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UPI TRANSACTIONS SURGE IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

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NOT GOING IN WITH PRE-DETERMINED MINDSET HAS HELPED: SHAFALI 12 SPORTS

# FAREWELL BHARAT'S RATAN

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As the nation mourned the passing away of the legendary industrialist Ratan Naval Tata, hundreds and thousands of Mumbaikars on Thursday bade an emotional goodbye to the former Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, as his mortal remains - wrapped in national tri-colours - were taken on a 12 km final journey from the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) to Worli crematorium for his last rites. After solemn prayers and rituals performed as per the Parsi traditions at a brief ceremony, Ratan Tata's body was consigned to a combustion chamber at the Worli electric crematorium, amid full-State honours and a fun salute accorded by the Maharashtra government. The funeral held at an electric crematorium reflected the changing traditions in the Parsi community members living in Mumbai who in the past would make it a point to consign the remains of their loved ones to the Tower of Silence, or Doongerwadi at Malabar Hill in south Mumbai. Ratan Tata breathed his last at the Breach Candy Hospital at around 11.30 pm on Wednesday night, following age-related health conditions, after a week of media speculation about his worsening medical condition. A bachelor all his life, Tata was 86 at the time of his death. Given that he had touched the people from all walks of life across the country, the news of Ratan Tata - who despite having built a Rs 3,800 crore Tata group's business empire remained a humble man till the last day - plunged the nation into a state of mourning, with people grieving his demise and speaking in



local terms about his contributions to Indian industry and also nation-building. While thousands of people turned out at the NCPA to pay their homage to the legendary industrialist, more than a couple of lakhs of people had either lined up along the 12 km funeral procession route from the NCPA to Worli crematorium or bade adieu from atop the buildings located along the route. Hours before his funeral, the Maharashtra Cabinet adopted a resolution at a special meeting, recommending to the Centre to confer Bharat Ratna, country's highest civilian award, posthumously to Ratan Tata, who was bestowed with Padma Vibhushan by the Indian government in 2008. As a sign of State mourning, the national Tricolour on government offices in Maharashtra were flown at half-mast on Thursday. Earlier, after his death on Wednesday night, the veteran industrialist's body was taken from the Breach Candy Hospital to his Colaba residence in south Mumbai.



## Jamshedpur mourns its man of steel

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ JAMSHEDPUR

It was not only the more than one lakh workforce of Tata Group of companies, its subsidiaries and ancillaries which mourned Ratan Tata's passing, but a pall of gloom descended in each and every household of the Steel City of Jamshedpur which Tata was so fond of. From spending time on Shop Floor Management of the then TELCO, rechristened as Tata Motors by Ratan Tata himself, for a global



pursuit to make it a point to be part of the famous March 3 Foundation Day (anniversary of JN Tata) celebrations at Jubilee Park near

Sakchi Market, Ratan frequented the lovely city where the Tatas dreamt from making salt to software, tea to trucks and from car to business czar since early 1900s. The city of Jamshedpur is also known as 'Tatanagar', and the fondness of the Tatas for the city made the Jharkhand government declare a day of State Mourning as a mark of respect for industrialist Ratan Tata. As a young trainee, Tata resided in Room No. 11 of the Dealer's Apprentice Hostel at TELCO.

## the pioneer Tribute

### Goodbye, Mr Tata

Ratan Naval Tata, the Rdoyen of Indian industry, inheritor of one of the greatest corporate names in India passed away peacefully on October 9, and was laid to rest on Thursday. Even though he was 86 years old and had been suffering health issues for the past few years, his passing has been mourned across the board. But it is surprising just how much the general public in India has mourned his passing, especially in a country where capitalists are still not celebrated. Ratan Tata's immense contributions to philanthropy, his love of dogs including strays, have endeared him to Indians like few others have managed, with the possible exception of his uncle, JRD Tata, whom he succeeded as Chairman of Tata Sons. Following the horrendous 26/11 attacks when the flagship Taj Mahal hotel was desecrated by terrorists, he not only ensured that all employees who had lost their lives or loved ones did not lose hope and he paid compensation to all and he was determined that the hotel rise again to the top, which it has. Ratan Tata is a poster child of post-liberalisation India. Under his leadership, the expansion of Tata group's ventures began aggressively. Whether it was the success of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in the Information Technology space, the acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover and Tetley Tea, the global reach of Tata Steel as well as the growth of Tata Motors in the Indian passenger car space starting from the late-1990s with the Tata Indica. The fact that Indian Hotels, operators of the Taj Group is today India's largest hotel chain is in no small part thanks to his leadership and the fact that he surrounded himself with extremely capable managers.



DADLS-41

**'ପବିତ୍ର ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ - ୨୦୨୪' ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ।**

ପବିତ୍ର ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ବିଜୟା ଦଶମୀ ହେଉଛି ଅସତ୍ୟ ଉପରେ ସତ୍ୟର, ଅନ୍ୟାୟ ଉପରେ ନ୍ୟାୟର ଏବଂ ଅଶାନ୍ତି ଉପରେ ଶାନ୍ତିର ବିଜୟ ପ୍ରତୀକ । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ନିଜ ଜୀବନରେ ତଥା ସମାଜରେ ସତ୍ୟ, ନ୍ୟାୟ ଏବଂ ଶାନ୍ତିର ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା ଦିଗରେ ନିଷ୍ଠାପର ଭାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

*(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)*

OIPR-15001/13/0240/2425

**ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ବାର୍ତ୍ତା**

ପବିତ୍ର ଦୁର୍ଗାପୂଜା ଓ ଦଶହରା ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ମାତୃଶକ୍ତିର ଉପାସନା ଆମ ସଂସ୍କୃତିର ଏକ ଅନନ୍ୟ ପରମ୍ପରା । ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କ ଆରାଧନା ଏପରି ଏକ ଧାର୍ମିକ, ସାମାଜିକ ଓ ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ଉତ୍ସବ, ଯେଉଁଠାରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଭାବ ସହ ଆନନ୍ଦମୟ ଭାବର ସମ୍ମିଳିତ ପରିପ୍ରକାଶ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ଜଗତଜନନୀ ମା' ଦୁର୍ଗାଙ୍କ ଅପାର କରୁଣାରୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନରେ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦ ଭରିଉଠୁ, ପାର୍ବଣର ଏହି ଅମୃତ ଲଗ୍ନରେ ମା'ଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ଏତିକି ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।

*(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)*  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

# After Centre's move State to extend supply of free rice till Dec 2028

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**  
Following the Union Cabinet's approval for continuation of the supply of free fortified rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) from July 2024 to December 2028, the Odisha government has also decided to extend the tenure of the supply in the State under its own scheme. Food Suppliers Minister Krushna Chandra Patra in-

formed this on Thursday. He further informed that the E-KYC verification process of ration cards is currently going on in the State. "Around 2.30 crore E-KYC verifications have been completed so far. About one crore E-KYC verifications are still to be made and it will be completed within 15-20 days. After the completion of the process, new ration cards will be issued," said Patra. Earlier, Patra had said the E-KYC verification process

would not be stopped until the last applicant is verified. "After the completion of the E-KYC process, the number of false cards will be known. Then, we will omit them and provide ration cards to eligible beneficiaries," Patra had said. Earlier, the State Government had informed that new ration cards would be issued to those applicants who are found eligible after Aadhaar-based E-KYC verification of cards in circulation.

# At SCB Hospital DEO caught taking bribe from poor patient

**PNS ■ CUTTACK**

A Data Entry Operator (DEO) at the SCB Medical College Hospital here was apprehended by Vigilance officials on Thursday for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 2,000 from a poor patient to provide him free medicines.

The accused, identified as Smruti Ranjan Sahoo, works at as the DEO in Hepatology Department of the hospital. He was caught while demanding and accepting the bribe from the son of the poor patient undergoing treatment for Hepatitis C.

The medicines are distributed free of cost by the government, but the DEO refused



to provide it if his demand of bribe was not met. The complainant reported the matter to the Vigilance, following which Sahoo was arrested while taking the bribe. Following the trap, simul-

taneous searches were conducted at two locations linked to Sahoo from the disproportionate assets (DA) angle. A case was registered against Sahoo and investigation was in progress.

# Utkal Varsity admission row Student Cong files plaint against VC



**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

A delegation of the Student Congress led by its State president Udit Pradhan on Thursday filed a complaint with the Saheed Nagar police against the Utkal University Vice-Chancellor accusing him of fraud in the admission process in the university.

The complaint also mentioned the names of PG Council Chairman and Library and Information Science Coordinator. It was alleged that the VC and the other officials have

tarnished the image of the prestigious educational institution by their illegal activities. A student, Bijay Kumar Sahu, who was ranked 13, was not given admission in the Library and Information Science Department, but a student, Mitra Prakash Bal, who was ranked 15th got admission, it was pointed out.

This has exposed the irregularities in the admission process in the government educational institutions in the State. This is highly unfortunate, Pradhan said.

# At Khandagiri PS Inebriated woman 'abuses' cops



**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

A video of a woman in an 'inebriated' condition creating ruckus at the Khandagiri police station and misbehaving with the on-duty cops has surfaced online.

In the viral video, the woman is seen misbehaving with and hurling abuses at the police personnel.

The woman could also be seen giving law lessons to the police officers and asking them

to offer her water by opening a bottle which she carried. Later, she is seen pulling down a chair before leaving the police station while shouting at the cops.

After the video went viral on various social media platforms, Twin City Police Commissioner Suresh Dev Datta Singh visited the police station and inspected what led to such a situation.

Singh ordered to lodge a case against the woman for her misbehaviour.

# Awas Yojana houses rented out in BBSR

**BMC mulling cancellation of allotment**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) is considering action against the beneficiaries of the Awas Yojana (affordable housing scheme) who have rented the

houses allotted to them. Acting on the complaints that many allottees rented out their houses, a raid by BMC officials in the presence of police was carried out on Wednesday. And the complaints were proven true. It was found that around 250 houses have been rented out. It also came to the fore that some allottees have their own

land and houses elsewhere. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das said, "We were receiving complaints about the allottees of the affordable houses renting out their houses. There were also complaints that people who have their own lands or houses elsewhere have managed to get such houses by furnishing fake documents. We allotted the

houses as per the list given by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA). Some houses were allotted to the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) beneficiaries." "About 250 houses have been rented out. Now, we are serving notices to them. If their explanations won't be satisfactory, steps would be taken to cancel their houses," she added.

# Activists oppose health services privatisation

**Demand strengthening of public health system**

**BIJAY MISHRA**

**BHUBANESWAR**

In a State-level convention here, the Jana Swasthya Abhiyan and the Rashtriya Swasthya Adhikar Abhiyan opposed privatisation of health service and demanded strengthening the public health system.

Delegates from various networks, movements, patient rights groups, front line workers groups from 30 districts of Odisha gathered here and reaffirmed their commitment to "Health for All" that is universal healthcare for all. They urged that all policies should address the urgent need to bolster the public health system.

The campaign leaders said that despite having the worst



experience during the Covid-19 pandemic of the private health sector loot, the State Government is trying to increase the private investment and involvement in health and healthcare services in the State and following the NITI Aayog's direction of privatisation of district hospitals.

The Union Health Secretary, in a letter in June 2019 to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs instructed for adoption of the Charter of Patient's Rights. The State Government is not adopting the patient right charter despite notification of

NHRC and Department of Health and Family Welfare.

The public health system's critical components, scheme workers, were lauded internationally for their efforts during the pandemic. Yet, they face neglect, harassment, and inadequate recognition. They lack basic rights and are often deprived of proper working conditions. ASHAs, Anganwadi workers and Sales Promotion Employees (SPEs) face similar issues, with SPEs demanding fair treatment and better regulation.

The Government has also neglected price controls on

essential medicines and is pursuing global policies like the WHO vaccine treaty and WTO patent amendments that could undermine national sovereignty and public health interests.

In this context, the campaign leaders including health expert, Amulya Nidhi, activists Prafulla Samantaray, Manas Pattanaik, Gouranga Mohapatra, Dr Biswajit, Jagannatha Chatterjee, Sudhir Pattanaik, Baghambar Pattanaik and Devaprasad Ray urged for accountability, strengthening, and preservation of the public health system. They opposed privatization or outsourcing of public hospitals and services.

In the convention, patients shared their experience of health denial, negligence, adverse outcome, over charging in the health facilities and how the basic health rights are violated.

# Tata strove for Odisha's dev



**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The legacy of illustrious industrialist Ratan Tata, who passed away at 86 on Wednesday, includes transforming Odisha's industry with projects at Kalinganagar and Gopalpur.

His philanthropic efforts include the Jaga Mission for housing slum dwellers. The Tata Trusts provided disaster relief in Odisha during the 1999 Super Cyclone and Cyclone Fani.

Tata, who visited Odisha multiple times, had come to the State on December 30, 1995 for a steel project at Gopalpur. The then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao laid the foundation-stone for the ambitious project.

Later in 2008, Tata joined hands with the Odisha Government for a Jaga Mission project to provide house to slum dwellers. Besides, the Tata Trusts worked towards education, skill development and healthcare facilities in Odisha.

# Haryana, J&K polls

# High time India switched over to PR system

Allegations of misuse of govt machinery, EVM, etc., must be taken seriously



**MANAS JENA**

The two things most important for the health of a democracy are: (1) free and fair elections and (2) equal value of votes. The recent Assembly elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir clearly shows that no party has secured mandate of majority of voters, (51 percent of votes), as in Haryana both INC and BJP securing close to 40 percent of vote share each and the rest 20 percent by APP, JNP, INLD, BSP, CPIM and others. With a 40 percent vote share, the BJP got 48 seats but with the same percentage of vote INC got 37 seats and others with 20 percent share have only 5 seats. In Jammu and Kashmir, the winning INDIA bloc secured a vote share of 37 percent with 49 seats compared to BJP's 26 percent with 29 seats and the rest parties got 37 percent

vote share with only 12 seats.

