. The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said the police shall file the status report, as directed by the high court in its September 30 order, before the top court. The top court passed the order after the Isha Foundation approached it challenging Madras High Court's order directing the Coimbatore Police to collect all case details registered against the Foundation and produce them before the court for further consideration. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Foundation, sought a stay of the high court order, and said around 150 police offic

the Foundation's ashram and are probing every corner. The bench, which interacted with the two women in-chambers through video-conferencing, noted they have stated that both of them are residing at the ashram voluntarily and without any coercion. "As regards the presence of police, in pursuance to the order of the High Court, it has been stated by the two individuals that the police left the premises last night, though they were there... In pursuance of the order of the high court," the bench noted. While taking up the habeas corpus petition, the

bench permitted the father of the two women to appear before it through video-conferencing if he wishes to interact with the court in person or through counsel. The court said text of the high court's order indicated that they are presently 42 and 39 years old respectively. The bench noted the two women have stated that they are free to travel outside the ashram, which they had done from time to time and their parents have also visited there to meet them. The court noted it was submitted before it that a similar petition was filed by the mother of the two individual about eight years ago, in which the father had also appeared. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre, said the high court should have been "very circumspect". Madras High Court had on September 30 passed an interim order on a habeas corpus petition filed by Dr S Kamaraj.

### Bengal doctors divided over protest strategies



SAUGAR SENGUPTA

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

medical college hospitals. According to the senior doctors the protestors who had been getting full support from the general public should not take recourse to actions that could impede people's interest. "About 35,000 patients come to the five medical colleges in Kolkata alone for treatment most of them have supported our cause throughout the movement so we should also take their plight into consideration particularly during the festive season when many private doctors would go vacationing and the poor patients would be left in lurch," said one of the senior doctors while expressing his views in a general convention of doctors called in RGKMCH on Thursday. Another senior doctor said

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

The doctors who had gone on an indefinite cease work post the RGKMCH incident had resumed duty breaking their 42-days' cease work after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee assured foolproof security inside hospital premises besides conceding to their demand of removing Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and two directors of Health.

But the Government which had given us assurance on other demands would not fulfill them forcing us to resume our movement," said Dr Aniket one of the leaders.

Another doctor, a cardiologist suggested alternative mode of movement saying, "we can think about partial cease work or regular rallies and even dharnas or even go to the districts setting special medical care camps so as to make people aware about the plights of the doctors? The junior doctors had not

presented their views when reports last came in. However some of them said

that they would take the advice of the senior doctors and hold general body meeting of joint platform of junior doctors before taking a final decision.

It is clear that this Government is trying to create a rift between the common people who have supported us and the doctors but we will not fall in its trap if we withdraw our cease work then it will not be because of the government pressure but because of the needs of the people but still we will continue to agitate until attacks on doctors stop and until the Government takes some concrete steps to ensure safety and security inside the hospitals," said Dr Kinjal Nanda one of the agi-

tating doctors.

## Bombay HC orders to expedite inquiry into custodial death

T N RAGHUNATHA 
MUMBAI

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

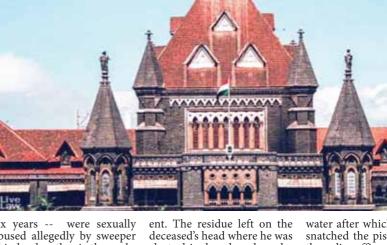
November 18.
Hearing a PIL filed by the father of Shinde on the suspicious circumstances leading to the death of Shinde, a HC bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan asked the Thane Magistrate and the police to collect, preserve and get all the evidence relating to Shinde's death in police custody.

Earlier, Advocate General Birendra Saraf told the court that all relevant documents have been forwarded to the magistrate for inquiry. While asking the Magistrate to

start the inquiry proceedings quickly and submit its report quickly after hearing all parties in the case. "Law requires that when there

is a custodial death, the investigation be conducted by the Magistrate. Let the investigation be conducted. We will wait for the report of the magistrate," the HC bench said. 'The Magistrate should expedite the inquiry and submit its report to the court by November 18.

Akshay Shinde -- key accused in the sensational Badlapur child sexual assault --was shot dead at a point blank range while he was being taken from Badlapur to Thane in a van for investigation in another case. It may be recalled that two nursery girls - aged four and



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

The incident caused a major public uproar in the state and always as other parts of the state. The Opposition MVA comprising Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-headed Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) - had demanded a judicial probe into the suspicious circumstances leading to the accused Shinde's death in a police can

Directing the prosecution to collect strong forensic evidence in the case, the HC asked the prosecution if the police had collected forensic evidence from the body of the deceased. "Every firearm has a peculiar pattern and the residue it leaves is also differ-

shot, his hands when he opened fire from the police's pistol needs to be collected, preserved and analysed forensically, "the HC bench said "Dead body is the most silent

and honest witness,.. There is a need to collect and preserve all evidence. Bullets were fired from two different firearms in the incident. Empty shells found were of two different arms. The firing pin of every gun is different. This can be a conclusive proof which firing arm will have which firing pin," the HC bench aid.

We want to see a report showing this conclusively," the HC bench said, while wanting to know from the police State CID police who are investigating the case if the bullet had pierced through the accused. Advocate General Saraf replied in the affirmative.

Expressing its displeasure over the failure to recover a bottle of water that was given to the accused when he asked for water in the vehicle. "The police's case is that the handcuffs of the accused were removed after he asked for

water after which he forcibly snatched the pistol of one of the police officers and opened fire. "It (bottle) is an important piece of evidence," the bench said. Seeking the medical report of

the police officer who sustained injury in the firing opened by the deceased accused, the HC bench said: 'The police officer who sustained gunshot injury...Has he been examined properly? Was there any residue or blackening at the spot?

We need to see that. Was there an entry and exit wound on the thigh of the police officer who got hurt?'

At a hearing held on September 25, a HC bench of Justice Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan had questioned the version put out by the police Shinde was shot by the police in self defence. Justice Chavan said "it is hard to believe" that a man of slight build as Akshay Shinde could be overpowered by the four policemen when he turned violent and pulled the slide back on a 9 mm pistol for firing which "requires firing which strength".

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## The caste contest

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

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

> Chautala is attempting to redefine his party's narrative, distancing himself from the BJP's policies and advocating for farmer-friendly reforms.

Another unpredictable player is Aam Aadmi Party which is contesting in Haryana with renewed vigour. AAP is aiming to replicate its success in neighbouring Punjab. The party is focusing on issues such as healthcare, education and anti-corruption measures, appealing primarily to urban voters. A strong contender of yesteryears, Indian National Lok DaL (INLD) led by Abhay Singh Chautala has joined hands with Bahujan Samaj Party. But the agrarian sector remains a pivotal issue in Haryana, especially after the farmers'

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



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

## BJP strives hard to imbibe 'integral humanism'



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

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

Economic Ideals vs Modern Policies: Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision of economic self-reliance and decentralisation stands in contrast to India's current globalised and capital-driven economic policies, particularly those introduced since the liberalisation reforms of the 1990s.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has focused on economic growth through increased foreign direct investment (FDI), free-market reforms, and privatisation. Critics argue that this approach clashes with Upadhyaya's idea of a self-reliant economy, which emphasises supporting rural and local industries, creating jobs at the grassroots level, and minimising dependence on foreign capital.

Balancing Indigenous Culture

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

veering toward an exclusionary Last Person: One of

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

Ethical Governance vs Corruption: A key tenet of Upadhyaya's philosophy was the need for ethical governance, marked by integrity, honesty, and service to the people.

While BJP leaders, including Modi, have presented themselves as champions of clean governance, the party has faced allegations of corruption, crony capitalism, and favouritism toward large corporations. Such accusations, particularly regarding land acquisition policies and privatisation, have cast doubt on the party's commitment to Upadhyaya's ethical standards. Inclusive Society Polarisation

Upadhyaya's vision of an inclusive society focused on addressing the needs of all communities, ensuring harmony across social and religious divides. However, the BJP has often been criticised for promoting divisive politics, particularly along religious lines. Reconciling Hindutvadriven politics with the ideals of inclusion and social harmony remains a central challenge for the BJP as it seeks to bridge the gap between rhetoric and reality

The BJP has been critiqued for Antyodaya - Uplifting the



**UNDER PRIME MINISTER** NARENDRA MODI, THE BJP HAS FOCUSED ON **ECONOMIC** GROWTH THROUGH

**INCREASED** FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI), FREE-MARKET REFORMS, AND PRIVATISATION. THIS APPROACH **CLASHES WITH UPADHYAYA'S** IDEA OF A SELF-RELIANT ECONOMY Upadhyaya's most important principles, Antyodaya, focuses on uplifting the most marginalised in society. The BJP has made significant strides in this area through its welfare schemes such as the PM Ujjwala Yojana (providing LPG to rural households), the PM Awas Yojana (affordable housing), and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (improving sanitation).

The BJP has adopted this principle through various campaigns, such as the global celebration of Yoga Day, the promotion of Indian languages, and the reassertion of India's historical achievements.

**Political Decentralisation** A core aspect of Upadhyaya's

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

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

Striving toward Upadhyaya's **Vision:** As the ruling party, the BJP's journey in adopting and implementing Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideals has been a mixture of successes and challenges. While considerable progress has been made in promoting nationalism, selfreliance, and Antyodaya, the party faces significant hurdles in achieving true economic decentralisation, upholding ethical governance, and fostering social harmony.

The complexities of modern governance, global economic integration, and political strategies often pull the BJP away from Upadhyaya's pure vision. However, the ideals of Integral Humanism remain a guiding light, challenging the party to strike a balance between philosophical ideals and contemporary realities in their pursuit of

(Writer is a political analyst and Upadhyaya's emphasis on self- in Shimla; views are personal)

#### THE EDITOR

## Online gaming industry needs regulation and govt support



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

dhe online gaming industry in India is experiencing rapid growth but is often misinterpreted as being synonymous with gambling. This misconception fuels concerns about problem gambling and social harm, leading to a negative narrative surrounding the sector. In reality, much of the harm stems from illegal offshore betting and gambling platforms, which further exacerbate this misrepresen-

Every industry influences society in various ways, and it is the responsibility of regulatory frameworks to strike a balance— supporting legitimate enterprises while effectively curbing illegal activities. Conflating online gaming with gambling risks undermining an industry that is growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15.68 per cent on a base of USD 3.49 billion. This sector contributes significantly to job creation and tax revenues in India. With 83 per cent of the world's gamers, India boasts 568 million users and registered over 9.5 billion gaming app downloads in ment challenges cannot be an not only help clear the nega-2023. Real Money Games excuse for inaction, as the tive perceptions but also sup-



of their revenues to the Indian exchequer in FY 2023-24. Misunderstanding the online gaming industry as gambling could jeopardize its potential for economic growth and its contributions to national

development. Regulators must prioritise cracking down on offshore and illegal businesses and apps that operate in violation of Indian law. Measures such as whitelisting legitimate platforms, and initiating legal actions against those facilitating illegal activities are crucial. Steps like freezing the bank accounts of operators and intermediaries, and working with financial institutions to block transactions tied to illegal gambling, are urgently needed. Practical enforcerisks are significant. A coordinated effort involving the Ministry of Finance, Information Technology, Home Affairs, and Consumer Affairs is essential, with each department playing a critical role in enforcement and raising public awareness about the legal implications of sup-

porting illegal operations. Without robust enforcement and heightened awareness, illegal gambling platforms will not only make Indian citizens vulnerable to gambling addiction but also siphon their hard-earned money into criminal networks. The profits from illegal gambling often fund organised crime, money laundering, and terrorism, with global examples linking gambling profits to drug trafficking and terrorist financing. This not only destabilises local economies but poses a serious threat to national security. As the government takes strict action against illegal gambling, it must also work closely with the legitimate gaming industry to differentiate between legal online gaming and illegal gambling. Such a partnership would

port the industry's growth. This collaboration could further enhance the crackdown on illegal gambling through combined awareness campaigns and enforcement efforts.Finally, the government and the gaming industry must work together to dévelop a responsible gaming framework.

This should include selfexclusion tools, age verification systems, game time monitoring, and partnerships with mental health experts. By promoting responsible gaming, the industry can ensure ethical practices, protect consumers from addiction, and foster a sustainable, well-regulated gaming ecosystem in India. A balanced approach that differentiates legitimate online gaming from illegal gambling, alongside stronger enforcement measures, is vital for the sustainable growth of online gaming industry. With govt and industry collaboration, responsible gaming practices can be promoted, ensuring the sector's positive contributions to economic growth and job creation.

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

#### **DECLINE OF GANDHIAN IDEALS** Madam — Since the Mahatma was an

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

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

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

#### **FLOODS HITS BIHAR**

Madam— The rain in Nepal is wreaking havoc in Bihar. While 170 people have died in Nepal due to continuous heavy rains, floods and landslides, the terrible form of flooding is being seen in Bihar. In view of the flood, all 56 gates of Birpur Vairaj of the Kosi River and all 36 gates of Balmiki Nagar Vairaj of the Gandak River have been opened.

## **India's triumph in Kanpur**



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

is repeated every year. Bihar floods are writing the story of new misery and devastation every year; it is a serious humanitarian crisis. But no permanent solution has been found so far. How long will people continue to bear this pain? People are losing their homes, land, and loved ones.

How many more lives will be lost, and how many more dreams will be shat-tered? However, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar said that full attention is being paid to the flood at every level. All kinds of relief and rescue operations are being arranged. To stop this, the government should make immediate arrangements on a war footing. For which a permanent solution is needed so that this disaster is not faced in the

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

#### KARNATAKA LAND SCANDAL

Madam - Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, BM Parvathi, said she would return the 14 plots she received in This is not a disaster. It is a tragedy that exchange for her undeveloped land.

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

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

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

However, the return policy, seen as Siddaramiah flipping, might actually be counter-productive. The Muda case pertains to allegations that compensatory sites were allotted to BM Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru that had a higher property value as compared to the location of her land that had been "acquired" by the authority.

Siddaramaiah, BM Parvathi, Mallikarjuna Swamy, and one Devaraju were named in an FIR registered by the Mysuru-based Lokayukta police on September 27. This came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated a probe against her, Siddaramiah, and her brother, Mallikarjuna Swamy, in what has now become popular as the Muda scam. Parvathi, the wife of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has returned 14 plots of land to Muda. Thus, Siddaramaiah shot himself in the foot for gaining more wealth using power pol-

CK Subramania | Bengaluru

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

#### REBALANCING THE **GLOBAL ORDER**

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

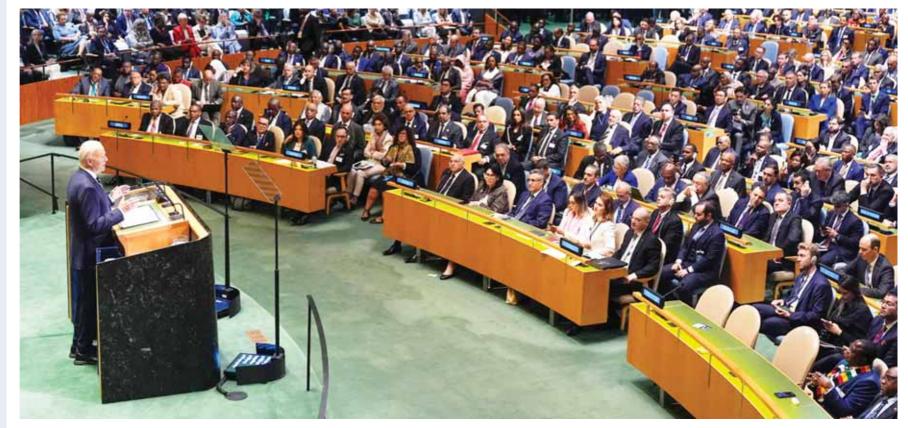


Bank and ADB. He topped it up by having an unusually warm meeting with Pakistan's PM, where he expressed the desire to deepen their bilateral ties and revive the regional body SAARC. For India, these ties could potentially lead Pakistan and China to use this newfound bonhomie with Bangladesh to push its subversive agenda against India. Almost on cue External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in his remarks at the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York spoke on rebalancing the global order. He said "Rebalancing a global order which started with 51 founding members of the United Nations, which has quadrupled in the last eight decades, where you not only have more independent countries in the world, but the economic, political and even demographic weight of individual members of the global order has shifted, shifted to a point where many of us believe that today we are actu-

The minister carefully brought multipolarity and plurilateralism in same address while trying to define the evolving global order. He said "Today, we are looking really at a global landscape which is much more regional, which is, as I said, much more characterised by countries who have their strong interests and which have the ability to pursue that interest. And so a lot of what we see in terms of the world is really how does the politics of convergence of the world is really how does the politics of convergence play out. And a third word which would occur to me is 'plurilateralism'. It's a very ugly word, but it in a sense describes a world beyond bilateral relations but which are short of multilateral. That where countries form combinations based on these convergences and overlaps that I've talked about. And you have really this phenomenon of groups of countries coming together for often a limited agenda, sometimes in an agreed theatre to pursue their interests." The recent global events and India's measured stance on several of these reflect what the EAM spoke about in New York, and a rebalance is underway. (The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

## How global powers exploit democratic ideals VK BAHUGUNA

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



my terrorist anywhere in the world

like America did to Osama Bin

Laden and Khalistani terrorists

ne of the remarkable characteristics of the modern era is reflected in the progress of democracy, and the rise of nation-states. The modern era in the real sense started after the end of the Second World War with the establishment of the United Nations (UN) on October 25, 1945 at the end of the San Francisco conference which was attended by 50 countries and the UN Charter was adopted. The United Nations is the global diplomatic and political platform for ensuring international peace, progress and security. The democratic form of governance, freedom, equality and dignity of humanity is the cornerstone of the modern era. Ín this regard, world leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King played a very vital role in ending colonial rule in Asia, Africa and other such

Since then world leaders swear by the power of the masses in democracy and the rule of the elected leaders. The UN Security Council assumes the role of overseeing the peace and security of the world, especially the five Veto yielding countries China, Britain, France, Russia and the United States yield enormous clout in the Security Council. However, the Veto power in practice and particularly is used by these powers for thwarting any issue if one of them does not like it due to their geo-political interests and international

More than 80 years after the establishment of the UN, the world is still in the grip of intense conflicts and the noble objectives of the UN for ensuring world peace and security are lost in the realpolitik of big powers which smacks of hypocrisy and inherent bias. There are several examples of the derailing of the true democratic edifice of the world's governments, especially in third-world countries by the United States and Western powers. A recent example is dethroning of Sheikh Hasina Wazed's government in Bangladesh a classical example of hypocrisy by America and its allies.

Similarly, in dealing with terrorism the white race has double standards. I can kill



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

OF HYPOCRISY

AND INHERENT

and protagonists are provided with a platform to bash up India recently when the American President and Bill Clinton former President hosted and hailed Muhammad Yunus as a savour of democracy and human rights a few weeks ago with the promise of full support. Mr Yunus heads the puppet interim Government of Bangladesh as Chief Advisor. The world is asking America the lone super power is it permissible to oust a government by engineering well-orchestrated violent agitation. When the Indian Prime Minister was in the USA last month the Khalistani leaders were hosted by the white house. Every such thing is done in the name of democracy. If this is allowed at the internation-

al level then any government can be ousted by the frustrated opposition in league with foreign pow-ers. Is it, not neo-colonialism being practised under the nose of the United Nations itself? Though the Hasina government might have committed some blunders after all, it was an elected government and the world should not support such illegal seizure of power by students origin wellplanned violent agitations. United States, China and the Western block have been supporting such regimes routinely in African countries and Pakistan and Bangladesh for the past several decades.

The anger against such hypocrisy of world leaders is growing and if the modern era has to survive the third world war which in any case is undergoing a different pattern in Europe and the West Asia, the people have to junk this system of the United Nations which is becoming a talking machine, a burden on resources and sub-serving the expansionist vision and is a poten-

geo-political undemocratic stance of powerful countries making a mockery of the lofty UN Charter. The democracy Western leaders in UN practice can aptly be termed as 'Fashionable Democracy'. This fashionable democracy is a tool to perpetuate and support all

kind of undemocratic regimes that comes to power in the name of democracy, human rights and liberty. These lofty goals are being pooh-poohed by the powerful countries. There are talks about deep states interfering in the affairs of the countries to upset the ruling regimes that do not fall in line. In this regard, the non-state actors play a significant role though the national governments may not be promoting it directly but in the name of democracy, many outsiders do influence the govern-

The Indo-US relations built steadily after the end of the cold war during the last 25 years are a shining example of two democratic governments ensuring a global alliance of strategic importance to thwart the attempts of Chinese ambitions to browbeat other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. But the Cold War psychology of the white house is still promoting countries inimical to democratic values in the Indian sub-continent especially Pakistan which is ruled by the Army with a proxy govern-

This may derail the India-USA strategic relationship. Even Sheikh Hasina opined that her government was toppled after she refused to part with San Martin Island to the United States. China instead of supporting India, with which it has cultural affinity as well as trade interests, supports and aids Pakistan and has been fomenting trouble in the North-East and Ladakh for a long time with its

tial threat to world peace.

Thus, it is a clear indication that the geopolitics of the world needs a serious rethink. If one analysis the sequence of events over the past 80 years or so the main reason for such behaviour of powerful countries is due to the patently undemocratic nature of assigning the Veto power to winners of the Second World War.

As for democracy, I would appropriately call it fashionable democracy to fool the people around the world in the name of democracy and liberty and this disease is also spreading in most of the countries all over the world including India where democracy has given way to Dynastic Democracy. The state of present day democracies was aptly forecasted by Socrates the ancient Greek Philosopher who said more than 2000 years ago that 'Democracies would elect Demagogues'. India is a glaring example of such leaders in states wno pander to this and skilfully use democracies to perpetuate their family interests in power games and practising vote bank

The Father of Athenian democracy was Cleistheneswho lived from 570 BC to 508 BC and who as Chief Magistrate successfully imposed democracy in the Athens assembly against the nobles hence is appropriately called as Father of World Democracy must be weeping in his grave seeing how democracy is being run by the world leaders and thus people of the modern era in the 21st Century. Is it, not food for thought for all of us who believe in true democracy because there is no alternative to true democracy like the ancient Indian panchayats system? At least India should reform from within and then lead the rest of the world.