This gap in vote share and number of seats indicates that the votes polled by the parties are not equally converted into seats. Therefore, all votes are not valued equally in a democracy and parties without support of the majority of the voters, (51 percent) are easily becoming ruling parties. We must be seriously looking into such limitations of the present First Past the

Post (FPTP) election method being followed in India as it has been generating waste votes making political democracy meaningless as it denies one vote one value.

Considering the coalition nature of politics in the multi-party system of parliamentary democracy and huge diversity among voters, our election system must be representative of all voters rather than reflecting the polarized votes in the name of democracy. Polarization helps the majoritarian parties assert power, denying the minority voters a choice to send their representative. The underrepresented feelings have been widening the social and political gaps among different socio-political groups and increasing a sense of alienation and negligence which is not good for inclusive democracies.

Polarisation encourages violence, caste and communal politics and all kinds of corruption to capture votes by mobilizing a section of voters while neglecting the mandate of the majority of voters. It is very often reported that violence and discrimination have been

practised against the voters of marginalized sections and religious minorities because in the FPTP system of election you do not need the support of the majority of voters to win elections in a particular constituency.

The makers of modern India build political parties as a viable means to mobilise the people of the

country for larger socio-political and socio-economic transformation and democracy as a method of governance in place of imperialist, feudal-monarchs, hegemonic family rule and rule of a few classes/castes. Democracy must be visualized in all spheres of socio-economic and political life of a nation. In a democracy, the method of election to choose a representative is very vital. Otherwise, people slowly lose their faith in elections as the value of their vote does not matter when not converted into seats.

With increasing role of political parties in modern democratic governance, the representation is very vital to reflect the aspiration of the constituencies to whom the leaders are representative but the present voting system does not help in electing the choice of the majority; rather a leader can manipulate to win without support of

as well as to voice their concerns. Their important voice for the interest of people and nation as whole is not being reflected in the Parliament or Assemblies.

In a democracy, the majority of people must have a say in issues affecting their life and livelihood and they must be heard while making policy and legislation that matters to the people and nation. Therefore, it is equally important to give representation to various parties in the Parliament in proportion to their vote share which will strengthen democratic dialogue and debate.

Along with the fault in the election method, there has always been a usual complaint by political parties over free and fair elections. These days, it is mostly over EVM and its operation, in the age of IT and AI which can be best used, and role of Election Commission in conducting elections. The misuse of administration, and use of money and muscle power has virtually debarrd the poorer and marginalised section, religious minorities and socially powerless

candidates from contesting elections. As a result, winning elections has become easier for moneyed and socially powerful people in the name of party-led democracy. Today, a majority of ruling parties in India are mostly managed by moneyed families and socially powerful castes and dominant religious groups. It has been continuing in India in the garb of constitutional democracy under parliamentary form of government in an election system that itself failed to ensure the representation of all votes in decision making bodies.

The EC, political parties and Judiciary must come together to decide over such complaints and make sure a very transparent process takes place. The political parties must take up all these issues in Parliament and make necessary amendments in the Representation of Peoples Act 1951. India must go beyond the traditional ideas and adopt the new appropriate methods of election system to make democracy more representative.

(manasbbsr15@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL CANVAS

# In Sambalpur Wanted criminal nabbed after encounter

Was on run after assaulting Constable  
NIMAIN CHARAN SAHU ■  
SAMBALPUR

A wanted criminal was injured in an encounter with cops on Thursday in the Kantapali Hill area under the Burla police station in Sambalpur district.

He had been absconding after injuring a Burla police station constable on his palm on October 4. He was shot in the leg by Burls PS IIC Anil Kumar Pradhan.

The accused was identified as Kamlu Pradhan (36), a resident of Jharapali village under the Burla PS. The constable attended a helpline 112 call at around 10 am on October 4 and had gone to resolve a dispute between Kamlu and his wife. When the accused saw police, he assaulted them, injuring Constable Saroja Bhoi's palm with a sharp cleaver.



Kamlu fled the scene and had been on the run since then. Bhoi was admitted to the SCB, Medical College Hospital in Cuttack and underwent plastic surgery on his palm.

On Thursday, after getting information about the presence of Kamlu at Kantapali Hill, a Burla police team went to arrest him. During the operation also, he attacked a Sub-Inspector Debashis Khillar, forcing the cops to open fire in self-defence. Kamlu was hit in the right leg and taken into custody.

The Burla IIC said, "As we went to arrest him after getting information about his whereabouts at Kantapali Hill, he again started attacking our team, injuring three fingers of our SI. At that time, I was forced to fire at his leg so that he couldn't move."

Police said the injured SI was admitted to the VIMSAR and his condition was critical. Kamlu was also admitted to the VIMSAR and was stated to be out of danger.

# Fake doctor arrested in Balangir



PNS ■ BALANGIR

A fake doctor, who was running a clinic illegally for more than a decade and a half in the Sainitala area of Balangir district, was arrested on Wednesday.

According to sources, the man without any medical qualification was running the clinic at Tikrapada under the Sainitala police station for the last over 15 years in an illegal manner.

The accused, identified as Bidyut Kumar Biswas of West Bengal, was taken into custody after a team of police and a Drug Inspector conducted a raid at his clinic. Biswas, who has studied up to Plus Two and does not have any medical qualification, was operating illegally. The raid was conducted following complaints by several locals. Huge amounts of medicines, injections and other articles were seized from the clinic during the raid.

# Controversial doc shifted from Talcher

PNS ■ TALCHER

Dr MD Fassy Alam has been transferred from Lingaraj Area, Deulbera hospital to Lakhampur Area as per a recent order from the MCL headquarters. There were repeated complaints against him by the Lingaraj mine workers.

Dr Snehalata Tirky, who is now posted at Talcher Area hospital, Dera, has been transferred to Lingaraj Area.

According to information, the workers of Lingaraj

Open Cast Mines had been often complaining against Dr Alam. He was accused of going to the private hospitals and medicine shops around Angul district to attend patients, neglecting his duty. During the duty hours at Deulbera his behaviour towards patients was rude.

Dr Alam was abusing the mining workers during his duty. Due to repeated incidents, the Lingaraj Coal Mine Workers Union had held strike demanding Dr Alam's immediate transfer from Lingaraj Area.

# Youth jumps into Brahmani in front of father

Goes missing  
NALINI SAHU ■ DHENKANAL

A young man from of Dhenkanal district, identified as Parsuram Kamar, jumped into the Brahmani river from the Baji Rout bridge near Bhuban in front of his father and has since gone missing. The tragic event has left the family devastated.

Kamar, a resident of Kirtanpur village, and his father were returning home on a bicycle after visiting his maternal uncle's house. Midway across the Baji Rout bridge, Kamar suddenly got off the bicycle. Before his father could

grasp the situation, Kamar leapt over the side of the bridge into the river below.

Fire Service personnel's search was halted shortly after due to the poor visibility at night. The search resumed on Thursday morning. However, there was no trace of Kamar so far. This incident was one of several alarming cases this year in Odisha, where individuals jumped from river bridges in suspected suicide attempts. While some were rescued, many cases ended in tragedy. Social activists have repeatedly urged the government to install higher safety barriers on bridges to deter such acts.

# In N'rangpur, K'put Protests against other dists' persons joining as teachers

New appointees seek police intervention  
PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

Denied joining by members of Milita Kriyanustan Committee over district-wise appointments, Junior Teachers (schematic) recently appointed by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, sought the intervention of police for peaceful joining in schools.

In a letter to the Nabarangpur SP, the junior teachers alleged that they are being denied joining in the

school demanding district-specific engagement.

"The Chief Minister of Odisha has presented the engagement order to the newly recruited Junior Teachers on 05.10.2024 at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Around 738 selected candidates have been appointed in Nabarangpur district and they are directed to report before the concerned school point for joining from 07.10.2024 to 21.10.2024," the letter read.

"As such, you are requested to instruct all the Inspector-In-Charges of all

police stations to see that no untoward situation happens during their joining in their allotted schools," it further stated.

Meanwhile, the members of the Milita Kriyanustan Committee in Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri and other districts continued their protest, advocating for district-based jobs amid allegations of job grabbing by people from other districts.

As per reports, out of the total 2,848 teachers' positions in Koraput, only 250 students from the district have availed the appointment while the

rest candidates are from other districts. Similarly, out of 860 posts in Nabarangpur, only a handful of candidates are from the district while the rest are from other districts.

This has spread outrage among local organisations who alleged job grabbing by non-Koraput people and demanded for the rights of the youths of the undivided Koraput district.

While hundreds of youths from tribal-dominated districts are in need of jobs, candidates from other districts often take away their jobs, the protesters alleged.

## INBRIEF

### 2 killed as tanker hits bike in Kendrapada

Kendrapada: Two persons were killed on the spot on the Chandikhol-Paradip road near Alabanka Square in



Kendrapada district on Thursday when their motorbike was hit by a tanker from the rear. Following the incident, tension prevailed at the spot. But the truck driver fled from the spot abandoning the vehicle. Police reached the spot and pacified the agitated locals to control the situation.

### Biker, pillion rider killed in mishap in Bhadrak

Bhadrak: A bike rider and a pillion rider were killed on the spot in a head-on collision with a truck at Bishnupur Chhak on NH-16 in Bhadrak on Thursday. The deceased were identified as Dipti Ranjan and Prashant Swain, who were going towards Bhadrak. Local residents staged a roadblock, protesting against the authorities turning the portion of the NH as one-way. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded on both sides of the road. Police reached the spot and tried to pacify the agitating people.

### BTech student dies in road accident in Gajapati

Paralakhemundi: Near Patikota village under the Gurandi police limits of Gajapati district, a BTech student died in a bike accident and another student was seriously injured. The deceased, identified as A Sohit, was studying at the CUTM. He belonged to Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

### Induction programme for Youth Red Cross held

Bhubaneswar: An induction programme for Youth Red Cross was held under the guidance of Maharshi College of Natural Law Principal. Manju Pattanaik. Red Cross coordinator Sujata



Mohanty coordinated the programme. Junior Red Cross officer and master trainer on first aid Laxman Swain demonstrated different life survival skills like recovery position, CPR, heart attack, snakebite, stroke, bleeding, fracture management to the volunteers so that they can serve the people during the time of emergency. College Vice-Principal Lokanath Parida, Raj Kishore Mishra, Sraddhanjali Swain, Lilakshi Panda Jotirmayee Das and Sameer Sarangi joined the programme to motivate the volunteers.

### Similipal Tiger Reserve reopens

Baripada: The Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district has been reopened for tourists from Thursday after remaining closed since June 12 for the monsoon season. The nature

enthusiasts are allowed to enter the reserve from 6 am to 1 pm. While 35 vehicles are allowed to have entry through the Jahipur-Kaliani gate, 25 vehicles are allowed through the Pithabata entry point.



### Dikshit honoured in Bangalore

Brahmapur: Dr Sadananda Dikshit, national president of Loka Bhasha Prachara Samiti and an ardent supporter of Sanatan culture, has been felicitated by Pujyashri Vidyaprasana Tirtha Swamiji with a national level title plaque Samskruta Sevashri along with a memento and cash award in a special function



held in Bangalore on Wednesday. The function was organised by Samyak Pratishthnam. Notably, Dr Dikshit is spearheading a campaign among the supporters of Brahmin community to construct a Brahmin Bhavan at Puri.

### B'pur scribe Sahu feted by colleagues

Brahmapur: Journalist Sudip Sahu was nominated as president of the Journalists Association of Ganjam district. He was felicitated at the office premises of Anupam Bharat on the occasion. Manager Kuresh Panda, district representative A Raja Rao, special correspondent I Sudam Das, senior assistant editor D Harish Chandra Behera, Pramod Panda, Suranjan Hotta, Rabindra Gouda, Gitanjali Panda, Ramesh Mohapatra, Raghunath Panda, Susanta Padhi, Santosh Kumar Behera, Sanjeev Patra, Krishna Rao, Sanjeev Patnaik, Hrushikesh Panda and many other employees attended and congratulated Sahu.

### CUO celebrates Gopabandhu birth anniversary

Koraput: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) commemorated the birth anniversary of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das on Wednesday. A webinar was organised where Prof



Basanta Kumar Panda, Director of the Centre for Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, delivered the keynote address. CUO Vice-Chancellor Prof Chakradhar Tripathi presided over the session.

DSPL-148

ରାଜ୍ୟ ପରିବହନ ପ୍ରାଧିକରଣ  
ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଗାଧରୀୟ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ମୋଟର ଯାନ ଟିକସ ବକେୟା ଅଛି କି ?