(The writer is a former civil servant; views are personal)

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

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

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

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

this



Previously, ration cards were issued by the government to provide food grains and other rations to the poor at subsidised rates. However, when workers moved to another state, they often lost access to these benefits, particularly in more developed

states like Gujarat. With this new system, that issue is resolved, adding another significant chapter

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution, Nimuben Bambhaniya, recently inaugurated Gujarat's first grain ATM in Bhavnagar, facilitating 24/7 ration distribution under the Central Government's Public Distribution System (PDS). The grain ATM, called Annapoorti, was the Karchaliapara area of Bhavnagar city to free the poor from India's outdated, bureaucratic ration distribution system. According to Minister Bambhaniya, the

grain ATM represents a global success story.
She expressed pride in the Annapoorti scheme, a globscheme. to this revolutionary initia- ally awarded solution devel- reach grain shops. For

oped in India, which is set to be operational in multiple states. Based on a year-long program, the Annapoorti technology, developed by WFP India, is an important step toward improving food security and ensuring that people receive their rations efficiently and accurately. The new system allows people to obtain their ration from any PDS shop, reducing dependence on shop owners and minimising corruption. After the One Nation, One

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



els to Delhi or Mumbai for work, they will be able to easily access ration from PDS shops or ATMs in those

The 2011 census reported that about 4.1 crore people had migrated to other states for work. The Aadhaar numbers of family members on over 85 per cent of the country's ration cards are registered, enabling them to use

the ATM system. India runs one of the world's largest food-based safety nets, providing subsidised grains to around 813 million people every month through a network of over 500,000 fair price shops (FPS).

This initiative is key to the partnership with the United Nations World Food Bihar or Uttar Pradesh trav- Programme to enhance food

security. ATMs will be installed across the state, offering 24/7 access to food grains under the National Food Security Act. The Annapurna Yojana allows anyone with a valid PDS ration card, regardless of their state or union territory, to access their entitlements. The ATM can deliver up to 50 kg of grain in just five minutes, reducing wait-

ing time by 70 percent. Once biometric authentication with an Aadhaar card is complete, users will have continuous access to their entire ration. The modular design of the ATM allows for easy assembly based on the available space. Additionally, Annapoorti is energy-efficient and can be connected

to solar panels for automat-

The grain ATM is designed

to distribute wheat and rice and includes a tank with a capacity to hold 2,500 kg of grains, according to an official release. Officials explained that indi-

viduals covered under the National Food Security Act can visit the grain ATM at any time, punch in their ration card, authenticate their identity using the fingerprint scanner, and collect their monthly ration. However, there is speculation that the grain ATM in Bhavnagar could also be used to attract migrant voters in the upcoming assembly elections.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views expressed are

## at least 50 people: Witnesses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

lost four family members.

The survivors, about 10 of them, were taken to Kyeshero hospital for treatment. One of them, Neema Chimanga, said she was still in shock.
"We saw the boat start to fill

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

## Boat capsizes in Congo, killing New NATO chief visits Ukraine in his first trip since taking office

before".

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

Rutte met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv as air raid sirens twice went off in the Ukrainian cap-The new head of NATO vowed

when he took office on Tuesday to help shore up Western support for Ukraine, which has been fighting Russia's full-scale invasion since February 2022 and has for most of this year been on the defensive due to a relentless Russian army push in the country's eastern regions. Rutte expressed confidence that he can work with whomever is elected president of the United States, the alliance's most powerful member, in November. That could be a key moment for Ukraine's effort to ensure continuing Western support.

with Rutte elements of Ukraine's so-called victory plan, ahead of NATO meeting at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany next week. The gathering draws together defence leaders from the 50-plus partner nations who regularly meet to coordinate weapons aid for the war. The two also discussed the battlefield situation and the specific needs of Ukrainian military units. Zelenskyy reiterated that Ukraine needs more armaments, including long-

Asked whether the war in the Middle East will affect the timeline he had envisioned for the victory plan, Zelenskyy noted that the US and Britain say Iran has supplied missiles and drones to Russia for use against Ukraine.

range weapons it has long

requested.

He also appealed for Western countries to scrap restrictions on Ukraine's use of Westernsupplied long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russia. "Of course, we want Ukraine to not

be forgotten. But the best way not to forget about Ukraine is to provide the appropriate weapons and the necessary permissions," Zelenskyy said. And to help shoot down...the same Iranian missiles or drones, just as they are shot down over Israel, to shoot them down in the same way over Ukraine." Rutte reiterated the alliance's unwavering support for Ukraine, insisting that "Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever

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

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

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

## 12 hurt as Russian bomb hits Ukrainian apartment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PTI** ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the votes cast by lawmakers in parliament against their party directions can be counted, in a major relief to the government seeking support for a constitutional amendment to tweak laws related to the judiciary. The apex court's previous rul ing had stated that the votes of parliamentarians who deviated from their party's directives were to be disregarded and not counted. The Supreme Court Bar Association had filed a review petition against the apex court's verdict related to the defection clause under Article 63-A of the Constitution.

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

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

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

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

Imran Khan's party claims

Khan were arrested from different parts of Punjab province on Thursday, a day before a major showdown in Islamabad by his party for the independence of the judiciary, release of the party founder and

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

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

against rising inflation. Punjab's provincial govern-

said the government led by

the Red Zone in Islamabad and was taking similar measures in other cities to stop PTI workers from holding protests and public meetings. PTI's call for protests has pan-

icked the government which is why it is sealing the cities," he The Punjab police have

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

allowed to go out." Punjab's provincial government on Thursday also imposed Section 144 in Lahore banning all kinds of political assemblies, gatherings, rallies

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

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

#### Amid reshuffle, B'desh recalls envoy from India PTI DHAKA Commissioner in London mass upheaval. The upsurge installed the Nobel Laureate's

 $B^{\text{angladesh's interim government has recalled five}}$ envoys, including its high commissioner in New Delhi, as it carried out a second phase of reshuffle in the diplomatic service alongside the domestic administration, an official said

Case Details

ICICI Bank Ltd Vs GULFISHA CS (COMM) 4395/21

Auction Date : 4-November 2024

The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus as the Chief Adviser has asked Bangladesh's envoys in India, Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to return immediately said on Thursday, preferring and report to the foreign min-anonymity. Bangladesh High

Asset Details

Make and Model- MARUTI SWIFT, Vehicle No-DL2CAZ4264, Manuf. Yr 2018

istry here as part of the latest reshuffle. "The recalling of the envoys is part of a government decision under which our High Commissioner to India. Mustafizur Rahman, has been asked to return to the foreign ministry in Dhaka," an official

Sadia Muna Tasneem was asked to return to Dhaka four days ago

The foreign service witnessed a major change in late August, weeks after the ouster of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5 after a massive student-led

interim administration on August 8. Dhaka, at that time. ordered its ambassadors to the United States, Russia, Germany,

Japan, the United Arab Emirates & Saudi Arabia and the High Commissioner to the Maldives to return home.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot
No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak
Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
PUBLIC NOTICE:
Builder Carol Late: In the matter of M/s Mihurisha Global Marketing Pvt. Ltd

This is to bring to your notice that ANKUR TYAGI/ SHWETA TYAGI (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD00003078610 located at FLAT NO 1123, 11TH FLOOR FERRARA MAHAGUN MEZZARIA SIENA, PLOT NO GH-01/A SECTOR 78 GAUTAM RUDDHA NAGAR NOIDA- 201301 The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms an conditions of the agreement.

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

said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for an other allotmént done by the builder.

Dated: October 04, 2024 Place : Delhi/NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited



THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

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

SALE NOTICE

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

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

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and

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

The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, Plot No 23, Shal Tower, Nev Rohtak Road,Karol Bagh,Delhi for details and inspection of the sai

other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids

The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29,Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 27-05-2023 calling upon the borrower Sh. Ganesh Gupta S/o. Sh. Kumar Pal Gupta R/o. RZ-82, Gali No.1, Main Sagarpur New Delhi-110046 and calling upon the Mortgagorisuretes namely. Smt. Sneh Lata, Wio. Sh.Kumar Pal Gupta, Rio. RZ-82, Gali No.1,Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.22,32.2984 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Eight Only), together with further interest, penal interest, and other changes as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice

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

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

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

The property under All that part and parcel of the BUILTUP ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR AREA consideration is entire MEASURING 24 SQ.YDS., AND ENTIRE SECOND FLOOR AREA built-up First Floor and MEASURING 24 SQ. YDS. WITH ALL THE ROOF/TERRACE RIGHTS. ENTIRE Second Floor FORMING PART OF PROPERTY NO.RZ-82, ON PLOT NO.82, OUT OF with roof rights/ KHASRA NO.21/24, SITUATED IN REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE area DABRI, DELHI STATE DELHI, ABADI KNOWN AS WEST SAGARPUR NEW DELHI-110046. Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registra IX. New Delhi/ Delhi.

(HARISH SHARMA) **AUTHORISED OFFICER** THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE



date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)]

he undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29.Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Dehi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Garij, New Dehi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interferement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 27-05-2023 calling he borrower Sh. Ganesh Gupta S/o. Sh. Kumar Pal Gupta R/o. RZ-82, Gali No.1, Main Sagarpur New Delhi-110045 and calling upon the Mortgagor/sureties namely: Smt. Sneh Lata, Wio. Sh.Kumar Pal Gupta, R/o. RZ-82, Gali No.1,Main Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046, to repay the mount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 22.32,298/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Eight Only), together with further interest, penal interest and there charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till he date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For immovable property)

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

The borrower, mortgaged 5 surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to feel with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of Rs. 22,32,2984 together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, om the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank is

The borrower, mortgagor & surety attention is also been invited towards provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of ecurity Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below mentioned mortgage

The property under All that part and parcel of the BUILTUP PROPERTY BEARING NO eration is entire RZ-82, ON PLOT NO.82, LAND AREA MEASURING 24 SQ.YDS., WITH built-up property ALL THE ROOF RIGHTS, OUT OF KHASRA NO.21/24, SITUATED IN area ABADI KNOWN AS WEST SAGARPUR, NEW DELHI-110046. Falling measuring 24 Sq. Yds. Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar IX, New Delhi/ Delhi.

EAST: HOUSE OF OTHERS, WEST: HOUSE OF OTHERS, NORTH: NALA ROAD, SOUTH

(HARISH SHARMA) **AUTHORISED OFFICER** THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD

M/s Anil Bhutani Products Notice to: Respondent

hereas the above noted case is listed before Sol Arbitrator Smt. Kamalakshi Singh Chauhan, The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Delhi High Court, S-Block, New Delhi on 09,10,2024 at 2p.m. Since despite the service, no one has appeared and represented the Respondent (M/s Anil Bhutani) on date fixed i.e. 23.09.2024 onsequently the Ld. Arbitrator has directed th

Consequently, the Ld. Arbitrator has directed the Claimant (M/s Mihurisha Global Marketing Pvt. Ltd.) to serve the respondent through publication as a precautionary measure before proceeding ExParte against Respondent.