## ଜରିମାନା ଛାଡ଼ର ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ସୁଯୋଗ

**ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବହନ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଚାଲିଥିବା One Time Settlement of Arrear Motor Vehicle Tax / Addl. Tax & Penalty** (ମୋଟର ଯାନ ଟିକସ/ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ଟିକସ/ଜରିମାନାର ଏକକାଳୀନ ସମାଧାନ) ଯୋଜନାର ଲାଭ ଉଠାନ୍ତୁ

ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ/କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ/ଡିନି ଚକିଆ ଆଦି ମୋଟର ଯାନ ପାଇଁ ୩୧ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨୦୨୨ ପୂର୍ବର ବକେୟା ଟିକସ ଏକକାଳୀନ ପୈଠି କଲେ ୧୦୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଜରିମାନା ରାଶି ଛାଡ଼ର ସୁବିଧା ରହିଛି । ବକେୟାର ଅବଧି ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଜରିମାନା ସହ ୫୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ, ୧୦୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଟିକସ ଛାଡ଼ର ବି ସୁଯୋଗ ରହିଛି

ଗାଡ଼ି ସ୍ୱାପି\* କରିବାକୁ ଚାହଁଲେ ୧୦୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ବକେୟା ଛାଡ଼ର ସୁବିଧା ମିଳିଥାଏ

ଏହି ଯୋଜନାରେ ଲାଭ ନେବାର ଶେଷ ଅବଧି ୨୬ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ୨୦୨୪

ସବିଶେଷ ତଥ୍ୟ ଓ ସହାୟତା ପାଇଁ ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ ପରିବହନ ଅଧିକାରୀ (ଆରଟିଓ)ଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

\*ପର୍ଯ୍ୟବନୀ କାର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ

ରାଜ୍ୟ ପରିବହନ ପ୍ରାଧିକରଣ  
OIPR-38003/13/0025/2425 ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବହନ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

# BJP set for swearing-in Haryana post Dussehra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/ CHANDIGARH

The swearing-in of the new BJP government in Haryana is likely to take place after Dussehra and factors like caste and region equations may be considered while deciding the cabinet. A BJP leader from the state said the swearing-in ceremony of the new government is likely to take place after Dussehra festival, which falls on October 12. Haryana can have a maximum of 14 ministers, including the chief minister. BJP now has nine MLAs from the Dalit community, eight with Punjabi origins, seven Brahmins, and six each from the Jats and the Yadavs. The party now also has Gurjars, Rajputs, Vaishyas, and an OBC leader. Eight out of 10 ministers in the outgoing Saini cabinet faced defeat in the Haryana assembly polls. The two who won are Mahipal Dhanda and Mool Chand Sharma from Panipat Rural and Ballabgarh seats respectively. Both Dhanda, who comes from the Jat community, and Sharma, a



senior leader and a Brahmin face, are among the ministerial probables in the new government, sources said. Nayab Singh Saini had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders in Delhi on Wednesday ahead of his likely swearing-in as the head of the new dispensation in the state following the party's win in the assembly polls. On Thursday, Saini also met Union minister and the BJP's election in-charge for

Haryana, Dharmendra Pradhan, in the national capital. The BJP had indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins. The party ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress. The JJP and the AAP were decimated and the INLD managed to win just two

seats. The BJP, which pulled off a hat-trick of wins by bucking anti-incumbency, managed to make significant inroads into the Dalit seats and Jat strongholds and continued its dominance in the Ahirwal belt. Out of 17 Scheduled Caste (SC) seats in Haryana, the BJP won eight assembly constituencies. Among the leaders from the Dalit community who could be in reckoning for the ministerial berths include senior leader Krishan Lal Panwar, who won from Israna seat and Krishan Kumar Panwar, a Rajya Sabha member, had fought the assembly elections. Former MLA Krishan Kumar, who won from Narwana, could also be the ministerial choice. In the Ahirwal belt in south Haryana, the party won ten of the eleven seats. Most of the candidates in this belt are believed to be close to Union Minister and Gurgaon MP, Rao Inderjit Singh. Rao's daughter Arti Singh Rao, who won from Ateli seat, is also in reckoning for a ministerial berth. Om Prakash Yadav,

who won from Narnaul and senior leader Rao Narbir Singh, who won from Badshahpur, are also in the race, sources said. Among other women faces in addition to Arti, senior leader Kiran Choudhry's daughter Shruti, a former MP, who won from Tosham assembly seat, Shakti Rani Sharma, who won from Kalka, are also in the race. While all the three independents who won have declared that they will support the new government once it is formed, among them Hisar MLA Savitri Jindal's name has not been ruled out from the ministerial race, sources said. Among others in contention include BJP leaders Anil Vij (Ambala Cantt), Shyam Singh Rana (Radaur), Jagmohan Anand (Karnal), Harvinder Kalyan (Gharaunda), Krishan Lal Middha (Jind), Arvind Kumar Sharma (Gohana), Vipul Goel (Faridabad), Nikhil Madaan (Sonapat) and Ghanshyam Dass (Yamunanagar). Devender Attri, who won from Uchana Kalan, is also a probable.

# Aviation pioneer Ratan Tata's legacy lives on

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI

An architect by qualification and an aviator by passion, Ratan Tata embarked on his heavenly journey more than two-and-a-half years after losing-making Air India fly back to the Tata hangar. Ratan Tata, 86, breathed his last on the night of October 9, little over a month before the completion of the Air India-Vistara merger that will also see Singapore Airlines snapping up 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. He flew planes and fighter aircraft but his longing for Tatas to pilot Air India again remained a dream till January 2022. For years, many headwinds came the way in the group's efforts to come back into the aviation space through Air India. Finally, the aviation efforts took wings, first with AirAsia India and the second with Vistara, a joint venture with Singapore Airlines. AirAsia India which changed its name to AIX Connect and got merged with Air India Express on October 1 this year first took to the skies in 2014

as a joint venture with Malaysia's AirAsia Berhad. The budget airline later was wholly-owned by the Tata Group. Vistara started flying in January 2015 as a full-service carrier. "The Tata Group welcomes Air India's new customers and is excited to work together to make Air India the airline of choice in terms of passenger comfort and service," Ratan Tata said in a message days after completing the acquisition of the airline on January 27, 2022. Set up by JRD Tata in 1932, Tata Airlines was later nationalised and the name was also changed to Air India. Over the years, Ratan Tata's longing to bring back Air India under the stewardship of Tata Group remained a dream. Back in 1994, Tata Group and Singapore Airlines made efforts to set up a joint venture airline in India. Six years later, they again tried to enter the country's aviation market, this time by teaming up to acquire stakes in Air India. However, the two attempts did not take-off. Finally, the

dream was realised as Vistara took to the Indian skies in January 2015. And in November 2022, Tata Group announced the merger of Vistara with Air India. Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong, who described Tata as a cherished partner and a dear friend, said Tata played a pivotal role in setting up Vistara over a decade ago, laying the foundation for a strong and enduring relationship between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines. According to Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan, the aviation vertical was especially close to Tata's heart. In the words of Remi Maillard, President & Managing Director at Airbus India & South Asia, Tata's passion for aviation is well known and his zeal and vision for the revival of Air India as part of the Tata family will continue to inspire. While paying tributes to Tata, InterGlobe Enterprises Group Managing Director Rahul Bhatia on Thursday said IndiGo will, ever so modestly, walk alongside Air India to secure India's rightful seat at the centre stage of global aviation.

# RSS to hold national executive meeting in Mathura

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Senior RSS functionaries will deliberate on a range of contemporary issues and chalk out future plans during a two-day national executive meeting of the organisation scheduled to begin in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura on October 25. The meeting in Parkham village near the temple town will also discuss the "organisational goals" that has to be achieved by next year when the RSS completes 100 years of its foundation, according to a statement uploaded by the organisation on its website on Thursday. "This year, the meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is going to be held on 25 and 26 October in Parkham village



near Mathura in Braj province of western Uttar Pradesh," RSS national media and communications in-charge Sunil Ambekar said in the statement. All the heads of the RSS' 46 provincial units, general secretaries and 'pracharaks' are expected to attend the meeting, he said.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, general secretary Dattatereya Hosabale, all joint general secretaries and other members of the national executive will be present at the meeting, he added. Ahead of the national executive meeting, Bhagwat will deliver his annual speech on the occasion of Vijayadashami at Reshimbau ground in Nagpur on Saturday. "There will be a detailed discussion in the meeting on the plans for follow-up of the important issues (to be mentioned in the speech of the Sarsangchalak ji (RSS chief) on the occasion of Vijayadashami," Ambekar said. The national executive at its meeting will also discuss "contemporary issues" in the country, he added.

# CJI advocates judicial independence and transparency at Bhutan forum

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

Judges are supposed to act in a manner that is "unencumbered" by popular morality while deciding constitutional and legal questions, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has said. The CJI on Wednesday was speaking at the Bhutan Distinguished Speakers' Forum, a part of the Jigme Singye Wangchuck Lecture Series, on the subject of 'Judicial legitimacy through accessibility, transparency and technology: the Indian experience'. He also spoke on the credibility of judiciary and the "institutional trust" bestowed in courts. The 50th CJI said institutional trust in courts and their credibility was the very basis of a thriving constitutional order

and the courts did not directly hold resources as trustees of people. "Public trust is central to the credibility of the judicial branch which is otherwise insulated from public opinion in its operations as it must be. The Indian Supreme Court prides itself in being the people's court," the CJI said. Judiciary on several occasions questioned the distributional fairness of state largesse such as contracts and natural resources by other wings of the government, he added. He further opined that though as public functionaries, courts were vested with the responsibility to give effect to equity, these judicial bodies were not directly in charge of the manner in which resources were to be distributed. "It does, however, fall upon us

to adjudicate the fairness of that distribution, should it be questioned," added the CJI. Distinguishing between the role of the political executive and the judiciary, he emphasised that at the level of the trial courts, judicial officers were trained to apply the letter and the spirit of the law with clinical detachment from the popularity of their decisions. "Judges are supposed to act in a manner that is unencumbered by popular morality when deciding Constitutional or legal questions," he said. According to the CJI, it was in that sense that neither the appointment, nor the continuity of judges was determined by the popular mandate enjoyed by their decisions. "In fact populist

decision-making sits rather uncomfortably on the sinewy shoulders of judicial independence," he said. Highlighting the importance of transparency, CJI Chandrachud said sunlight was not only the best disinfectant but also begets public trust and helps keep the house in order and serves as an internal check on the functioning of the courts across the country. "It ensures that our institutions are better-managed and use their resources effectively," he said, adding that measures such as live-streaming of court proceedings have helped foster internal efficiency, accountability and institutional stability. He also referred to the concept of Public Interest

Litigation jurisdiction in India and said it became a unique part of the nation's constitutional order, which was co-opted by several other jurisdictions. "Substantive outcomes are only a part of the courts' accountability. Judicial institutions are assessed by the people based on substantive metrics such as consistency of outcomes and adherence to constitutional values of equity, fairness and justice," he said. Pointing out that not only judicial decisions but also the roads leading up to them, must be transparent, navigable by everyone with or without a legal education and must be broad enough to accommodate everyone, the CJI said India has been using technology to counter barriers to accessibility to the courts.

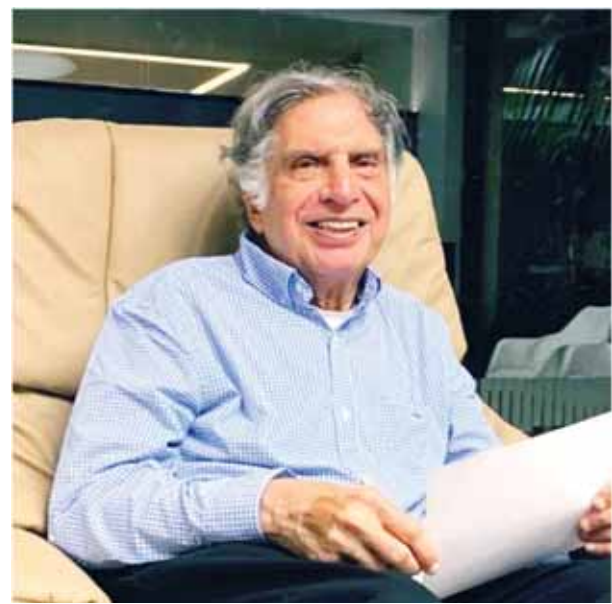
# Bollywood mourns industrialist Ratan Tata's demise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/ HYDERABAD

Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, and SS Rajamouli were among the prominent cinema personalities who mourned the death of Tata Group's chairman emeritus and legendary industrialist Ratan Tata. Telugu film personalities, including Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, Junior NTR and others on Thursday mourned the demise of veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, hailing his philanthropy and contributions to the country's industrial progress. Bachchan called Tata's death the end of an era. The megastar, who along with Bipasha Basu and John Abraham, had worked in the 2004 film 'Aetbaar' produced by Tata. "Just came to learn of the passing of Shri Ratan Tata ... Was working very late ... An era has ended ... A most respected, humble yet visionary leader of immense

foresight and resolve. Spent some wonderful moments with him, during several Campaigns we were involved in together. My prayers," Bachchan said in a social media post. Basu remembered the industrialist for his simplicity and empathy. In a social media post, Salman said he was "deeply saddened" by Tata's passing. "Goodbye to The Titan... Fly high like you loved... And oh how you taught us to love," Kareena Kapoor Khan wrote alongside a picture of a younger Tata, who held licenses to fly both jets and helicopters, sitting in a fighter plane. Ajay Devgn, who was one of the first film stars to pay condolence, said the world mourns the loss of a visionary. "Ratan Tata's legacy will forever inspire generations. His contributions to India and beyond are immeasurable. We are deeply grateful. Rest in peace, Sir," he wrote on the microblogging

site. Priyanka said Tata touched the lives of millions through his kindness. Alia Bhatt said Tata taught multiple generations "what it is to give". Diljit, who is currently on the European leg of his 'Dil-Luminati Tour', paid homage to the entrepreneur at his concert in Dusseldorf, Germany. "It was important to mention his name here because his life was all about hard work. I never read anywhere that he spoke ill of anyone. "He did hard work and charity, and that's what life is. To be helpful to people. He lived an unblemished life," said the singer-actor, in a video posted by his team on social media. Legends are born, and they live forever, said Rajamouli. "It's hard to imagine a day without using a TATA product. Ratan Tata's legacy is woven into everyday life. If anyone will stand the test of time alongside the