In pursuance to and compliance with the order dated 23.09.2024, we hereby serve upon you the present notice to appear either in person or through your Authorized Representative before the Ld. Arbitrator, DNI in expiricad matter a no. 91.3.0304 Arbitrator, DIAC in captioned matter on 09.10.2024 at 2p.m. Please note, in case no one appears on the aid date, time and venue before the Ld. Sole orbitrator, the matter will be heard and determined

x-Parte Inyour absence. Smt. Kamlakshi Singh Chauhan (Sole Arbitrator) The Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) Delhi High Court, S-Block, New Delhi Tel: D11-23386492

PUBLIC NOTICE (In case of chain title deed is lost/misplaced)
NOTICE is hereby given that one Vinay Jugran is towner of the property situated at Flat No. 1-13, "sa Flat", on 11th Floor, area measuring 133.457 S
Mirs., in Tower- J, built on Plot No. GH-07/
"GULSHAN VIVANTE" situated at Sector 13

Flair, on 1th Floor, area measuring 133.457 Sq. Mrs., in Tower- J. built on Plot No. GH-07A, "GULSHAN VIVANTE" situated at Sector 137, Noida, Distl. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. (hereinafter reterred to 'said property') vide Transfer Cum Gift Deed dated 24.05.2024 as doc. no. 3474 executed by Sh. Bipul Jugran in favour of Smt. Vinny Jugran in respect of said flat Vinay Jugran in respect of said flat Ninay Jugran in respect of said flat Sinay of Transfer Deed of aforementioned Flat to Mr. Tuhin Goswami and Mrs. Sanchita Goswami who have agreed to create mortgage in respect of said property in favour of mybour clients (DFC FliSRT Bank Limited (the Bank) (Branch Address-2nd Floor, Express building, 9-10 Bahadur Shanzafar Marg, Nev Delih 1110022). According to the said Mortgagors/Borrowers, Original documents namely (1) Allotment Letter dated 07.02.2015 issued by Mrs Gulshan Homz Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Sh. Gaurav Singh & Smt. Vandana Bhati in respect of said flat. (2) Possession Letter dated 29.03.2016 issued by Mrs Gulshan Homz Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Sh. Gaurav Singh & Smt. Vandana Bhati in respect of said flat. (3) Sub Lease Deed executed on 25.03.2016 by N/OIDA & Mrs Gulshan Homz Pvt. Ltd. through its authorized Signatory Sh. Birnay Bhushan Mallik in favour of Sh. Gaurav Singh & Smt. Vandana Bhati in respect of said respect of said flat and same was duly Registered with Sub Registrar I Noida as Doc No. 4715 in Book No. 1 vol No. 5552 on page 201-226 on date 29.03.2016 (4) Transfer Memorandum dated 01.11.2018 issued by N/OIDA in favour of Sh. Gaurav Singh & Gaurav Singh & Smt. Vandana Charla in sepect of said property, inerinather referred to as "Original Documents") have been lost/misplaced and not traceable. If the aforesaid Original Documents, found by any person, the same shall be handed over at the address mentioned herein below. Further, if any person, body, individu

claim, of such person shall be considered to ha

ciam, or such person shall be considered to been waived and or abandoned. Any objection raised after the completion of the 7 days shall not binding upon the said property or my Client. Place: Noida. Dated this 03rd Oct. day of 2024 Sdr- Law Veritas North, Office No. 11, 1st Floo Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar made public statements rejecting the charges as

#### over 700 supporters held ahead of protests Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had sealed Lahore (PTI): Over 700 sup-

porters of the jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran against rising inflation.

behind.

and leaders in different districts including Bahawa Faisalabad, Mianwali founder Imran Khan and

ment had adopted similar measures to prevent PTI's Jalsa the power show – at Lahore last month.

Khan, 71, has been in jail since his arrest on August 5, 2023. Facing dozens of cases, he has been convicted in a few of them. His party has been staging protests demanding his release and claiming that the government should adhere to the constitution and the independence of the judiciary. PTI's central information secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram

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

**PTI** SINGAPORE

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

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

The judge added that the former minister abused the position to accept gifts worth about SGD 403,300 (USD313,200).

He said, "This can all too easily be undermined by a public servant who falls below standards of integrity and accountability." The judge said it was significant that Iswaran had innocent, and believed he would be acquitted. Thus, I have difficulty believing that he was remorseful," The Straits Times quoted the Judge as saying. As Justice Hoong addressed the court, Iswaran looked down and took notes. The judge added, "The higher the office held by the offender as a public servant, the higher his level of culpability." He said such individuals set the tone of public servants in conducting themselves with high standards of integrity, and they must avoid any

false. "In a letter to the Prime Minister,

Iswaran said he rejected the charges and was

perception that they are susceptible to influence to financial benefits. Iswaran's lead lawyer Davinder Singh had argued for no more than eight weeks' jail, while Deputy Attorney-General Tai Wei Shyong sought a jail term of six to seven months.

"I'm of the view it is appropriate to impose a sentence in excess of both parties' positions," said Justice Hoong, adding that taking the submission of either prosecution or defence would result in a "manifestly inadequate sentence".

Justice Hoong noted certain aggravating factors such as the total duration of Iswaran's offending, the high office he occupied and the overall harm to public interest as well as trust in pub-

HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58. PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.

## Prosecutors lay out new evidence | Kamala Harris surveys Hurricane in Trump election case

**AP** WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The purpose of the brief is to con-

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

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

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

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

The filing includes details of

conversations between Trump and Pence, including a private lunch the two had on November 12, 2020, in which Pence "reiterated a face-saving option" for Trump, telling him, "don't concede but recognise the process is over," according to prosecutors. In another private lunch days later, Pence urged Trump to accept the results of the election and run again in 2024.

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

"in the same way he disregarded dozens of court decisions that unanimously rejected his and his allies' legal claims, and that he disregarded officials in the targeted states — including those in his own party - who stated publicly that he had lost and that his specific fraud allegations were false," prosecutors wrote.

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

**E-Auction Insights Private** 

Enclave, Near Gurudwara Sahit

mail to us : info@eauctionbharat.cor Last date for submission of E-auction form is 11/10/24 before 05.00 PM

https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

Tehsil and District Patiala

## Helene devastation in Georgia

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Palika Kendra : Sansad Marg

**Electric Establishment-1, Personnel Department** 

Director (Personnel - II)

**VACANCY CIRCULAR** 

The New Delhi Municipal Council proposes to fill up 02 posts

of Superintending Engineer (Electric) in the pay level 13 of

Rs. 123100 - 215900 under 7th CPC pay matrix on deputation

basis. The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions

https://www.ndmc.gov.in/vacancy\_new.aspx.

respect is 31.10.2024 (Thursday).

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRIL.), SOUTHERN ZONE, BRAHMAPUR, RITE CAMPUS, RANGEILUNDA, GANJAM

No. 1055 //SE (Agril.) Date. 26.09.24

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

e-procurement notice

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

authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Southern Zone, Brahmapur is directed

to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil construction

works under Southern Zone. The costs of the project is around 133.00 & 56.00 Lakhs

(Excluding GST & LC) respectively. Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice,

the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other

necessary documents can be downloaded from https://tendersodisha.gov.in from 04.10.2024

at 11:00 hours to 18.10.2024 at 17:30 hours. The bid will be opened on 21.10.2024 at

11:30 hours onwards in the O/o Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone,

Brahmapur, RITE Campus, Rangeilunda. All other details regarding term and conditions,

corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from

The Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur who has been

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

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

Harris' visit, she said, "made it better" despite the hardship. Smith said she was encouraged that Harris travelled to the town instead of just appearing on television. "She's a person. She's not just a voice." About 200 miles north in the Carolinas, Biden was also surveying the storm's aftermath. With many of the area's roads inaccessible, he flew by helicopter over toppled trees, twisted metal and towering piles of debris in the normaly tourist-friendly downtown of Asheville. From the air, Biden saw flooded roads, piles of shredded lumber and displaced sandbags, emergency trucks and downed power lines. In one area, homes were partly underwater, and it was hard to distinguish between lake and land. Visits to disaster zones are a familiar responsibility for Biden, who has frequently been called on to survey damage and comfort victims after tornadoes, wildfires and tropical storms. But this was Harris' first visit to a disaster area as vice-president.

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

around and personally comfort people as Harris did in Georgia

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

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

one operable road for Biden's motorcade.

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

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

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

EC Identification No.

EC24B3813UP5616165N, File No.

9023-8935. The copy of the

environmental clearance along with

the conditions to be complied with is

available on the website of the SEIAA

i.e. http://www.seiaaup.in.

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

**PTI** LONDON  $T^{
m he}$  UK on Thursday announced a "historic" agreement that will see Britain hand over sovereignty of the remote Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius while it retains the joint UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) status of the disputed archipelago, made up of around 60 islands, has been in contention for many years and negotiations over its future began under the previous Conservative Party government in 2022. Under the agreement announced this week, the tropical atoll of Diego Garcia which the West says plays a crucial role in the region's stability and international security – will remain under UK and US jurisdiction for at least the next 99 years. "This government inherited a situation where the longterm, secure operation of the Diego Garcia military base was with contested sovereignty and ongoing legal challenges," said UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that I Anand Prakash Gupta, S/o Late Badri Prasa Gupta, R/o B 1/75, Paschim Vihar, Delhi 110063, not residing with daughter-in-lay

"Today's agreement secures this

(Smt. Shiveta Gupta), grandson (Maste Dhanesh Gupta) and my Son Sandee Gupta, have severed all my relations wit them due to the bad conduct and bad habits of daughter-in-law (Smt. Shiveta Gupta) grandson (Master Dhanesh Gupta). I have disowned and debarred my said So Sandeep and his family from all my movabl and immovable properties. They have n right, title and interest in my any self acquired properties or ancestral propertie or even otherwise.

Anand Prakash Gupta

PUBLIC NOTICE Industrial PLOT bearing NO. F-123 measuring 2000 sq mtrs situate e-l, RIICO Industrial Area, Bhiwad area measuring 2000 sq mtrs situated Phase-I, RIICO Industrial Area, Bhiwadi Dist-Alwar, Rajasthan ("The Said Property") Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clients, M/s Tasha Exports (P) Ltd., they are the sole and absolute owner of the said property vide Sale Deed dated 05.07.2021 executed by M/s Cap Cab (India) Ltd., in their favour. The said sale deed is registered as Document No. 202103111103165 (SR-Bhiwadi). In this connection, our clients have further informed us that the following original documents namely (1) Lease Agreement dated 28.01,1997,executed by RIICO in favour GITCO Automotive (I) (P) Ltd., (2) Site Map & original endorsement letter from RIICO for merger of RIITCO Automotive (I) (F) Ltd., (3) Site Map & original endorsement letter from RIICO for merger of RIITCO Automotive (I) (F) Ltd., (3) Site Map & original endorsement letter from RIICO formerger of RIITCO Automotive India Private Ltd., with Cap Cab India Ltd., Bhiwadi, forming part of the chain documents and hereinafter called the "said documents" have been lodged with Delhi Police Crims and hereinafter called the said documents has been lodged with Delhi Police Crims to LR No. 508114/2/2014 (24.07.2021. Now our clients intend to mortgage the said proverly with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. For availing load documents

f the aforesaid original said documents on any of them are/is found or have/has bee ound by any person, the same may b eturned and delivered to the undersigned a e address mentioned herein below urther, if any person, body, institution i ving any claim and/or objection in respe of the said property, he/she/they may raise his/her/ their objection/s, in writing, will documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of oublication of this notice. Otherwise, after the property of the see the second service of the proxpiry of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, no objection shall be acceptable and the said property shall be nortgaged by our clients in favour of IDFC TRST Bank Limited, and no objection shall e acceptable against such mortgage

Se acceptance against sustrinungage. Seneral Public may also take note that any feal or transaction done by anybody on the pasis of the said documents or any of them shall be illegal and not binding on our clients The person doing so shall be liable to be prosecuted under the law. HIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE OR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES I-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE PA, ATS & Will dated 16.12.1994, executed Mr. Surender Kumar, and same to be finance SMFG India Credit Company Limited meral public hereby informed that if anyboo has any charge/interest/title in the said proper kind of dispute kindly inform

or any kind of dispute kindiy inform inc indersigned in writing on the below mentioned iddress within 07 days of the present. Mrs. Prasoon Lata & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocats SG Associates (Law Firm F18, Lotus Pond Plaza/Vaibbar Khand, Indringuram, Chazibald Wi -mail: sgassociates/l@gmail.com, Pl: 2011/12746, 102444030

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sulikha Jindal W/o Mr. Sanjeav Kumar Jindal is the owner of the Entire Freehold Built up Property bearing Nat 4240/2, area measuring 120 Sq. Vds., i.e. 100.33 Sq. Mirs., built on oil Ptor No. 35, stituate in the area of village Chowkri Mubarkabad, Abadi known as Budh Nagar, Jai Mata Market, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26. Dr. 2023, regol, at Doc. No. 12222. The abovesaid property is to be financed & mortgaged with my clientie. Axis Finance Limited and She is the absolute owner of the property. one is the assolute owner of the property.
I any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned withi? days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are nclaims or successing the addressid property.