Panchabhootas, it's him," the filmmaker said. Akshay Kumar said he was "heartbroken" to hear about Tata's demise. "The world bids farewell to a man who built more than just an empire... His legacy of

kindness, innovation, and leadership will continue to inspire generations. Rest in peace, a true legend. Om Shanti," he wrote on X. Dharmendra said his dream of meeting Tata remained unfulfilled. "A humble king,

who after his workers like his own children. Sir, you will always be remembered with great love and respect," the veteran star said in a social media post. Actor-host Simi Garewal, who once hosted Tata on her popular talk show 'Rendezvous With Simi Garewal', penned a heartfelt note for him. "They say you have gone. It's too hard to bear your loss too hard Farewell my friend," she wrote. Veteran actor and TMC MP Shatrughan Sinha called Tata "Bharat Ratna" in true sense. "Finest human being, philanthropist business tycoon our very own #RatanTata is no more. His contributions to society/nation are enormous. Thoughts & prayers are with the family & friends in their hour of grief for their irreplaceable & irreparable loss. Rest in eternal peace (sic)" Sinha wrote. Ranveer Singh shared a black-and-white photo of Tata with an infinity emoticon. For

Kamal Haasan, he was a "personal hero". "A national treasure whose contributions in nation-building shall forever be etched in the story of modern India. His true richness lay not in material wealth but in his ethics, integrity, humility and patriotism," he wrote. The "Indian 2" star recalled meeting Tata in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks while he was staying at the iconic Taj Hotel. "In that moment of national crisis, the titan stood tall and became the embodiment of the Indian spirit, to rebuild and emerge stronger as a nation." Actor and fellow Parsi Boman Irani praised Tata for his contributions to the country, ranging from industry, philanthropy, elegance, humanity and his angelic devotion to animals. "What an honourable human being. Rest in peace Sir," said Sushmita Sen. "Deeply saddened by the tragic news of Shri Ratan Tata. He upheld the

values of integrity, grace, dignity through everything he did and was truly an icon and Taj of India. RIP Sir, you have touched so many lives," wrote actor Anushka Sharma. Telugu film personalities, including Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu, Junior NTR mourned the demise of veteran industrialist, hailing his philanthropy and contributions to the country's industrial progress. Ratan Tata's demise is a sad day for all Indians. For generations together, there is not a single Indian whose life has not been touched by his services one way or the other, Chiranjeevi said. "One of the greatest visionaries our country has ever seen, a truly legendary industrialist, a philanthropist extraordinaire and a human being par excellence, Shri Ratan Tata's contributions not only built the Illustrious TATA brand into a global powerhouse but also stupendously contributed to our Nation building," he said.

# CDSCO scrutinises social media influencers promoting misleading medical content

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Social media influencers and telehealth companies engaged in promoting false and misleading medical prescriptions or medicines on online platforms beware! They are under the scrutiny of India's top drug regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) aiming to protect consumers from false claims that promise quick fixes, ensuring that accurate and safe medical information prevails. "We are taking appropriate actions against such deceptive medical contents" Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), CDSCO Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi said, though he did not share the



number of such cases in which action has been taken so far. The DCGI was talking to reporters on the sidelines of the CII Pharma and Life Sciences summit here recently. Consumer activists have been raising concerns about the potential risks posed by influencers and telehealth companies that disseminate deceptive medical content for

commercial gain on social media. This can place consumers at risk of severe and lasting side effects, underscoring the need for vigilance in monitoring such promotions, they say. To another query, Raghuvanshi said that manufacturers of around 45 medicines have been ordered to recall their products for not meeting quality norms, while action has been initiated to book the makers of five spurious drugs. Every month, he said the CDSCO samples and tests about more than 2,000 samples from the market, and out of that, "some 40-50, of them fail in one or the other parameter, which could be very minor parameters, also not of any health risk and we

put those details on our portal." The Drug and Cosmetics Act, has all the provisions to take care of the issue related to fake medicine and spurious drugs, he said. Last month, more than 50 drugs, including antacids and paracetamol, were listed in CDSCO's monthly list of substandard or fake medicines sold in India. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Secretary Arunish Chawla talked about the measures being taken for drug development in India and said that as many as 16 blockbuster molecules targeted for a wide range of therapeutic areas, including cancer, diabetes, HIV and tuberculosis, are in the pipeline to be produced in India.

# NHRC seeks explanation from Delhi authorities over fatal drain incidents

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has raised concerns over five fatal incidents involving open drains in the national capital reported over the past four months, including the recent death of a five-year-old boy in Alipur. Other cases involved a 32-year-old man in Bhajanpura, a seven-year-old boy in Ashok Vihar, and fatalities in Ghazipur and Burari. Taking serious view in the matter highlighting gross negligence by civic authorities the Apex human rights body on Thursday said that it has issued notices to the Delhi Government, the city police chief, the DDA and the MCD over reports that a five-year-old boy died allegedly after falling into an open drain in Alipur area of northwest Delhi on October 7.



The NHRC has observed the contents of the news report about death of the boy last week and noted that the contractor, who worked there, had reportedly left the drain open at various places without placing any warning signs, the statement by the NHRC said. This case and similar incidents in the recent past, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of the human rights of the victims due to

apparent negligence of the civic authorities, said the rights body. It is indeed very concerning that such incidents indicating negligence by the public authorities continue to happen in the national capital. Many human lives were reported lost due to drowning and electrocution in Delhi of which it had taken suo motu cognisance and asked the authorities to be vigilant, the rights panel

said. Accordingly, "it has issued notices to the chief secretary, government of Delhi, the commissioner of Delhi Police, the vice-chairman of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), seeking a detailed report within four weeks," the statement said. The report is expected to include the status of the FIRs in all such cases, action taken against officials responsible, and compensation, if any, paid to the next of kin of the deceased. The Commission would also like to know about the steps taken or proposed by the authorities to stop recurrence of such incidents, the statement said. The NHRC emphasised the need for accountability and improved safety measures to prevent such tragedies in the future.

# Congress marginalised in UP as alliance with SP teeters

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party's (SP) recent decision to field six candidates for the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, without consulting Congress, has cast a shadow on the INDIA alliance's stability, particularly in the state. This move highlights the growing friction between SP and Congress, sparking concerns over Congress's diminishing role in the alliance and its potential marginalization in Uttar Pradesh's political landscape. The timing could not be worse for Congress, which has been struggling to regain ground after a disappointing performance in the Haryana elections. Political observers argue that this setback has further weakened Congress's bargaining power within the INDIA bloc, especially in states dominated by powerful regional parties like SP. The unilateral decision by SP hints

at the internal tug-of-war within the alliance and Congress's shrinking clout in crucial decision-making processes. Political commentator Manoj Bhadra expressed concern over SP's announcement. "By declaring candidates without consulting Congress, SP has signaled a shift in its strategy. The Congress-SP alliance, which showed some success in past elections, seems to be unraveling." He said that the two parties had previously collaborated effectively, stalling the BJP's advance in UP. However, the latest development shows SP distancing itself from Congress, possibly questioning the party's relevance in the alliance. A senior SP leader, speaking anonymously, highlighted Congress's eroding voter base and urged the party to reassess its rigid approach to seat-sharing. "Congress needs to be realistic. Their recent defeat in Haryana shows a



clear decline. If they continue with their stubborn approach, their risk being left out of the political game in UP." Reports indicate that Congress had initially sought to contest five seats in the by-elections—seats currently held by the BJP. However, SP's move to go ahead without their input has strained relations. "Despite Congress requesting a share of five seats, SP's independent decisions reflect Congress's diminishing influence in Uttar Pradesh," a senior Congress leader admitted. Congress's UP in-charge, Avinash Pandey, acknowl-

edged that SP had sidelined the party during the candidate selection process but remained hopeful of an eventual agreement. "We still believe that an alliance is possible. Congress and SP can, and should, contest these by-elections together," he said, trying to downplay the tension. Ajay Rai, President of UP Congress, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing that their "Samvidhan Bachao" campaign would proceed in all 10 constituencies, showing Congress's intent to remain active despite the uncertainty. "I am optimistic we can still join forces with SP for these by-elections," Rai remarked. Yet, SP's national spokesperson, Amik Jamei, took a more critical stance, attributing Congress's struggles to internal discord and strategic missteps. "If Congress had involved Akhilesh Yadav in key campaign efforts, they might have fared better in recent elections. Congress needs to rethink its approach," Jamei argued, stressing the importance of cooperation in challenging the BJP. While tensions persist, SP spokesperson Manoj Kumar Yadav tried to smooth over the situation, reaffirming SP's

focus on defeating the BJP, regardless of internal alliance issues. "Our target remains defeating the BJP, and we've done it before. Congress needs to reflect on its position and work with us, not against us." Rajendra Chaudhary, another SP spokesperson, indicated that decisions regarding seat-sharing would ultimately be made by Akhilesh Yadav himself, further suggesting that Congress's role in these negotiations is far from secure. A senior Congress leader acknowledged the delicate situation, stating, "This shouldn't become a matter of prestige. We should accept a couple of seats and contest alongside SP. We must face reality: our current strength may not be enough to match the BJP's formidable machinery." Among SP's candidates is Tej Pratap Yadav, Lalu Prasad Yadav's son-in-law, who will contest the Karhal seat vacat-

ed by Akhilesh Yadav following his election to Parliament. Other notable candidates include Naseem Solanki (Sisamau), Mustafa Siddiqui (Phulpur), Ajit Prasad (Milkipur), Shobhavati Verma (Kathehri), and Dr. Jyoti Bind (Manjhanpur), all boasting solid political credentials. The upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, while regional in nature, carry national implications. They will serve as a litmus test for the INDIA alliance, formed to counter BJP's dominance. The alliance, including Congress, SP, and other regional players, is already feeling the strain of internal divisions and seat-sharing conflicts. Whether it can hold together against the BJP's formidable electoral machine will be clearer once these crucial by-election results are in. The outcome may well shape the future dynamics of opposition politics heading into the 2024 general elections.

## Omar set to don CM's hat, BJP in opposition seat

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

With Omar Abdullah set to don the Chief Minister's hat in the absence of PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, who decided against contesting the Assembly polls, the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has been left open for a handful of six opposition members from Kashmir and a 29 member saffron brigade from Jammu region to play the role of an effective opposition. The opposition benches will be occupied by the 29 BJP MLAs along with three legislators from the Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples' Conference Chief Sajad Lone, and two other independent legislators from Langate and Shopian. Since 2002, leaders belonging to the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and the



Peoples Democratic Party have occupied the chair of the leader of the opposition. However, this time when Omar Abdullah occupies the chair of the leader of the house in the assembly, he

will face a BJP leader in front of him as leader of the opposition. BJP is returning to the opposition benches after enjoying a short stint in power for almost three years (between March 2015 and June 2018). Though BJP legislators always occupied the opposition benches, this will be the first time in the history of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly that a BJP leader

will be occupying the post of leader of the opposition. So far the BJP has not convened a meeting to formally elect the leader of the legislative party in the house. When PDP-BJP formed an alliance government in March 2015 Omar Abdullah, with a strength of 15 members in the house remained leader of the opposition. Mehbooba Mufti also served as leader of the opposition at the beginning of her political career before founding PDP in 1999. It is for the first time that Kashmir Valley will have only six members in the opposition camp. In 2002, when Mufti Mohd Sayeed formed an alliance government with the congress party the National Conference had 28 members in the opposition, majority of them hailed from Kashmir. In 2008 PDP occupied the opposition benches with 21 members.

## BJP MLA slapped during Lakhimpur Urban Cooperative Bank elections

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** ■ LUCKNOW

The incident of BJP MLA Yogesh Verma being slapped during the Lakhimpur Urban Cooperative Bank elections has taken the nation by storm through social media. A video of the MLA being attacked went viral rapidly on platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp. Former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav took to Facebook to comment on the situation, mocking the BJP by stating that "injustice leads to violence" and accusing the ruling party of making electoral malpractice a strategy. Similarly, Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Shivalp Yadav expressed concern through posts on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook, saying that the state's condition has become grave, with even ruling party legislators no longer safe.

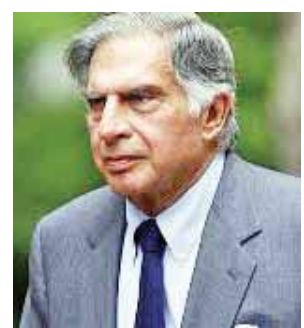
Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai also condemned the incident via a post on X. Throughout the day, a video of the altercation during the nomination process of the Urban Cooperative Bank's governing body, in which MLA Yogesh Verma was assaulted, remained one of the top trending topics on X. His name ranked fourth on the platform's trending list, with over 9,000 posts. Many users shared the video, further fueling the online buzz. In addition to Yogesh Verma, the name of Awadhesh Singh, the person accused of slapping the MLA, trended throughout the day. Numerous posts highlighted Singh's involvement in the incident. The hashtag "Bank Elections" also trended, ranking 24th, with more than 1,800 posts, where users expressed varied opinions on the matter. What is usually a low-key elec-

tion for the Urban Cooperative Bank has turned into a battleground this year. The nomination process saw abuses, fights, chaos, and accusations flying between various factions. The violence during the nomination filing has raised serious questions about the preparedness of the administration to handle such situations. The bank has around 12,500 shareholders who cast their votes to elect delegates and a chairman. The nomination process for the elections began on Wednesday, with the withdrawal of nominations scheduled for the 10th, followed by the publication of the final list and the allocation of election symbols on the 11th. However, since the notification for this year's elections, the entire process has been under intense scrutiny. The situation escalated further on Tuesday, and finally, violence erupted on Wednesday.

## Ratan Tata: Admired and adored in Kerala

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■ KOCHI

M Abdul Rehman, a 68-year-old shop keeper in Kerala's Perumbavoor is one of the billions of Indians who are in mourning. Though he has not personally met Ratan Tata, the trailblazer of India Inc, who breathed his last late Wednesday night, Rehman prayed throughout the day for Ratan Tata. Rehman was an employee of Tata Oil Company in Ernakulam and remembers each day of his life in the company. "What made TOMCO, who was owned and managed by Tata Group during my tenure, was their attitude and approach to the employees. Workers who were not in the best of health were asked to spend their time in the company's Club House where all they need to do was to sit, chat and consume the best tea we had tasted," reminisces Rehman. The Ernakulam TOMCO manufactured brand soaps like Hamam, Jai and Moti besides a popular washing soap under the 501 brand name. "The company also made Tata Hair Oil and shampoos that were unique in all respect. The manufacturing process and packing were of global standards. The hair oil and shampoo were trend-setters," said Rehman. When the company found the going tough and lost its market share to its competitor, Tatas sold it out to their nearest rivals and this marked the end of the Group's odyssey with soap manufacturing. Though Hamam brand is still there in the market, Jai, Moti, hair oils and shampoos are dead and gone. "There was an elegance attached to all the brands which hit the market under the Tata logo," said Rehman, who was given the pink slip once the company changed hands. Though the name Tata Oil Mills too is gone, the locality where the company stands is still known by the name Tatapuram. There are many writers, actors and musicians who have the prefix Tatapuram attached to their names. Ever heard of



Tatapuram Sukumaran who survived as a short story writer only because of the Tata tag? There are many charity organizations in Kerala fully funded by the Tata Group. Ratan Tata took special care in ensuring that these establishments (ranging from schools and hostels for children suffering from autism to hospitals) never faced any shortage of funds. The "Ratan" of Corporate last visited Kerala in 2009 when he stayed in Munnar where the Tatas have one of the largest tea estates in south India. Anil Kumar, the chauffeur who drove around Ratan Tata in Munnar and Devikulam had told this reporter that he saw simplicity and humility personified while he was driving Ratan Tata around. What Parsi Khabar (the news letter brought out by the Zoroastrian community said in its obituary to the prince of Indian business sums up what Ratan Tata has done to the world. "He is survived by his extended family at the Tata Group and the countless lives he touched, mentored, and inspired. His memory will continue to be a beacon of hope, reminding us that the greatest legacies are built not with bricks and mortar, but with love, generosity, and a deep sense of responsibility toward others. He is on his journey to Garothman Behest (the highest paradise in Zoroastrian belief) after 86 years of life full of Humata, Hukhta and Hvarshta (good thoughts, good words and good deeds), the one and only ideology of the Parsi community immortalized by the likes of Ratan Tata, JRD and Jamshedji Tata.

## 96 per cent MLAs crorepatis, 12 have criminal cases in Haryana: ADR

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ NEW DELHI

In the newly-elected 90-member Haryana Assembly, 96 per cent MLAs (86) are crorepatis, while 13 per cent (12) have criminal cases against them, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Haryana Election Watch. An analysis of the affidavits of all the 90 winning candidates by the ADR show a slight rise in the number of crorepati MLAs, from 93 per cent in 2019 to 96 per cent this time. Of the 90 MLAs, 44 per cent possess assets worth over Rs 10 crore, while only 2.2 per cent have assets below Rs 20

lakh, the data showed. The average assets per winning candidate stand at Rs 24.97 crore, marking a handsome rise from Rs 18.29 crore in 2019. Party-wise, 96 per cent BJP legislators, 95 per cent Congress MLAs, and 100 per cent of both INLD and Independent winners have declared assets exceeding Rs 1 crore. Independent MLA from Hisar Savitri Jindal tops the list with assets totalling over Rs 270 crore, followed by BJP's Shakti Rani Sharma and Shruti Choudhry at Rs 145 crore and Rs 134 crore, respectively. A total of 30 MLAs have been re-elected in 2024, whose



average assets grew by 59 per cent since 2019, from Rs 9.08 crore to Rs 14.46 crore now, marking significant financial gains over the past five years. Meanwhile, of the winning

candidates, 12 have disclosed criminal records, including six facing serious charges with one accused of attempt to murder, the data showed. In 2019, seven candidates had

serious criminal cases against them. Party-wise, 19 per cent Congress MLAs, 6 per cent BJP legislators, and 67 per cent of the Independent winners have declared criminal cases against their names. The analysis also showed that 28 winning candidates have declared liabilities of Rs 1 crore or more, with Congress' Rajbir Fartia from Loharu topping the chart at Rs 44 crore. Fartia also tops the list of highest income earners, declaring an earning of Rs 10.75 crore in his Income Tax Return for 2023-24. In terms of educational qualification, 68 per cent winning candidates are graduates or hold

higher degrees, while 29 per cent have educational backgrounds ranging from Class 8 to Class 12, as per the report. The new House has 14 per cent women legislators, an increase from 10 per cent in 2019, while 66 per cent of the MLAs are aged between 51 and 80 years. The poll results were announced Tuesday. Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt. While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were decimated and the INLD managed to win just two seats.

## NIA chargesheets members of human trafficking gang sending Indians to Laos Indians being sent to Chinese cybercrime sweatshops

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against members of a human trafficking gang that was sending Indians to Laos to work in cyber crime sweatshops run by Chinese scammers targeting European and American citizens. The agency filed its charge sheet before a special court on Wednesday against gang members Manjoor Alam alias Guddu, Sahil, Ashish alias Akhil, Pawan Yadav alias Afzal alias Afroz, along with the key conspirator, Kamran Haider alias Zaidi. "NIA investigations have revealed that all five were involved in trafficking vulnerable Indian youth to the Golden Triangle Region in Lao PDR where they were forced to commit cyber scams targeting European and American citizens. They operated through the consultancy firm, Ali International Services, which functioned as a front for human trafficking," an NIA spokesperson said in a statement.



According to the agency's investigation, Zaidi facilitated the entire operation and extorted money through crypto currency wallets from the victims who tried to escape from the clutches of the Chinese scammers. "Pawan Yadav bypassed the other middle agents to supply the trafficked persons in lieu of jobs directly to his folds. He further employed them in Chinese companies involved in creating fake Facebook profiles and chatting with persons from the USA and Europe, convincing them to invest in crypto currency apps as part of the cyber scam," the NIA said.

The agency said its probe has uncovered a well-organised network of traffickers and touts involved in various illegal activities. "These ranged from the operation of unlicensed manpower supply agencies to the illegal transfer and transport of potential victims for criminal activities in Southeast Asian countries. The accused named in the charge sheet were directly involved in arranging flight tickets and documents, and facilitating illegal border crossings with the help of contacts in the Golden Triangle Region," the statement added.

## Condition of fasting doctors deteriorates on fifth day in Bengal

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

The condition of the junior doctors sitting on an indefinite fast in demand of Justice in the RG Kar rape and murder case worsened on the fifth day of the fast, doctors attending on them said. The condition of two doctors Aniket and Snigdha was particularly bad, sources said adding 120 hours of ceaseless fasting had started impacting their kidneys and livers and "things can go for worse anytime." "Though we have an ICU ambulance ready to ferry them to hospital they are not willing... Both the doctors refused to leave Esplanade the place where they are fasting," said Dr Saikat Neogi who was one of many medicines monitoring the junior doctors' health. Seven doctors from various medical colleges including the RGMCH have been on an indefinite fast demanding apart from justice for the RG Kar victim other measures including immediate installation of centralized referral system with real-time monitoring, fool-proof security measures for the medical staff inside Government hospitals, installation of CCTV camera network, restrooms and wash-



rooms for the doctors end to the threat syndicate in government run medical colleges that had allegedly led to large-scale corruption and extortion racket inside the medical colleges etc, the doctors have also been demanding the removal of Principal Health Secretary NS Nigam. A mid-night dialogue between State Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and a delegation of junior doctors alleged failed with the doctors alleging that the officials only "expressed intent" but gave no written assurance on deadline by when things would be implemented. "The administration had nothing new to offer... they were evasive and were only buying time apparently to let the Durga Puja holidays pass off... but we are asking them to consider the immediacy and urgency of the issue,"

the doctors said. The Home Secretary and Health Secretary were also present in the talks. "In this situation if something happens to the junior doctors then the Government will be held fully responsible," said Dr Kinjal Nanda adding if the situation of the doctors aggravated they could even have hypoglycemia. Meanwhile in a related development the doctors of SSKM Postgraduate medical college and Hospital the biggest such facility in eastern India too started resigning their posts with 40 of them on Thursday offered mass resignation in reaction to what they called "Government's insensitivity to the situation of the doctors." With Thursday's resignations the number of doctors resigning their posts reached 300, sources said.



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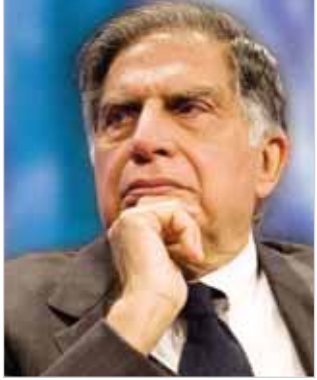
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PAPER WITH PASSION

## India loses its 'Ratan'

Ratan Tata not only redefined Indian business practices but also set new standards for ethical leadership and corporate responsibility

The passing of Ratan Tata, one of India's most influential and revered business leaders, marks the end of an era for Indian industry and philanthropy. A visionary who transformed the Tata Group into a global powerhouse, Ratan Tata not only redefined Indian business practices but also set new standards for ethical leadership and corporate responsibility. His demise has left an indelible void in the Indian business landscape and his contributions will continue to shape India's socio-economic fabric for generations to come. Ratan Tata's leadership of the Tata Group from 1991 to 2012 is widely recognised as a period of extraordinary innovation and growth. He was instrumental in leading the conglomerate's diversification, moving it beyond its traditional industries like steel and textiles into sectors such as information technology, automotive, telecommunications and hospitality. Under his stewardship, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became a global leader in IT services. Tata Motors expanded its reach with the acquisitions of British automotive giants Jaguar and Land Rover in 2008. Tata's vision of making India a global player was rooted in a deep sense of nationalism, combined with a keen awareness of global business trends. Ratan Tata's most cherished moment came when Tata Motors launched the Nano in 2008 despite all odds. Though the Nano did not achieve commercial success, the boldness of the vision highlighted Tata's commitment to solving Indian problems with innovative solutions and realising the aspirations of Indian middle class. Known for his humility and discretion, he always emphasised that businesses should serve society at large. "We have to touch the lives of people in ways



that matter," Tata often said. Nearly two-thirds of Tata Group's profits are directed to social work through Tata Trusts, a remarkable legacy in Indian philanthropy. The Tata Trusts, under his guidance, funded several initiatives in healthcare, education and rural development. Tata maintained a reputation for being soft-spoken and modest, rarely allowing his personal life to take centre stage in the public eye. His leadership during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, where the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel was one of the primary targets, showed his resilience. Tata visited the families of affected staff members, providing support and ensuring that the hotel was rebuilt, symbolising the spirit of survival and recovery. Despite numerous achievements, Tata faced failures with grace. His decisions, such as the Nano, received criticism, but he handled setbacks with the dignity that defined him. His resilience and forward-thinking approach is his legacy that would inspire many. Ratan Tata's life was not just about business. His love for architecture, aviation and cars was well known. Despite his status as one of India's richest individuals, he led a simple life, often seen without an entourage, and known for driving himself. With Ratan Tata's passing, India has lost a visionary and a kind hearted leader who would be remembered for his achievements and resilience. Rest in peace!

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### PICTALK



People purchase decorative items from a shop ahead of 'Ayudha Pooja' festival, in Bengaluru

The rains were here. They were here for a long time-if one goes by the weeks and months, the news channels were reporting their havoc from one end of the country to the other. From streets in Surat to fields in Biral of Darbhanga, water was found everywhere. From the hills of Himachal to the banks of Kavery, water was found in all the wrong places. Physical devastation and human tragedy were writ large. Rains are not new, and equally clearly, technology is progressing by leaps and bounds.

One wonders when 'the train shall meet'. One would have thought that repeated experiences, such as what Kosi has caused in north Bihar, would have changed the contours of its effects. It would not be the same in terms of embankments breaking in the same style, and it would not be the same manner of misery caused by the devastation of fragile huts and repeated breaking of embankments over and over again. Surely the country that boasts the landing on the moon and explorations of the planet can better respond to the devastations of nature.

There is a missing link somewhere which is so close to all that it's not even visible to the affected people. In some other countries, people are talking and doing as it were. They are changing the course of rivers and planning habitation in a manner that makes life less vulnerable and the potential for tragedy more manageable. To get back to the example of Bihar, whether it be the neighbourhood of the Budhi Gandak River or Kosi, habitations have been built to keep them away from the reach of floods.

However, the devastations have their ways of surprising. Consider the recent claim of the UGC Chairman in the printed world about the citations of Indian research in international forums. Consider the pronouncement of the political elite on the scientific breakthroughs of leading centres of science and

technology in the world of research.

All of them are legitimate claims duly annotated and evidence tested. The question remains how much of this technology has altered the quality of life of the people? It is not all a dreary story. Technology has changed the lives of several crores of people, especially in matters which have to do with the supply of clean water. This is as true as the story of the fury of floods.