#### E- AUCTION NOTICE

olic is hereby informed that my client Sm W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Shama R/o GF n Nagar Gali Post Office Wali, Shahdara 2, and her Husband have severed all thei for disposal, strictly on "As Is Where Is" basis Damaged Tracked Excavator - Make-JCB-JS-205 SC belonging to M/S Hari Dutt. Salvage of the above materials can be inspected at Village Mirzapur, BPTP, Faridabad, Haryana, betwee 04/10/24 to 11/10/24, after taking prio appointment from Mr. Manoj Nagar 9873370804. E-Auction to be held on 12/10/24 For E-Auction forms, Contact **Mr. Neeraj Sadar** at Mob.: 8434340000

Informed that my client MRS. PREM CHHABRA wife of Mr. Pawan Kumar Chhabra, R/o 9A, SFS Flats, B-Block, E.O.K., N.D.-65 has debarred and his wife Mrs. Charu Chhabra and (2) Mr. Anshul Chhabra & his Wife Mrs. Payal Maggo and their children from her all types of properties, bank accounts, movable and/or immovable properties. In Future, If any one deals with him/them my client shall not be liable and responsible for the same.

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

liable/responsible for any kind of act, deeds, transaction of any nature done by the **Mohd Saquib** with anyone and they shall be personally liable for any kind of

Enroll No.D-8627/2019

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

30.08.2024 executed by Mrs. Usha Goyal and Mr. Vivek Agarwal, Now Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal is the undisputed owner of the said property.

nheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, licens or claim, if any, with all supporting documents : low mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall b treated null and void and also treated as waived an not binding on our client.

Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, N. Delhi-110024.

#### कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा (म.प्र.)

राउन हॉल एम.जी. रोड. खण्डवा (म.प्.) पिन कोड - 450001. टैलीफोन/फैक्स नं. 0733-2223523. Email ID-cmol क्रमांक/यांत्रिकी प्रकोष्ठ/या.प्रं./ई-टेण्डरिंग/2024/239,240 खण्डवा, दिनांक 01.10.2024

-:: द्वितीय ई-निविदा विज्ञप्ति ::-निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन पोर्टल के माध्यम से निविदा निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्रं.	टेण्डर आईडी	कार्यं का नाम	अनुमानित लागत ( लाख में )	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि	विक्रेता/निर्माता की श्रेणी	कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.		SUPPLY OF GARBAGE TIPPER 3.5 CUM ON VEHICLE CHASIS BS-VI ON ASHOK LEYLAND MAHINDRATATA OR ANY OTHER EQUIVALENT MAKE FOUR WHEELER WITH RTO INSURANCE & INCLUDING SOUND SYSTEM (28 No.)	168.00 Lakhs	84,000/-	10,000/-	प्रतिष्ठित निर्माता/कंपनी अधिकृत डीलर	01 माह
2.		SUPPLY OF GARBAGE TIPPER 2.2 CUM ON VEHICLE CHASIS BS VI ELECTRIC Vehicle (EV) ON ASHOK LEYLAND MAHINDRA/TATA OR ANY OTHER EQUIVALET MAKE FOUR WHEELER WITH RTO INSURANCE & INCLUDING SOUND SYSTEM (28 No.)	168.00 Lakhs	84,000/-	10,000/-	प्रतिष्ठित निर्माता/कंपनी अधिकृत डीलर	01 माह

निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि निविदा खोलने की दिनांक

16.10.2024 ( सायं 5.30 बजे तक )

Superintending Engineer (Agril.)

18.10.2024 ( सायं 10.30 बजे तक ) निविदा संबंधी समस्त जानकारी वेबसाईट http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। ई-निविदा में यदि किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन किया जाता है, तो वह समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जावेगा

नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा

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

पत्रांक - 1178/निविदा/109

अल्पकालीन निविदा नोटिस

अध्यक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु निर्दिष्ट श्रेणी में **उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम/ उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान** में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मृहरबन्द निविदाय दिनांक 18.10.2024 को अपरान्ह 1.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं, जो उसी दिन 2.00 बजे अपरान्ह कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, चम्पावत में उपस्थित निविदा–दाताओं या उनके मनोनीत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष अधिशासी अभियन्ता द्वारा या अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के द्वारा खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्रातः 10.00 बजे से सायं 5.00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का विवरण	कार्यक्रम का नाम	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	घरोहर धनराशि	निविदा विक्रय की अन्तिम तिथि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	कठनौली (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, गुरुत्व प्रणाली, जलाशय, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जीवन	1500.00+ 18% GST	30,000.00	17.10.2024	1.5 माह	"डी" एवं उच्चतर
2	कांडा (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, गुरूत्व प्रणाली, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	2000.00+ 18% GST	48,000.00	17.10.2024	2 माह	"डी" एवं उच्यतर
3	ढकना बडोला (रेट्रो) पेयजल योजना (पुनरीक्षित) के अन्तर्गत श्रोत कार्य, वितरण प्रणाली तथा तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	जल जीवन मिशन	500.00+ 18% GST	10,000.00	17.10.2024	1 माह	''डी'' एवं उच्चतर

के नोटिस बोर्ड में देखी जा सकती हैं।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

#### PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given on behalf of VINAY **PUBLIC NOTICE** Notice is hereby given on behalf of VINAY MODI/who is/are owner of Plot No. 28, having area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 654, situated at Pal Vihar colony at village Dharoti Khurd Pargana Loni Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, (U.P.),; purchased the same from Mamta Sharma vide Sale Deed M/s MMR SAHA INFRASTRUCTURE PRIVATE LIMITED has been granted Environmental Clearance (EC) regarding Revision & Expansion of Mix land use project at Plot No. E-1, Sector -52, Noida, District – Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh on 03.09.2024.

for the post may be downloaded from NDMC website i.e. elow, about his objections, within **7 days** fr oday, failing which it shall be presumed t ne said property is free from all type

Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal Lt Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Par New Delhi-110049,Contact # 011-400463 The last date of receipt of applications completed in all

### VOIG9

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)



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

- 27/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, Water Chlorination (Two Year Operation, Running and Maintenance of Chlorination Plant at UGR-20/62, 22/62, UGR-63, UGR-119, UGR-151 and UGR Bahlolpur), Noida. Cost Rs. 96.05 Lacs
- 24/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Year Cleaning of OHT/UGR in Sector-8, 11, 12, 15 and 15A) Noida. Cost Rs. 32.53 Lacs
- 3. 17/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2023-24, D/o Village (Two year Repairing, Raising, P/F Manhole Cover frame and Cleaning of sewer line Hazratpur, Wazidpur), Noida. Cost Rs. 69.49 Lacs
- 32/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, Strengthening of W/s (Special repair of OHT Sector-70) Noida, Cost Rs. 77.89 Lacs.
- 33/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, Sewerage and W/s of Sector-136 & 137 (P/L Water line Sector-136 to UGR-90), Noida, Cost Rs. 94.44 Lacs. 6. 34/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, Vill. Dev. (P/L of Water and Sewer Line
- for Village- Yakubpur), Noida. (Balance Work). Cost Rs. 59.88 Lacs. 35/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s Labour/Operation (Running
- (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 52.22 Lacs. 8. 37/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (S/F of line shaft for TWs in network Sector-70, 71, 72, 73, 107, 90, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140 and

140A), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 99.84 Lacs.

& Operation of UGR and TWs for network sector-70 and 73), Noida.

- 9. 14/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25, D/o Village (P/F FRC Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line Manhole by Portable Re-cycler Jetting cum Suction Machine De-Silter equipment in Village-Shahpur, Sultanpur & Raypur), Noida. (AMC for Two Year) Cost. Rs. 88.08 Lacs
- 10. 21/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25. D/o Village (Annual R/o PVC water lines & R/o Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve at different places in Network Village-Nayagaon, Illabans, Nagla Charandas, Kakrala, Sapera Basti & Bhuda), Noida, (For Two Years), Cost Rs. 66.97 Lacs
- . 22/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T/2024-25, D/o Village (Water line repair, repairing Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve, Repairing of Chamber etc. related Work in Village-Chamber etc. work in Village-Barolla &

Which can be uploaded by date: 17.10.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 18.10.2024

Raypur) Noida. (AMC for Two Years) Cost. Rs. 79.59 Lacs

1. 21/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Years Maintenance &

R/o V.T Motor and Allied Electrical work in Network Sector-119 and 120, 151 to 154), Noida, Cost Rs. 39,99 Lacs 03/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25, D/o Village (P/Laying Sewer/Water

line in Village-Jhatta) Noida. Cost Rs. 64.32 Lacs

07/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Annual Repairing of PVC Water line in Sector- 83, 84, 85 & Hosiery Complex) Noida. (For Two Years). Cost. Rs. 69.72 Lacs

08/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Annual Repairing of PVC Water line in Sector-46, 47 & 48) Noida. (For. Two Years). Cost. Rs. 54.15 Lacs

09/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25, D/o Village (Annual raising, repairing & cleaning of Sewer Manholes in Village-Nagla Charandas, Kakrala, Bhuda, Sapera Basti, Illabans & Nayagaon), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost. Rs. 66.57 Lacs

6. 13/S.M.(Jal)-III/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Annual Two Years Maintenance of Non clog Submersible at SPS-92) Noida. Cost. Which can be uploaded by date: 10.10.2024 upto 5.00 PM.

Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 11.10.2024 at 11.00 AM.