However, somewhere the coexistence of such opposite experiences remains an enigma and difficult to explain. Science and technology cannot be bereft of responsibilities to society at large. Equally clear is the fact that death and destruction experiences would serve as the bottom line of the outcomes of devastation.

Somehow a bottom connection between technological progress and its tangible effects needs to be established. Somewhere the definition of progress and growth

# Why technology can't ease people's suffering



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

While advancements in technology have improved lives in many areas, the failure to mitigate the destruction caused by recurring floods exposes a glaring disconnect



THEY ARE CHANGING THE COURSE OF RIVERS AND PLANNING HABITATION IN A MANNER THAT MAKES LIFE LESS VULNERABLE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR TRAGEDY MORE MANAGEABLE

has to cover elimination of the same stories of destruction and death in the same regions over and over again. So long as the devastation of Kosi remains an annual affair with the same results most of the time, there is something in the developmental agenda that needs to be addressed. It is not an easy question to answer, especially after decades of application of the prescriptions whether it be a Planning Commission or the Niti Ayog. These questions need to be flagged and repeated till answers are found. In a country filled with bright people like India, there must be actionable solutions to mitigate human misery. Perhaps the part answer would lie in empowering local people with skills, resources, and more to handle local problems. Higher levels of administration, like the district at the state level, have to deal with issues of connectivity, coordination, mobilisation of resources, and using the skills of the people with commitment in

that part of the country to work for the welfare of the local context and the local circumstances. Far too much have rewards been focused on recognition gained abroad and talking of the big and the grand.

While there may be nothing wrong with that recognition and solutions to local problems should be picked up by the decision making system, the influential clientele, and the political elite. A culture has to be built to identify the local problems and use means of technology and resources to handle them at a local level. Interventions of this variety should recognise the same approval and celebration as an invitation from abroad or for that matter making of the great in a foreign institution. Somewhere a paradigm change would help the mitigation of local problems. It can be done and needs to be done.

(The writer is an internationally acclaimed management consultant; The views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Press freedom is sacrosanct



The Supreme Court's recent ruling affirming the right of journalists to criticise the government without retaliatory action comes as a breather for the media's honest warriors-journalists-who do not want to join the bandwagon in sucking up to those in power. However, doubts remain as to how far this momentous judgement will

hold water. The "one man show" that we have witnessed over the past decade offers very little hope that the SC's verdict will be honoured (remember how the SC's dictate that bail, not jail ought to be the rule is being flouted almost to the point of being ignored).

If the PM has a grudge against a "colonial mindset," ordinary Indians have a lot to complain about a "post-colonial mindset," as displayed by not only the present dispensation but the Congress before it. Even before Modi took over in the year 2014, the media was not as independent as expected in a nation that is supposedly rooted in democratic principles. Modi has only picked up from where the Congress left, as far as freedom of the press is concerned.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

### EXIT POLLS FAIL

Madam — It is not for the first time that the exit polls have proven wrong and detailed methodologies for the recent election surveys were not used. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, exit polls overestimated the BJP-led NDA performance, projecting over 400 seats when the alliance actually secured 293. A large number of pollsters in India now failed to accurately predict election outcomes in Haryana and J and K. In Haryana, most agencies had forecast fewer than 30 seats for the BJP, but official results showed the party winning 48 out of 90 seats. Pollsters had predicted 10-year anti-incumbency but proved altogether wrong. Voters in J and K kept parties guessing till the very end. For all the speculative intrigue ahead of J and K's much awaited election, J and K (NC 42, BJP 29, Cong 6) spoke as one-no-hung verdict. Pollsters got it wrong.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

### KASHMIR REJECTS BJP

Madam — This is in response to the report titled 'Victory for Democracy'. It is strange why one and only the 'reverberations' of the Haryana mandate would travel 'far and wide', but not that handed out by the Jammu and Kashmir electorate! Despite so zealous chest-thumping revolving around the "peace" in Kashmir Valley following the "historic" saga of 5th August 2019, the BJP simply gets thwarted in the region. However, the result is far from surprising, as no self-respecting Kashmiri Muslim will ever vote for a party swearing in the name of Hindutva in this

Kajal Chatterjee | Chennai

## MSMEs and food processing: A path to economic growth

Revitalising the MSME and food processing sectors in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, can boost economic growth, raise farmers' incomes and strengthen food security



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

Both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have been advocating for special government packages, emphasising the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as a key driver for development. The governments of these states, as well as the central government, recognise the significant potential in the MSME sector, particularly in food processing, and have prioritised it accordingly. Chief Ministers N Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar share concerns over the stagnation of the MSME sector in recent years, and both are committed to reviving it through various initiatives.



farmers in MSME parks. By linking farmers directly to these parks, Naidu envisions a system where agricultural stakeholders can benefit directly from business opportunities.

Similarly, Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has voiced concerns about MSMEs and infrastructure development in his state. Kumar has aligned with Naidu in recognising the critical role of MSMEs in driving economic growth and ensuring regional prosperity. The coincidence of Bihar's representation in the central government, with ministers like Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan, has further fueled efforts to secure the necessary support for these initiatives. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has encouraged these ministers to focus on fostering connections between DWCRAs groups and MSMEs to enhance economic opportunities for small enterprises. A significant allocation of Rs 100 crore as a credit guarantee for MSMEs has been announced, underscoring the importance of ensuring financial support for these small businesses. However, meaningful progress in the MSME sector is unlikely unless strong linkages are created between MSMEs and the food processing industry, as these sectors are highly interdependent.

The food processing industry, in particular, has been recognised as a powerful engine for economic growth. India is one of the largest producers of various food items, including milk, fruits, vegetables, millet, tea and fish. This creates a robust foundation for the growth of the food processing sector. India's position as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world is bolstered by the significant role played by the food processing industry in ensuring food security and driving economic expansion.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries reported that by the end of FY 2022-23, the sector contributed 7.66 per cent of the gross value added (GVA) in manufacturing and 8.45 per cent of the GVA in agriculture. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has been strong, with Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2,934.12 crore in 2020-21. However, challenges remain, as processed food exports saw a 17 per cent decline in FY24, dropping from \$13,078.3 million in the previous fiscal to \$10,881.81 million.

To address these challenges and promote growth, the government has implemented several initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI), and Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME). By increasing processing levels and creating employment, these programs also aim to raise farmers' incomes.

(The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

### RATAN TATA IS NO MORE

Madam — A true gem can only be distinguished by its value and brightness. However, if a gem is hidden within a person, its value and sparkle are not visible to recognise it. Ratan Tata, India's famous industrialist, was another such figure whose contributions will be remembered for centuries to come. Everyone knows about his outstanding social efforts and affection for pets. Ratan Tata had a heart that beat for dogs till his last breath. Ratan Tata was nothing short of a deity to the stray dogs roaming the streets, which others looked down on or ignored. The doors of his Taj Hotel were always open to dogs. Ratan Tata asked for aid by posting a photo of a dog on his Instagram account on June 26, 2024.

He posted a lengthy post requesting a blood transfusion for the seven-month-old dog. After that, several people brought their dogs to give blood transfusions. Ratan Tata founded the Small Animal Hospital Mumbai (SAHM), the first of its kind in the country, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for 24/7 care, inspired by his struggle to find advanced treatment for his dog abroad. He encouraged people to adopt stray dogs rather than buying pets, promoting animal welfare.

Amrapali Roy | Jamshedpur

### KASHMIR REJECTS BJP

Madam — This is in response to the report titled 'Victory for Democracy'. It is strange why one and only the 'reverberations' of the Haryana mandate would travel 'far and wide', but not that handed out by the Jammu and Kashmir electorate! Despite so zealous chest-thumping revolving around the "peace" in Kashmir Valley following the "historic" saga of 5th August 2019, the BJP simply gets thwarted in the region. However, the result is far from surprising, as no self-respecting Kashmiri Muslim will ever vote for a party swearing in the name of Hindutva in this

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

### SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS

We must focus on solving our own problems objectively without going into cyclic thinking



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

This is very wise to do. Because we must be the prime movers for this. But we are in denial or wish to make a good impression on others. Mostly, we don't. We go into cyclic thinking; and get obsessed with our problems. This is not solving our problems. On the contrary, we are making them worse. Surprisingly, we have solutions to the problems of others, societies, nations, etc. Some of them may be good because we are likely to be objective about them. This is great except that we are not being asked. Then, there are other limitations. When it is our problem, we see mostly the dark side and do not think about how solving it will benefit us.

Regarding issues of others, we are also not seeing the nature of the person. We assume that they will be perfect without any faults like being ignorant, egoist, etc. Their circumstances may be very different from ours. In short, it is a complete waste of time to think of the problems of others. I have realised this, and now I try to focus on my problems; I have plenty. Out of them, I have chosen the six most important ones. As in my habit, I seek solutions from the Bhagavad-Geeta – the book of eternal wisdom. I will begin with the most pressing, which is being fearful. What has Lord Krishna instructed about this fundamental matter? (Verse # 2.40) In simple language, it means that one should take shelter from God to reduce fears.

I have done this and my fearful tendencies have reduced appreciably. Whenever I become fearful, I pray for guidance and help from



my Lord. Believe it; He guides and helps. My next serious problem is getting sexual thoughts and feelings. Lord Krishna has given its solution too. (3.43) I have realised that I cannot reason my way out of it. For example, I use lots of internet for useful information. What does pop out in between? I am getting good practice to press the Back – button. For the younger lot, the Lord has a solution too. He has allowed 'kama' (passion) in beings according to 'dharma' (religious principles). The third problem I seriously face is not being sincere about taking shelter from God. The tapasya (austerity) required defeats me.

The reason of course is the nature of my body. The mind, the senses and the intelligence all are material, and the tapasya required is spiritual. What is the solution? Pray for help and keep praying. That itself is a spiritual act. You will succeed as I am getting better. The fourth problem, which is a serious challenge for me is my 'ahankar' (ego). With success comes Shankar, i.e. I am superior. What is the solution according to the Geeta? What did Lord Krishna tell Arjuna, "If you don't heed my instructions due to your ahankar, you will perish." (18.58) I try to remind myself whenever I get too puffed up; that I don't wish to perish. The fifth giver of trouble to me is my weakness to gain attention, fame, etc.

I have realised that whatever I have achieved is due to the 'kripa' (mercy) of my Lord. By myself, I am close to zero as a small soul. What did Lord Krishna tell Arjuna? (11.33) I give credit for my successes to my Lord. The last one is interpersonal relationships. I have tried to reform my near and dear ones and surely failed miserably. They will improve when they desire to. It is working especially with my grandchildren. So, I am trying to improve my behaviour. This fits with my original requirement of solving my problems. (The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)



SHRIRUPA SENGUPTA

produces enough food to meet caloric needs, ensuring nutritional adequacy remains a challenge. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-2021) shows that while caloric intake is generally adequate, undernutrition persists—35.5 per cent of children under five are stunted, and 19.3 per cent suffer from wasting. Micronutrient deficiencies, such as anaemia due to iron deficiency among women and

vitamin deficiencies among children, further contribute to hidden hunger. Economic disparities and social inequities, including gender inequality and limited health-care access, play significant roles in perpetuating undernutrition.

Poorer segments of the population often lack access to a diverse, nutritious diet and rely heavily on staples like rice and wheat, with inadequate consumption of fruits, vegetables, and proteins.

**Community-Led Nutrition Hubs:** A Promising Solution Community-led nutrition hubs provide a grassroots approach to addressing food insecurity. Unlike top-down methods, these hubs leverage local knowledge and leadership to create sustainable, con-

text-specific solutions. They focus on balanced, nutritious diets rather than just caloric intake, helping to build community resilience against undernutrition.

**Promoting Dietary Diversity:** Nutrition hubs encourage the consumption of diverse foods, including fruits, vegetables, legumes, and animal products, essential for a balanced diet. By promoting dietary diversity, these hubs address micronutrient deficiencies and hidden hunger.

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**Nutrition Hubs:** Data from various studies highlight the effectiveness of community-led initiatives in improving nutritional outcomes and resilience. For example, a 2022 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) noted a 20 per cent reduction in stunting rates among children under five in regions of Uttar Pradesh following the introduction of nutrition hubs.

The Global Nutrition Report 2023 showed that such hubs have improved micronutrient intake, with a 30 per cent increase in iron-rich food consumption among women in Maharashtra, significantly reducing anaemia. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also found that communities practising

sustainable agriculture supported by nutrition hubs had a 20 per cent increase in crop yields during droughts compared to traditional methods. **A Whole-of-Society Approach:** Achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" hinges on ensuring food security and building resilience through community-led initiatives. However, these goals require a whole-of-society approach that involves all community members, not just women. Men as Partners: Encouraging men to participate in nutrition hubs, whether through farming, cooking, or community organising, helps distribute responsibility more equitably and promotes gender equity. **Youth Engagement:** Involving young people in these efforts

ensures the continuation of community-led initiatives and brings fresh ideas and energy to the table.