General Manager (Jal)

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

## से पार्किंग संचालन हेतु अनुबन्ध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 19.10.2024 की अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक ई० निविदायें

- (2). पंजाब ज्वैलर्स के सामने से होटल पार्क व्यू तक राजपुर रोड तथा गांधी पार्क के आगे राजपुर रोड पर-80 टू व्हीलर तथा 35 फोर व्हीलर
- (3). जे॰जे॰टॉवर से एच॰डी॰एफ॰सी॰ बैंक तक राजपुर रोड-80 फोर व्हील (4). आनन्दम् स्वीट्स से यूटेन्सिल स्टोर तक, राजपुर रोड– 40 फोर व्हीलर
- भी सम्मिलित है। 100-फोर व्हीलर व 100 दूँ व्हीलर (6). स्कॉलर होम गेट से आई०सी०आई०सी०आई० बैंक तक राजपुर रोड-

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में निर्धारित धनराशि रू०-4.00 लाख, डिमांड ड्राफ्ट / एफ०डी०आर० / तथा निविदा शुल्क का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो वरिष्ठ वित्त अधिकारी नगर निगम, देहरादून के नाम प्लेज होगी। निविदायें ई०निविदा के माध्यम से निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। निविदादाता को निविदा हेतू निर्धारित शूल्क का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट / एफ०डी०आर० को मूल रूप में दिनांक 18.10.2024 की अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा जिसका परीक्षण दिनांक 19.10.2024 की सांय 4.00 बजे गठित समिति के समक्ष किया जायेगा। तकनीकी निविदा के परीक्षण के उपरान्त तकनीकी निविदा में सफल निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्ते विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन की तिथि से यू०के० टैन्डर की वेबसाईट से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है अथवा किसी भी

PUBLIC NOTICE

hesne will be lessed shown or will not responsible for the same.
Rajender Soni, Advocate,
1/222, Shri Ram Nagar,
GT Road, Shahdara, Delhi-32

Dated 4-10-2024 Ch. 83. A. K. Sen Block. 9810002003

They have also **Disowned** from any rights, title, interest which occurs in succession from his parents and other family members shall not be

#### Old Chamber Block, Supreme Court, New Delhi

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal had acquired First Floor without roof rights area measuring 90 sq. yrds., Built on property bearing No. XIX/148, situated at Elias Gani Dava Basti. Old Rohtak Road, Delhi vide Release Deed Dt

Any person / firm / institution / company having ar aim or right in respect of the said Property by way o gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance nowscever or otherwise is hereby required to infilmat n writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their shan

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H. No. 26/161. Basemi

#### Raghav Tiwari, Advocat Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 11000 urts, New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: +91-8076188328 कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादुन

<sup>पत्रांक:-54/भूमि-2024-25</sup> सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत राजपुर रोड पर विभिन्न 7 स्थलों पर निविदा के माध्यम

आमंत्रित की जाती है:-(1). घन्टाघर में मुख्य डाक घर के सामने पटेल पार्क के आगे-80 वाहन पार्किंग टू व्हीलर

(5). वन विभाग के गेट से वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेन्टर तक राजपुर रोड। वर्ड टॉवर सेन्टर की बाउन्ड्री के अन्दर की तरफ सिंचाई विभाग की नहर के ऊपर का क्षेत्र

80 फोर व्हीलर (7). पैसेफिक हिल्स के आगे मसूरी डाईवर्जन पर मसूरी रोड पर 50 फोर

कार्यदिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा ई० निविदा के माध्यम से www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

## Samsung workers protest continues to 4th week | Government launches internship programme for youth

Workers of Samsung India Electronics Ltd on Wednesday observed a token fast near the factory in Chennai on Wednesday, as part of intensifying their ongoing protest w entered the fourth week. which

communist Party of India (Marxist) led Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) which is spearheading the protest by the employees said they would be meeting the Director of Factories in a day or two, alleging that the Korean electronics giant has roped in temporary workers to work in the shop floors in view of the strike.

About 1,100 employees of Samsung India Electronics Ltd are on strike since September 9 pressing for various demands including wage revision and better conditions. While several rounds of talks held in the presence of the Labour Department and company



officials failed. another tripartite meeting has been planned for next week, said CITU leaders.

We are observing a token fast today. We want the state government to come forward and resolve the issue fast. Our most important demand is to recognise the Samsung India Workers Union by the labour department at the earliest. "The temporary labourers are not trained like regular employees and this attitude by the management is not acceptable. We will file a complaint with the Director of Factories in a day or two, said the trade union leaders. Samsung's Chennai unit produces consumer durables at the factory including airconditioners, refrigerators and television sets. Recently, Union Labour Minister

the Tamil government urging to resolve the issue amicably. On Tuesday, the CITU members staged a protest in some districts as part of extending their support to the Samsung India workers

They were detained by the police and were released

Samsung India recently said scores of agitating workers have returned to work soon after it issued a show-cause notice. "The management has already indicated that all the issues can be resolved by discussions and has made various harmonious attempts to resolve differences and for your report to duty," Samsung had said. Due to the strike, Šamsung India said the impact on the plant operations was minimal and added that the welfare of the employees is of top priority and would engage with them to address any grievances they may have.

PTI NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday rolled out the internship programme that will provide financial assistance of Rs 60,000 per annum to 1 crore youth over a period of five years.

In 2024-25, the total cost of the pilot project will be around Rs 800 crore and will look to provide internship to 1.25 lakh candidates during this fiscal, government sources said on Thursday.

Announced in the Union Budget 2024, the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme in Top Companies will also provide insurance coverage to the interns. will

scheme implemented through an online portal developed by corporate ministry.

Subject to certain conditions, youth aged between 21 and 24 years will be eligible for the scheme, the sources said.

The internship programme will commence on December

The other company/ bank/ financial institution can participate in the scheme with the approval of the ministry, which will take into consideration factors like sectors and areas underrepresented by the top 500 companies.

The interns will be provided a financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per month and out of

the total amount, Rs 4,500 will be disbursed by the government and Rs 500 will be paid by the company from its CSR funds.

Also, a one time grant of Rs 6,000 for incidentals will be disbursed by the ministry to each intern, upon joining the place of internship.

Expenses associated with the training of interns under the scheme will be borne by the company from its CSR funds. Insurance coverage will be

provided to each individual intern under insurance schemes of the Union government, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.

The premium amount in this regard will be offered by the government. As part of the eligibility criteria, sources said, candidates enrolled in online/ distance learning programmes are eligible to

Candidates who have passed High School, Higher Secondary School, possess a certificate from an ITI, hold a diploma from a Polytechnic Institute, or are graduates with degrees such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, B.Pharma, etc. Are eligible, sources said. Companies will have a dedicated dashboard on the portal where they can post internship opportunities, detailing location, nature, required qualifications, and

any facilities provided.





## Kia launches two new MPV

ia India today launched the second-generation of their Kia Carnival Multi-Person Vehicle (MPV) and the EV9 electric MPV for Rs

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

## SEBI lowers InvIT trading lot to ₹ 25 lakh



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

secondary market trading for privately placed InvITs is set at Rs 1 crore. Further, if the InvIT invests at least 80 per cent of its asset value in completed and revenuegenerating assets, then the trading lot is Rs 2 crore.

'Trading lot for the purpose of trading of units on the designated stock exchange shall be Rs 25 lakh," Sebi said

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

portfolios. În separate notifications, Sebi has amended its rules on infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and real estate investment trusts (REITs) to reduce compliance burden and facilitate ease of doing

Under this, Sebi has fixed the timeline for undertaking distributions to unitholders by the REIT and InvIT to five working days from the date of declaration. The move is expected to bring efficiency to the distribution process and will aid in making funds available to investors within a relatively shorter period of

The markets regulator has allowed REITs and InvITs to call a unitholders' meeting after giving shorter notice (less than 21 days) if consent is granted by writing or in electronic mode. In case of an annual meeting,

consent by at least 95 per cent of unit holders will be needed and in case of any other meeting, consent by a majority of unit holders will



### Mahindra Thar ROXX sees 1.76 lakh bookings in 60 minutes

PNS NEW DELHI

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

ROXX SUV has bookings of 1,76,218 units in the first 60 minutes.

The Mahindra Thar ROXX which is the five door variant of the very popular Thar off-road SUV was launched on August 14 and prices start at Rs 12.99 lakh going up to Rs 22.49 lakh for the fully-

MPSF will work on systems for source segregation, storage, and handling of recyclable and non-recyclable

#### Goyal seeks US investments for Indian manufacturing



PTI NEW DELHI

Tommerce and Industry ✓Minister Piyush Goyal has held a series of meetings with US business leaders in New York to seek investments in India.

He met Chief Operating Officer of BlackRock Robert Goldstein, Chairman and CEO of Systems Technology Group Anup Popat, CEO of Tillman Holdings Sanjiv Ahuja, chief executive officer of C4V Shailesh Upreti, and Janus Henderson Investors CEO Ali Dibadj. During the meetings, Goyal discussed

business, development, manufacturing sectors through appropriate

incentive schemes.

opportunities collaboration to position India as a global manufacturing hub and invited the investors to increase their commercial and trade footprints in India, the commerce ministry said. In another meeting, the minister emphasised the government's commitment to improving ease of doing infrastructure (intellectual property rights) reforms, and prioritising

## Coal production jumps 32 per cent in FY24-25

The coal production from captive and captive commercial coal blocks rose by 32 per cent to 79.72 Million Tonne (MT) in the April-September period of the ongoing fiscal. The coal output from both

captive and commercial coal

blocks was 60.52 MT in the first half of the previous fiscal. The coal dispatch rose by 34 per cent year-over-year, from 65.37 MT in H1 of FY'24 to 87.86 MT in H1 of FY'25. There has been "a significant rise in coal production and dispatch from both captive and commercial coal blocks during the first half of FY 2024-25, from April 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024, compared to the same period

The coal production in September rose by 32 per cent to 13.74 MT from 10.40 MT. Likewise, dispatch in the month of September has

last year," the coal ministry

said in a statement.



grown by 47 per cent year-over-year, from 9.68 MT in FY'24 to 14.27 MT in FY'25. The coal ministry said that it applauds the efforts of all stakeholders, including coal companies and industry partners, for their invaluable support.

The ministry, it said, is dedicated to helping all coal block allottees navigate challenges and optimise their operations

Its primary objective is to significantly increase coal production, ensuring a steady and reliable supply to meet the country's growing energy demands.

collaborative Through initiatives and focused assistance, the ministry aims enhance efficiency, sustainability, and output across the coal sector.

#### BPCL signs pact for green fuel ecosystem at Mumbai port

State-owned BPCL has inked an initial pact with Mumbai Port Authority and Mumbai (MPSF) for setting up a green fuel ecosystem at the port.

The MoU is a pivotal step towards driving India's transition to cleaner energy solutions.

By focusing on green fuel innovations, this initiative aims to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to the country's climate change goals, a BPCL statement said.

Additionally, the pact outlines an exploration into the conversion of diesel-powered vessels to cleaner fuel alternatives, further enhancing the port's green infrastructure and reducing its carbon footprint, it said.

The agreement was formalised during the launch of the Cruise Bharat Mission by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal at Mumbai Port earlier this week, according to BPCL. As part of the initiative, the

two partners will jointly set up



EV charging stations at Mumbai Port, promoting green energy adoption for port users and the general public, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) said. "This MoU is consistent with BPCL's plans towards a sustainable tomorrow alongside our own aspiration to achieve net zero emissions in Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2040. Enabling sustainable energy solutions like LNG and EV for the maritime sector is part of our endeavour to demonstrate social responsibility and partnering for sustainable growth with that of the communities we serve." said G Krishna Kumar, Managing Chairman Director, BPCL. The agreement also includes

solid waste at Mumbai Port, it said, adding this initiative promotes socially responsible practices, ensuring a cleaner more sustainable and operational environment. 'Our partnership with MbPA is a testament to BPCL's strategic vision of advancing the sustainable fuels business By leveraging LNG and green energy infrastructure, we aim to reshape the future of maritime operations. This collaboration reflects

our commitment to driving innovation in fuel solutions that not only reduce carbon emissions but also create long-term value for the environment and the industry," said Rahul Tandon, Business Head (I&C), BPCL.

### Ashok Leyland, Nidec tie up to develop e-drive motors for commercial vehicles

PTI MUMBAI

ommercial vehicle maker CAshok Leyland Thursday said it has entered into a partnership with Japanese firm Nidec for developing e-drive motors for commercial vehicles. Under the multi-pronged

collaboration, the two partners will work to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Electric Drive Units (EDUs), which will focus on developing motor technologies and power electronics systems for EVs, along with innovations in gear-shifting mechanisms, Ashok Leyland said in a

statement. "This collaboration allows us

to co-develop, innovative edrive motors specifically designed for the unique demands India's commercial vehicle market, while significantly advancing our electric mobility capabilities," said Shenu Agarwal, Managing Director and CEO at Ashok Leyland.

The collaboration will also involve joint research and development efforts, with both companies contributing to skilling, lab infrastructure, and defining novel, differentiated motor technologies for the EV portfolio of Ashok Leyland and its subsidiary Switch Mobility, the company said. Ashok Levland further said it

will continue to source motors



from Nidec for its existing EV lineup, while collaborating on research and development for future electric solutions.

"Our investment strategy and motor technology are well complemented by Ashok Leyland, who understand the precise and specific demands of the commercial vehicle market," said Michael Briggs, President at Nidec Motion &

The announcement comes days after the government launched the Prime Minister E-Drive Scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for faster adoption of electric vehicles, setting up of charging infrastructure and development of manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The scheme has come into effect from October

#### Extensive Safety Awareness Drive PNS NEW DELHI

Tata Power-DDL conducts

Tata Powe Distribution Power Limited organised an extensive safety drive for its consumers and field staff to reduce the chances of electricity-related incidents.

Under this drive, more than Lakh installations including plain cement and concrete (PCC) poles, street lights, stay wires, towers, rail poles, fencing of sub stations, feeder & service pillars, PWD Poles, MCD Poles, ATMs & lights installed in parks were checked for any unsafe situation / hazard and rectifications thereof.

Tata Power-DDL is dedicated to supporting Ramleela, Durga Puja, and other festive

events by providing temporary connections within 24 hours. While the discom is committed to offering tatkal connections during the festive season, the safety of people in mass gatherings remains of utmost priority.

Tata Power-DDL's operations and maintenance teams would remain on high alert to handle any safety-related issues that may arise during this time. Additionally, consumers are advised to take due precautions with their wiring and avoid any loose connections, as these can lead

to accidents. It is also crucial to install an ELCB (Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker)/RCCB to protect both people and equipment from electrical shocks.

#### **INBRIEF**

provisions for

management, as BPCL and

#### **GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY RELEASES SCHEDULE**

waste

AMRITSAR: The online examination form submission and fee payments for December 2024 exams of Law FYIP/TYP, B.Ed., B.A.-B.Ed., B.Sc.-B.Ed, B.Com-B.Ed and B.Ed-M.Ed Sem-1 for Regular students through online porta

GNDU NSS UNIT ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

AMRITSAR: The NSS unit of Guru Nanak Dev University, successfully organized a comprehensive E-waste management drive under the banner of "Swacchta Hi Sewa." The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the pressing issue of electronic waste



#### **ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL OF "GCA ZONE" KICKS OFF**

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

## WORLD ANIMAL DAY: OCTOBER 04, 2024



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

Collage: Satish C Jakhmola

Animal Day, we are reminded a simple yet profound truth: animals share our world and in many ways, they reflect the best parts of ourselves. As we go about our lives, it's easy to forget the loyalty, grace and beauty that animals bring to this planet. Whether it's the silent strength of a tiger in the wild or the trusting eyes of a stray dog, animals have a way of touching our hearts. As the author Anthony Douglas Williams once said, "We have more to learn from animals than animals have to learn from us." Their unconditional love, resilience and ability to live harmoniously with nature offer us

October 4th, *World Animal Day*, is a time to highlight the pressing issues that animals face across the globe. The theme for this year, "The World is Their Home Too," is a powerful call for all of us to recognise the rights of animals, whether they are roaming freely in the wilderness or wandering the streets as strays. This day is a chance to reflect on how we treat the creatures that share our planet and to realise that they, too, deserve safety, respect and love.

lessons in compassion, humility and

From the *majestic Royal Bengal Tiger* to the critically endangered *Indian Rhinoceros*, the wildlife in India is under constant threat.

Habitat destruction, poaching and human-wildlife conflict have left these species teetering on the edge of survival. The tiger, once a symbol of untamed power, now roams in small, fragmented patches of forest. The Indian Rhinoceros, whose numbers were once decimated by hunting, faces the constant pressure of habitat loss and illegal poaching for its horn. Similarly, the Asiatic Lion, which now has a population of approximately 600 individuals confined to the Gir Forest, faces an uncertain future in its last remaining natural habitat. This small population survives in a limited area, making them vulnerable to catastrophic events like disease outbreaks or forest fires, which could wipe them out forever. These creatures, emblematic of India's natural heritage, are not merely animals, they are vital parts of ecosystems that sustain life,

including our own. Yet, it's not only the rare and exotic species that require our attention. Animals that live closer to us, whether they are stray dogs, cattle, or even birds, also face significant challenges. *Stray dogs*, in particular, bear the brunt of urban neglect. But beyond the dogs, there are countless other animals like cows left to fend for themselves on the streets, often injured or malnourished. Birds, too.

## BOOKS TO CELEBRATE WORLD ANIMAL DAY

MOUNTAIN

HAMMALS OF

THE WORLD

The Gopi Diaries is a charming series for children by Sudha Murty, published by Harper Children's. The series follows Gopi, a lovable pup. In Coming Home, Gopi is adopted by a loving family and quickly learns about his new world. In Finding Love, he grows stronger and cheekier, facing new challenges and meeting exciting dog companions. Finally, in Growing Up, Gopi matures and welcomes a new friend, Nova, into his life.

Warrior Queens of Ranthambore by Manish Kalani, is a unique coffee table book that captures the journey of five generations of tigresses in Ranthambore National Park. Featuring over 500 photographs taken over eight years, wildlife

photographer *Manish Kalani* tells the story of the legendary tigress Machhli and her descendants, highlighting their beauty, strength and emotional bonds. The book emphasises the importance of tiger conservation and serves as a significant addition to wildlife literature in India.

Mountain Manmals of the World by M.K. Ranjitsinh, published by Penguin Ebury Press, is a definitive guide that explores the larger mammals inhabiting mountainous regions globally. The book features

detailed profiles of approximately 62 species and 78 subspecies, highlighting their behaviour, ecology and conservation status. This work serves as an essential resource for understanding these majestic animals within their breathtaking mountain habitats.

Wildlife Chronicles by Adit Jain (Publisher: Rupa) is a travelogue and guide to India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The book showcases the country's diverse landscapes and wildlife, featuring travel tips, must-see places, and captivating photographs. Jain's personal anecdotes aim to inspire interest in conservation while

providing practical advice for travellers. Wildlife India @ 50: Saving the Wild, Securing the Future by Manoj Misra (Publisher: Rupa) commemorates 50 years of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The book chronicles India's wildlife conservation journey, reflecting on successes and missed opportunities

through contributions from various experts. With a focus on the impact of colonial hunting practices and the need for wildlife legislation, it highlights the progress made and the challenges ahead in protecting India's biodiversity.

struggle as cities expand, with sparrows and other species losing their nesting grounds due to rapid urbanisation. Even marine life along India's coasts is impacted by pollution and overfishing, with turtles, dolphins, and many fish species facing increasingly hostile

environments. One of the most critical actions we can take for all animals is to reconsider how we interact with them. Whether it's making sustainable choices that protect natural habitats or supporting animal shelters and rehabilitation centres, we each have a role to play. Conservation efforts like Project Tiger, Project Elephant and initiatives to protect the Great Indian Bustard are crucial but they need greater public backing. Beyond government initiatives, we as individuals can contribute by supporting wildlife sanctuaries, participating in reforestation efforts and making more conscious decisions that minimise harm to animal habitats.

For animals closer to home, adopting stray dogs, cats or even cows from shelters is one of the most compassionate things we can do. These animals, often ignored, deserve a second chance at life.

Rather than purchasing pets, adopting from shelters not only saves lives but helps reduce the suffering caused by overpopulation. We must also push for stronger laws against animal cruelty and promote humane population control measures for stray animals, such as spay and neuter programmes. On this day, let's broaden our

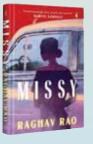
On this day, let's broaden our perspective. Let's not just think about the wild animals in distant forests or the pets in our homes. Let's consider all the creatures that make up our world: the birds, the cattle, the marine life and the strays and how each one plays a vital role in the delicate balance of life on Earth. Every action we take, no matter how small, contributes to creating a better world for them.

As we observe World Animal Day, let's remember that the answer for stray animals begins with a simple yet profound action: adopt, don't shop. Every stray dog on the street is a potential companion, waiting for a family. By adopting a stray, you give an animal a second chance at life and the warmth of a loving home. This small act not only transforms their lives but also enriches yours with unique love and companionship. Every life saved reflects our compassion for these deserving souls. The world is their home too and together, we can ensure that every animal feels safe, loved, and valued.

# ARRIVALS

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

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



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

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

## Hindus and the Modern Struggles of Religious Persecution

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

#### BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Sufferance is the badge of our tribe," Shylock, the Jewish money lender, says in the Shakespearean play "The Merchant of Venice," Had Shylock been around now, he would certainly have added Hindus too as the victims of hatred and cruelty perpetrated by the Abrahamic religions. History, as well as modern times, substantiate what Shakespeare made Shylock say in this path-breaking play.

In October 2023, the dreaded Hamas organisation let loose one of the most barbaric attacks ever reported in history on the innocent Jewish residents of the Gaza Strip, kidnapping more than 300 of them and subjecting them to vicious torture. The Hamas terrorists were celebrating in style as their colleagues recounted how they raped young girls in front of their parents and tore them apart, a la Nirbhaya incident that shook India in 2012.

It was only when Israel retaliated (like any other nation would) in a bid to release their brethren from the torturing cells of Hamas, that liberals, secularists and pseudo-intellectuals came out extending their open-hearted support to Hamas. The Israeli Defence Force was portrayed as the aggressor while the Hamas terrorists were seen as angels in the eyes of these paid intellectuals.

The history of the Jewish people is packed with stories of persecution faced by them and their struggles for survival. No other community, other than Hindus, has faced the kind of cruelty to which the Jewish were subjected by their tormentors. To lambast Israel and eulogise the Arabs as well as Palestinians became the measure of one's intellectual dexterity.

This is what the Hindus in India face now. Though 80 per cent of the Indian population are Hindus, they face the same kind of torment and cruelty at the hands of the minorities. In the land of the Sanatana Dharma, the aggressors claim ownership of more than 70 per cent of the land. A cleric was heard claiming the other day that Antilia, the 27-storey personal residence of Mukesh Ambani in Bombay and valued at \$4.6 billion, has been constructed on Waqf land. It is for Mukesh Ambani to give clarification to this claim, while the day is not far off when the same people are likely to come forward claiming that Rashtrapati Bhavan as well as 7 Lok Kalyan Marg belong to them.