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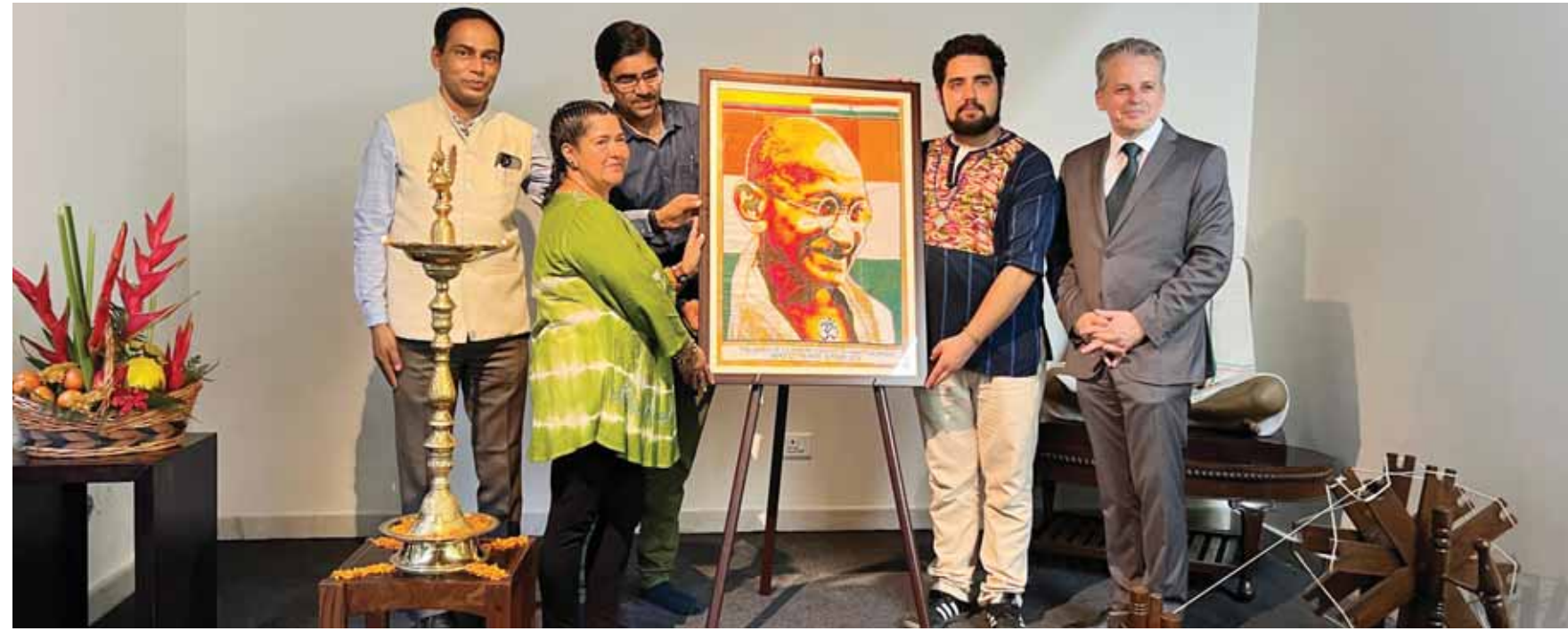
(The writer is Director - Centre for Strategic Communications for Public Health at Swasti; views are personal)

# Celebrating unity and reconciliation through art



RAJDEEP PATHAK

In a world fraught with divisions, art transcends barriers, builds bridges. "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," underscores this profound connection



In a world often marked by discord and division, art emerges as a powerful medium that transcends barriers and speaks to our shared humanity. It serves as a universal language that unites people in their collective longing for peace, healing, and reconciliation. Against this backdrop, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, in collaboration with the Embassy of Colombia in India, recently hosted a poignant exhibition titled "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," an initiative of 'Tejidos Chakana'. This significant event, held shortly after the celebrations of October 2nd - Gandhi Jayanti, and the International Day of Nonviolence - underscores the deep connection between art and the pursuit of harmony in our world. The exhibition vividly highlights the transformative power of creativity as it honours the countless lives lost to conflict in Colombia - and the world per se - a nation that has weathered its share of internal strife and lost countless innocent citizens. The Colombian artisans, Mateo Perea Bernal and Nancy Gomez presented an extraordinary array of stunning creations crafted with fine stone beads. Each meticulously designed portrait serves as a heartfelt homage to politicians, journalists, humourists, social thinkers, and others whose lives were tragically cut short by violence. Another defining moment of the exhibition was the unveiling of a remarkable portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, crafted out of an astounding, over 1.4 million stone beads by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Victor Echeverri of Colombia in India, with flags of both the Nations imprinted through the beads.

This unique piece stands as a testament to the ideals of peace and reconciliation that Mahatma Gandhi tirelessly championed throughout his life. In a touching gesture, it was generously donated to the Gandhi Smriti, serving as a fitting tribute to the legacy of a leader who devoted himself to the principles of nonviolence, till the last breath of his life. 'Tejidos Chakana' is a transformative Colombian initiative rooted in ancestral traditions, using the art of weaving to promote peace and reconciliation. Founded by artisans, it honours indigenous techniques and local materials, preserving traditional

craftsmanship while providing a platform for artisans to express their stories of struggle and resilience.

Each handcrafted piece reflects the creativity and strength of a nation recovering from conflict, weaving narratives of hope and unity for a brighter future. At the heart of 'Tejidos Chakana' is the belief that art can bridge divides and foster understanding. The initiative engages diverse communities through workshops and collaborative projects, empowering individuals to reclaim their voices and share their experiences. This cultural exchange promotes dialogue, enabling people to confront their past and imagine peaceful coexistence. Moreover, through vibrant exhibitions, 'Tejidos Chakana' celebrates the artistry and resilience of Colombian artisans, underscoring their vital role in the larger narrative of peace-building. The initiative is a testament to the power of creativity in healing communities and fostering social impact.

By promoting dialogue and cultural exchange, the aim is to foster an environment where healing can occur, allowing people to confront their past while envisioning a peaceful coexistence. The story of 'Tejidos Chakana' resonates deeply with Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs, particularly his emphasis on the use of hands, creativity, and self-reliance as essential elements of individual and societal transformation. Gandhi often spoke of the profound connection between manual labour and the soul, advocating for the dignity and significance of work that involves the hands.

He would say, "If I were a poet, I would write poetry on the possibilities of my five fingers." In his vision of education, known as 'Nai Talim' or 'Basic Education,' Mahatma Gandhi stressed the importance of learning through

productive activity, where creativity and craftsmanship were not merely tools for economic independence but essential means for cultivating inner peace, self-reliance, and a deeper connection with one's community. Much like 'Tejidos Chakana,' Mahatma Gandhi viewed the act of creating with one's hands as a form of empowerment, healing, and self-expression. For him, the spinning wheel, or 'charkha,' became a symbol of India's struggle for independence - more than just a tool for producing cloth, it represented self-sufficiency, unity, and the rejection of exploitative systems. By encouraging Indians to spin their yarn and weave their cloth, Gandhi ji promoted the idea that true freedom came from within, not only political or economic autonomy but also spiritual and cultural self-reliance. In both the Gandhian framework and the 'Tejidos Chakana' initiative, the act of weaving transcends its material purpose to become a metaphor for life itself. Just as threads are intricately woven to form a piece of fabric, so too are communities brought together by shared experiences, challenges, and hopes. Mahatma Gandhi believed that individual self-reliance was a precursor to true collective harmony - only when people could stand on their own feet would they be able to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of society.

Similarly, the artisans of 'Tejidos Chakana' are not just creating objects of beauty; they are weaving the very fabric of a peaceful and united future for their nation. Echoing Gandhi's ideas of community empowerment and education, as not merely a process of acquiring academic knowledge, but as a holistic development of the individual within a community setting, where the aim is to foster dialogue and cultural exchange, 'Tejidos Chakana' nurtures an environment of collective

learning, where people confront their past traumas and work together towards reconciliation and in the process healing. This reflects Gandhi's belief in the power of community and the idea that true education is incomplete without the cultivation of moral and social values. Moreover, "Weaving Life to Weave Peace" also aligns with Gandhi's vision of nonviolence, or 'ahimsa,' as an active force for peace-building. Mahatma Gandhi believed that nonviolence was not just the absence of physical conflict but the presence of love, compassion, and understanding. In conclusion, it can be said without exaggeration that such powerful initiatives invite the world to witness the power of art as a catalyst for change, encouraging humankind to appreciate the beauty that arises from the collective journeys toward reconciliation and understanding. Moreover, through the lens of art, "Weaving Life to Weave Peace" commemorates the past and inspires hope for a future without conflicts, thereby promoting collective responsibility in weaving a tapestry of peace for generations to come.

As we engage with these artistic expressions, we are reminded that every bead, every creation, and every story contribute to a larger narrative of healing and unity in our world. In celebrating these artistic expressions, we honour the timeless message that true peace begins with the work we do ourselves - both in our hearts and with our hands.

This is evident as Ambassador Victor points out that if one bead breaks, the entire frame collapses, signifying the unifying strength of community and peace-building. They are what can be called, "Peace Beads".

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

# India's nutrition paradox: Tackling hidden hunger amid food sufficiency

The Global Hunger Index 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, highlighting that malnutrition, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread

While India is not a country of widespread starvation, it does face significant challenges related to undernutrition and hidden hunger, particularly in rural areas. India has achieved self-sufficiency in food production and implemented programs to improve food access, such as the National Food Security Act and the National Nutrition Mission. However, issues like micronutrient deficiencies and income disparities exacerbate food insecurity in certain regions.

**India's Nutrition Paradox:** The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, highlighting significant challenges with undernutrition, particularly among children. Though India



SHRIRUPA SENGUPTA

produces enough food to meet caloric needs, ensuring nutritional adequacy remains a challenge. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-2021) shows that while caloric intake is generally adequate, undernutrition persists—35.5 per cent of children under five are stunted, and 19.3 per cent suffer from wasting. Micronutrient deficiencies, such as anaemia due to iron deficiency among women and

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# South Korean author Han Kang gets Nobel prize in literature

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Prize in literature was awarded Thursday to South Korean author Han Kang for what the Nobel committee called “her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.” Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy’s Nobel Committee, announced the prize in Stockholm. Han, 53, won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for “The Vegetarian,” an unsettling novel in which a woman’s decision to stop eating meat has devastating consequences. Her novel “Human Acts” was an International Booker Prize finalist in 2018. The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too



focused on European and North American writers of style-heavy, story-light prose. It has also been male-dominated, with just 17 women among its 119 laureates so far. The last woman to win was Annie Ernaux of France, in 2022. Six days of Nobel announcements opened Monday with

Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the medicine prize. Two founding fathers of machine learning — John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton — won the physics prize on Tuesday. On Wednesday, three scientists who discovered powerful techniques to decode and even design novel proteins were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award on October 14. The prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (USD 1 million) from a bequest left by the award’s creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The laureates are invited to receive their awards at ceremonies on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel’s death.

# Hurricane Milton slams Florida, causes deaths and flooding

AP ■ TAMPA (US)

Hurricane Milton plowed into Florida as a Category 3 storm, bringing misery to a coast still ravaged by Helene, pounding cities with winds of over 100 mph (160 kph) after producing a barrage of tornadoes, but sparing Tampa a direct hit. The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall Wednesday night in Siesta Key near Sarasota, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Tampa. The situation in the Tampa area was still a major emergency as St. Petersburg recorded over 16 inches (41 centimeters) of rain, prompting the National Weather Service

poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports. Before Milton even made landfall, tornadoes were touching down across the state. The Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida’s Atlantic Coast, was hit particularly hard, with homes destroyed and some residents killed. “We have lost some life,” St. Lucie County Sheriff Keith Pearson told WPBF News, though he wouldn’t say how many people were killed. About 125 homes were destroyed before the hurricane came ashore, many of them mobile homes in communities for senior citizens, said Kevin Guthrie, the director of the Florida Division of Emergency

power across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton’s winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage. Officials had issued dire warnings to flee or face grim odds of survival. “This is it, folks,” said Cathie Perkins, emergency management director in Pinellas County, which sits on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay. “Those of you who were punched during Hurricane Helene, this is going to be a knockout. You need to get out, and you need to get out now.” By late afternoon, some officials said the time had passed for such efforts, suggesting that people who stayed behind hunker down instead. By the evening, some counties announced they had suspended emergency services.

Jackie Curnick said she wrestled with her decision to stay at home in Sarasota, just north of where the storm made landfall. But with a 2-year-old son and a baby girl due Oct. 29, Curnick and her husband thought it was for the best. Curnick said they started packing Monday to evacuate, but they couldn’t find any available hotel rooms, and the few they came by were too expensive. She said there were too many unanswered questions if they got in the car and left: Where to sleep, if they’d be able to fill up their gas tank, and if they could even find a safe route out of the state. “The thing is it’s so difficult to evacuate in a peninsula,” she said. “In most other states, you can go in any direction to get out. In Florida there are only so many roads that take you north or south.”