Forget about these things. The Hindus have become eighth-class citizens and victims of State-sanctioned apartheid in their own country, according to Dr Anand Ranganathan, scientist, author and political critic who works in the Communist citadel Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU for short). Dr Ranganathan speaks and writes with conviction and articulation. True to his profession as a genetic engineer and biotechnologist, Dr Ranganathan has found out the basic reasons behind the plight of the Hindus in the country, and he has made it unambiguously clear with his latest book Hindus in Hindu Rashtra, published by BluOne Ink. The book of 128 pages is a power-packed punch from this frail professor, which the rivals would not be able to counter. The author has made his intention clear from the word go. "To those who claim we are now living in a totalitarian Hindu Rashtra, one must ask: What kind of a Hindu Rashtra is this where a billionstrong Hindus have been, through our parliament, courts, education system and our Constitution, reduced to not just second-class but rather, eighth-class citizens? What kind of a Hindu Rashtra is this where Durga Puja and Garba celebrations are stoned with impunity,

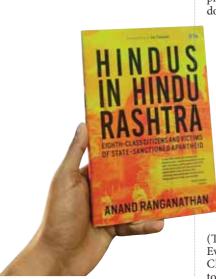
where a sitting Prime Minister claims

minorities have the first right to



#### ABOUT THE BOOK ook: Hindus in Hindu Rasht

Book: Hindus in Hindu Rashtra by ANAND RANGANATHAN Publisher: BluOne Ink ₹399



resources?" Even as I write about the book, TV channels scroll news headlines about Ganapati statue immersions in Karnataka and Maharashtra being stoned by a group of

The Marxist-Mullah-Congress axis held State-wide protest rallies in Kerala to express solidarity with the terrorists and extremists of Hamas and Hezbollah. A TV channel and newspaper owned by Jamaat-e-Islami laments 24x7 that there is no freedom of expression and religion in India since 2014. The channel beams anti-India news round the clock, forcing the viewers to complain to the ministries of home and information and broadcasting about the hidden agenda behind the channel and the newspaper. The Supreme Court comes to the help of the channel by blasting the Centre for its high-handedness. This is the kind of privilege enjoyed by the minority communities in India, only in India. A Hindu cannot be blamed for feeling compelled to convert to Islam, but what prevents most of the Sanatanis from doing so is the severe pain it may cause

in the process. *Dr Ranganathan*, I feel, is lenient in his words. He explains through eight chapters the state of abyss the Hindus find themselves in. The powers that be, whether it is the Congress, BJP, or the motley crowd of the Third Front, do not have any answer for the questions posed by him in the opening chapter, "State Control of Hindu Temples". In Kerala, from where I hail, the most coveted post for which politicians who fail to make it to the assembly or parliament vie with each other is for the post of the chairman of

the Devaswom Boards (Travancore, Kochi, and Malabar). Even rationalists and atheists in the CPI(M), CPI, and RSP turn believers to occupy the chairmanship and to

swindle the hundis (treasure boxes in which the devotees make offerings to the presiding deities)

the presiding deities). "The Hindus have no right to question the injustice meted out to them in the form of adding pig fat to laddus, a divine offering to God. If you dare to question the act, the Lordships would come down on you like an avalanche with the claim that 'Secularism is in danger'." The term secularism has become the most nauseating one in India, as a jurist was heard asking the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to keep quiet over the affair with the Tirupati laddu. To those who do not care about the ground realities facing the Hindus, we have to ask, "What happened to the Veda Patasalas and Gurukulas, which were the landmarks along the banks of Krishna, Godavari, Kaveri, Ganga, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra?" It is an unpardonable sin in the Hindu country to ask the questions posed by the likes of Anand Ranganathan, R Vaidyanathan, Rajiv Malhotra, Sandeep Balakrishna and of course Arun Shourie.

India may be the only country in the world that keeps its citizens from the real history (the XI volumes of the History and Culture of the Indian People edited by that wonderful historian Prof R C Majumdar). It is a "crime" in this country to pinpoint the directives given by the one and only Prophet that the idolaters only are unclean (Surah 9, ayat 5) and the disbelievers are an open enemy to you (Surah 4:101) (Quotes from The Calcutta Quran Petition authored by Sita Ram Goel). If the Hindus fail to take note of the observations by Anand Ranganathan, they are doomed to be Pappus and village idiots. In this era of religious hegemony, scholars like Ranganathan, Vaidyanathan, and Rajiv Malhotra are beacons of hope. Please do not miss out on what they speak

## INDIA NEED TOP GUNS FIRING IN UNISON AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

In that context, India will not get a

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

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

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

them, Shafali Among Mandhana have been in excellent touch, making runs in their last international outing in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in July even though India lost to the hosts in the final. In fact, Mandhana's last five T20I innings include three fifties.

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

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

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



They have only three pacers in their squad — Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar and Arundhati Reddy.

In all likelihood, India will only play two of them, while depending on a plethora of spinners in their line-up.

In all likelihood, India will only play two of them, while depending on a plethora of spinners in their line-up.

India have exceptional variety in that department. The attack will be marshalled by off-spinners Deepti spinner Radha Yadav.

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

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

Zealand side.

Add the exciting young all-rounder Amelia Kerr to the mix, and they have the wherewithal to spring a surprise or two in this tournament. But beyond them, the Kiwis are a bit green behind the ears and that could be their Achilles Heel.

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

Travelling reserves: Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer, Saima Thakor.

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

bronze.

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

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"Australia is a good team, even though these matches are being played in Dubai, on subcontinent pitches that might not suit them as much as their home conditions. But Australia, no matter where they play, are hard to beat. So, Harbhajan's fears were not entirely misplaced as the Australia have beaten India 23

seven of them. warned India of another potential hazard on its way -Sri Lanka.

The Islanders had recently trumped India in the Asia Cup with Chamari Athapaththu and Harshitha Samarawickrama producing

match-winning efforts. "Sri Lanka, too, after their recent series win against India, will be confident when they play against India. So, that will

also be a good contest." But Harbhajan had little doubts that India have the skill sets to land their maiden ICC

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

the biggest challenge for India may be Australia," he said. good form, and Deepti good form, and Deepti (Sharma) is an unbelievable spinner.

"They are a very capable team times in 32 T20Is with the and have been playing very 'Women in Blue' winning good cricket. The unit looks solid. If India plays good will win this tournament," he noted.

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

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

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

India open their campiagn against new Zealand on Friday.

#### Khushi seals dramatic bronze, takes India's tally to 15 at ISSF Jr Worlds of the first two positions -10.4 in 43rd ensured the

PTI ■ LIMA (PERU)

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

Her medal on Wednesday took India's tally to 15, including 10 gold, one silver, and four bronze medals, keeping the country at the top of the standings. The youngster shot 447.3 in

the final to finish behind Caroline Lund of Norway who won silver with 458.3. Caroline's compatriot Synnoeve Berg won gold with

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

seventh spot with a score of It got so tight that there were

four others on the same score. However, Khushi and Italian Anna Schiavon clinched the final two qualifying spots, scoring 29 inner-10 shots, while two Swiss athletes — Alexa Tela and Emely Jaeggi

managed 27. Khushi finished ahead of Anna on countback.

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

Kneeling and Prone. A strong finish in the

Standing position allowed her junior women's 3P, the trio of to pip Norwegian Pernille Nor-Woll after the 40th shot Sakshi Padekar, Melvina Joel Gladson and Prachi Gaekwad, finished fifth with a to move up to third. tally of 1757. Synnoeve and Caroline were Anoushka Thakur also shot

having their own battle for top-two throughout the 45shot final.

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

hits in the inner-10 ring meant she ended 11th. Sakshi, Melvina and Prachi finished 24th, 32nd and 41st

585 in qualification, but 26

In the team competition in

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

No stranger to the physical toll of weight management during a competition, six-time world champion boxer M C Mary Kom Thursday waded into the debate surrounding wrestler Vinesh Phogat's Olympic heartbreak for being 100gm over, saying that to be within the prescribed limit is an individual responsibility. The 42-year-old mother of four, who is

only woman bover with Olympic medal (a bronze in London, 2012), was in the city to promote Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, which named her as its brand ambassador. Speaking for the first time on Phogat, who was disqualified on the day of her

50kg finals in the Paris Games for being marginally over the prescribed Kom said weight limit, Mary management is an athlete's responsibility.

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

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

Mary Kom, in the past, has spoken about her weight cut routines and how difficult the process can be. The Manipuri started out as a pin-weight (46kg) category boxer before settling for the flyweight (51kg) division in her amateur career.

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

calling the rules inhumane, but her appeal was rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The wrestler retired to join politics after the heartbreak and is contesting the Haryana assembly elections on a Congress ticket.

WANT TO DISCUSS
BOXING WITH INDIAN

**SPORTS** MINISTER: Mary Kom was also quizzed about India's boxing campaign in Paris and she was still perplexed by how poor the performance was. She said she wants to have a meeting with the national federation and sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya to understand "what is lacking" and clear her "doubts". The Indian boxing contingent, which

included two reigning world champions in Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain, cut a sorry figure



in the Games and failed to win even one medal.

We know what the result was, it was so, so bad. I want to know what is lacking," said the Manipuri, who became the first Indian woman boxer with an Olympic medal when she bronze in the 2012 London Games. One of the most successful athletes in

the history of Indian sports, Mary Kom felt the boxers got all the logistical support they needed but she does have some "doubts" regarding how their training was managed by the Boxing Federation of India.

"I will meet the boxers too if the

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

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

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

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

"If I do not meet them and not discuss, how will I know about them?' Mary reiterated that she wants to

participate in professional boxing I have not retired yet but I want to compete. I am trying to get opportunities, waiting for my chance to fight pro. I just want to come back." "I can continue for another three-four years, that is my will. I have the passion and hunger. I want to continue," she

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

AP ■ COLUMBUS (OHIO)

ionel Messi and Inter Miami have Lanother trophy, along with homefield advantage throughout the Major League Soccer playoffs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

"Dominant," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said. Diego Rossi scored in the first minute

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

3-1 edge. Juan "Cucho" Hernández's penalty kick in the 61st minute got Columbus within 3-2. But once again, the momentum didn't last for long. Rudy Camacho was sent off for his second yellow card in the 63rd minute, meaning the Crew had to play with 10 men the rest of the way.

Didn't matter. Columbus still created some big chances down the stretch. A deflected ball in the 76th minute got

across the box and onto the right foot of Mohamed Farsi - but his shot was blocked by Callender, who was perfectly positioned to protect the

Then came more drama, when Inter Miami was called for its second handball inside the box — an automatic penalty kick - of the second half. Hernández picked the left side of the net, but Callender made the save look almost easy.

That save helped finish what Messi started.

It was the fifth two-goal game of the MLS season for Messi, who now has 17 goals in 17 league matches this season. He's missed 15 of Inter Miami's MLS matches in 2024, either because of commitments to Argentina's national team or the twomonth absence that he needed to recover from a badly injured ankle an injury that happened during his nation's run to the Copa America title in July. Inter Miami, in MLS play this season, is now 10-1-6 with Messi in the lineup.

Throughout the year we had many, many injuries, where we couldn't all be together ... But the group was getting the most out of every tough game, Messi said. The Crew and the LA Galaxy entered Wednesday still with a mathematical

hope of passing Inter Miami in the race for the Supporters Shield, and Cincinnati was nine points back with nine points still possible. But now, they're all playing for second.

"Dec. 7 is what we want," Martino said, referring to the date of the MLS Cup final.