At a news conference in Tallahassee, Gov. Ron DeSantis described deployment of a wide range of resources, including 9,000 National Guard members from Florida and other states; over 50,000 utility workers from as far as California; and highway patrol cars with sirens to escort gasoline tankers to replenish supplies so people could fill up their tanks before evacuating. “Unfortunately, there will be fatalities. I don’t think there’s any way around that,” DeSantis said. Heavy rain and tornadoes lashed parts of southern Florida starting Wednesday morning, with conditions deteriorating throughout the day.



to warn of flash flooding there as well as other parts of western and central Florida. Tropicana Field, the home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team in St. Petersburg, appeared badly damaged. The fabric that serves as the domed stadium’s roof was ripped to shreds by the fierce winds. It was not immediately clear if there was damage inside. Multiple cranes were also toppled in the storm, the weather service said. St. Petersburg residents also could no longer get water from their household taps because a water main break led the city to shut down service. The storm knocked out power across a large section of Florida, with more than 3 million homes and businesses without power as of early Thursday, according to

Management. About 90 minutes after making landfall, Milton was downgraded to a Category 2 storm. By early Thursday, the hurricane was a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of about 85 mph (135 kph) as it churned about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Orlando. Heavy rains were also likely to cause flooding inland along rivers and lakes as Milton traverses the Florida Peninsula as a hurricane, eventually to emerge in the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday. It is expected to impact the heavily populated Orlando area. The storm slammed into a region still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead

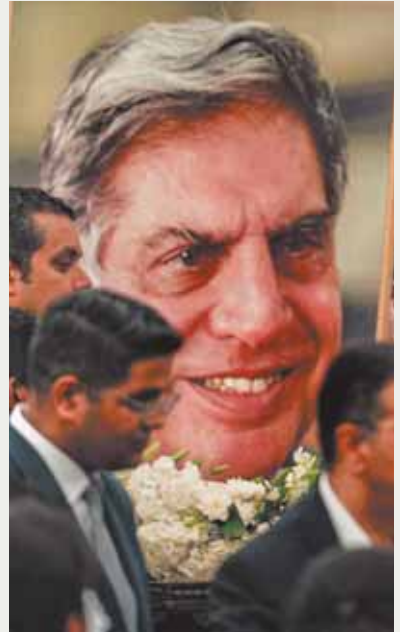
# America mourns death of Ratan Tata, who ‘drove India to prosperity’

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US on Wednesday mourned the death of veteran industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Naval Tata, remembering him as someone who drove India to greater prosperity and development. Tata, the former Tata Group chairman who transformed a staid group into India’s largest and most influential conglomerate, breathed his last at south Mumbai’s Breach Candy Hospital at 11.30 pm on Wednesday. He was 86. “My last meeting with Ratan Tata at Google, we talked about the progress of Waymo and his vision was inspiring to hear. He leaves an extraordinary business and philanthropic legacy and was instrumental in mentoring and developing modern business leadership in India. He deeply cared about making India better. Deep condolences to his loved ones and Rest in Peace Shri Ratan Tata Ji,” wrote Google and Alphabet CEO Sunder Pichai on X.

Atul Keshap, the president of the US-India Business Council (USIBC), told PTI the Padma Vibhushan recipient was a “unique and noble son of India, a role model for the nobility and generosity.” “While some erroneously look down their noses at mere business, Ratan Tata reminded a global audience of the nobility of commerce even as he drove his companies and India to greater prosperity and development. He espoused values of humanity and compassion not only for his colleagues and business partners but also for the greater good,” Keshap said. “His devotion to his staff was never more visible than after the terrible terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26/11/2008, and his love for his country and humanity, and animal kind, was displayed in so many ways, including his establishment of

cancer hospitals and his legendary care for the dogs of Tata House,” he said. “It is with profound sadness that the Indiaspora community acknowledges the passing of Ratan Tata, a visionary leader, compassionate philanthropist, and one of India’s most respected business icons,” said MR Rangaswami, the founder of Indiaspora.



“His extraordinary contribution to industry and his deep commitment to social causes have left an indelible mark not only on India but the world at large. Ratan Tata’s legacy will continue to inspire generations. His spirit and contributions will forever remain a guiding light,” he told PTI. Ratan Tata, a Cornell graduate, was a for-

mer Cornell trustee who became the university’s largest international donor, the university said on Wednesday. “Ratan Tata has left an extraordinary legacy in India, across the world and at Cornell, which he cared about deeply,” said interim President Michael I. Kotlikoff. “Ratan’s quiet demeanor and humility belied his international profile. His generosity and concern for others enabled research and scholarship that improved the education and health of millions of people in India and beyond, and extended Cornell’s global impact,” he said. “When Ratan Tata graduated from Cornell with a degree in architecture, it would have been impossible to imagine the global impact his visionary leadership, philanthropy and commitment to humanity would go on to have in advancing education and research across many sectors,” said J. Meejin Yoon, the Dean of Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning. Ratan Tata served three terms as a Cornell trustee from 2006 to 2022. He was named Cornell’s Entrepreneur of the Year in 2013 and served from 2014 on as a member of AAP’s Advisory Council. Ira Drukier, an American philanthropist, said: “Looking back over Ratan’s life and career, I am not only filled with gratitude for all he has given and accomplished but also with a deep respect for his kindness, generosity and eternal optimism that has improved lives in India and around the world.” “Ratan Tata, one of India’s most powerful and admired magnates, who transformed his family’s business conglomerate, the Tata Group, into a multinational corporation with globally recognisable brands, has died at 86,” The New York Times wrote.

# UK minister pays homage to ‘titan’ of business world

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds paid homage to Ratan Tata as a “titan” of the business world who played a huge role in shaping British industry. Soon after the news of the Tata Group chief’s passing away hit the headlines on Wednesday night, the minister took to social media to offer his tributes to the man credited with much of the Mumbai-headquartered company’s reputation as one of the largest employers in the UK. It was during his tenure as chairman of the Tata Group that the multinational made several high-profile acquisitions in the UK — taking over Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus, luxury car brands Jaguar and Land Rover (JLR) and Tetley, the well-known global tea brand. “Sad to hear about the passing of Ratan Tata. He was truly a titan of the business world and someone who played a huge role in shaping British industry,” said Reynolds. “My thoughts and prayers are with his friends, family and everyone in the Tata Group,” he said. The Tata Group’s footprint in the UK includes its ownership of the country’s largest steelworks at Port Talbot in south Wales, currently undergoing a mega green transformation towards electric arc furnace. The steel giant is one of Europe’s leading

steel producers, with steelmaking in the Netherlands and the UK, and manufacturing plants across Europe. The company’s tube products are used across a broad range of industries, including construction, machinery fabrication, energy and automotive. In July last year, the Tata Group is to invest over GBP 4 billion in setting up a new electric vehicle (EV) battery plant, or gigafactory, in Britain which will create thousands of jobs across the supply chain. With Tata Motors owned JLR as the anchor customer of the new gigafactory with an initial output of 40GWh, the venture is one of the largest in Europe. While he had retired a few years ago, Ratan Tata is credited with setting the company on its growth trajectory in the UK and Europe. Beginning with Tata Tea’s acquisition of Tetley in 2000, Tata companies made several significant overseas acquisitions including Corus by Tata Steel, Jaguar and Land Rover by Tata Motors and Brunner Mond by Tata Chemicals. In 2004, Ratan Tata, then Chairman of Tata Sons, summed up the Tata group’s efforts to internationalise its operations thus: “I hope that a hundred years from now we will spread our wings far beyond India, that we become a global group, operating in many countries, an Indian business conglomerate that is at home in the world, carrying the same sense of trust that we do today.”

# High Commissioner leads minute’s silence in memory of Tata

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami led a minute’s silence in the memory of Ratan Tata as news of the passing away of the legendary businessman, aged 86, came in from Mumbai. During a pre-scheduled Diwali reception co-hosted by the High Commission of India in London with the India All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) near the Houses of Parliament in London on Wednesday, Doraiswami paid tribute to the Tata Group chair as a great champion of the India-UK partnership. “On a sombre note, I share the news with great sorrow of the passing of one of India’s most celebrated businessmen Ratan Tata,” said Doraiswami, addressing a cross-party gathering of parliamentarians, entrepreneurs and community leaders. “No man has embodied the India-UK partnership quite as much as Ratan Tata did. This is a man for whom Mumbai/India and London/UK were both home. This is a man who created the sense of an India-UK partnership embodied in everything — from Air India, which is back as Tata airline, to Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) to Taj Hotel to Tata Steel to indeed everything, including industries of the future with his decision to invest in a battery factory in the UK,” he said. Lord Karan Bilmoria, founder of Cobra beer and co-chair of the India APPG, paid tribute to a “fellow Parsi” who worked hard to nurture the bonds between India and Britain.

# China defiant over South China Sea skirmishes in ASEAN talks

AP ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)

Southeast Asian leaders stepped up pressure on China to respect international law following clashes in the disputed South China Sea during annual summit talks on Thursday, but Chinese Premier Li Qiang was defiant as he blamed “external forces” for interfering in regional affairs. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ meeting with Li followed recent violent confrontations at sea this year between China and ASEAN members Philippines and Vietnam that heightened unease over China’s increasingly assertive actions in the contested waters. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who will take over the rotating ASEAN chair next year, said the bloc has called for an early conclusion to a code of conduct to govern the South China Sea. Talks on the code of conduct have been ongoing for years, hampered by sticky issues including disagreements over whether the pact should be binding. ASEAN reiterated the need to maintain peace and security in the strategic waterway, he said, according to Malaysian national news agency Bernama. But Li said meddling by foreign forces is creating conflicts with-

in the region. “We must realize that our development is also facing some unstable and uncertain factors. In particular, external forces frequently interfere and even try to introduce bloc confrontation and geopolitical conflicts into Asia,” Li said during an ASEAN meeting with China, Japan and South Korea. He called for more dialogue between countries to ensure disputes are resolved amicably. Li didn’t name the foreign forces but China has previously warned the US not to meddle in the region’s territorial disputes. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who arrived in Vientiane on Thursday for the meetings, is expected to raise the issue of China’s aggression in the sea, officials said. The US has no claims but it has deployed Navy ships and fighter jets to patrol the waterway and promote freedom of navigation and overflight. ASEAN members Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei along with Taiwan have overlapping claims with China, which claims sovereignty over virtually all of the South China Sea. Chinese and Philippine vessels have clashed repeatedly this year, and Vietnam said last week that Chinese forces assaulted its fishermen in the

disputed sea. China has also sent patrol vessels to areas that Indonesia and Malaysia claim as exclusive economic zones. Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr made clear to Li during talks Thursday that ASEAN-China cooperation cannot be separated from the sea dispute, according to an ASEAN official who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the discussion. Li responded by saying the South China Sea is “a shared home” and that China has an obligation to protect its sovereignty, the official said. The Philippines, a longtime US ally, has been critical of other ASEAN countries for not doing more to get China to back away. Aside from regional security issues, China’s Li also emphasized Beijing and ASEAN’s economic ties, saying intensifying trade relations and creating an “ultra large-scale market” are keys to economic prosperity amid rising trade protectionism. ASEAN and China said they expect to conclude negotiations to upgrade their free trade pact next year. Since the two sides signed the pact covering a market of 2 billion people in 2010, ASEAN’s trade with China has leaped from USD 235.5 billion to USD 696.7 bil-

lion last year. China is ASEAN’s number 1 trading partner and its third-largest source of foreign investment — a key reason why the bloc has been reluctant to criticize Chinese actions in the South China Sea. ASEAN leaders, who held a summit among themselves on Wednesday, also separately met with new Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. ASEAN elevated its ties with South Korea to a “comprehensive strategic partnership.” Yoon said the new designation will further help both sides to “create a new future together.” Ishiba also pledged to boost the Japan-ASEAN relationship by providing patrol vessels and training on maritime law enforcement, strengthening economic security through financial and other support and bolstering cyber-security. “Japan shares principles such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law, and would like to create and protect the future together with ASEAN,” he said. The bloc is also holding individual talks with dialogue partners India, Australia, Canada, the US and the United Nations that will culminate in an East Asia

Summit of 18 nations including Russia and New Zealand on Friday. Former ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong said that despite challenges in addressing disputes in the South China Sea and the Myanmar civil war, ASEAN’s central role in the region is undisputable. “ASEAN and its diplomatic maneuvers have sustained the relative peace and progress of Southeast Asia to date. ASEAN will continue to be useful in that regard. Big powers cannot do what they wish in the region,” said Ong, who is now deputy chairman of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. Nearly 6,000 people have been killed and over 3 million displaced in a civil war after the Myanmar army ousted an elected government in 2021. The military has backtracked on an ASEAN peace plan it agreed to in late 2021 and fighting has continued with pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic rebels. Myanmar’s top generals have been shut out of ASEAN summits since the military takeover. Thailand will host an informal ASEAN ministerial-level consultation on Myanmar in mid-December as frustration grows in the bloc over the prolonged conflict.

# Turkiye’s navy starts to evacuate its citizens from Beirut

AP ■ BEIRUT

Over 2,000 Turkish citizens and some foreign started boarding a Turkish military ship late Wednesday that brought in aid and will take them out of a country being hit by Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah. Zehra Cibbin, an ethnic Arab from the southeastern Turkish city of Mardin who lives in Beirut with her Lebanese husband, got off a bus packed with the other evacuees, her two children in tow and luggage in hand. “It’s indescribable. They bombed the street below our house. From that moment on, it was over for me, I said I didn’t want to stay in Beirut anymore,” said Cibbin, 46. Cibbin said they decided to leave Beirut out of fear for their lives, putting no thought into what will happen when they arrive in Turkey. She spoke to The Associated Press before getting in line to board the TCG Bayraktar amphibious landing vessel, which along with the TCG Sancaktar will take on evacuees. They are part of a six-ship convoy including escorts that set sail from the southern Turkish port of Mersin early Wednesday, transported 300 tons of humanitarian supplies, including food, hygiene kits, kitchenware, tents, beds and blankets.

Besides the Turkish citizens, people from Bulgaria, Romania and Kazakhstan were among those who applied to evacuate on the ships. Officials did not provide numbers. The Associated Press was the only non-government media invited aboard the ships to cover the evacuation operation. “Israel’s aggression has severely impacted Lebanon and our brothers here,” said Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Baris Ulusoy, standing in front of the Bayraktar. “We are carrying out an operation today with two aims: to provide humanitarian aid to our Lebanese brothers and to ensure the safe return of our citizens who are in a difficult situation.” Ulusoy said. Hundreds lined up before the Bayraktar as Turkish soldiers and sailors checked the evacuees’ passports and their luggage was examined by metal detectors and drug-sniffing dogs before they were allowed to board. Another Turkish citizen waiting with her family was Abir Gokcimen, who said she left her extended family and husband in Beirut and hopes the war that spread to Lebanon will end soon. She hopes to come back to Lebanon as soon as the danger passes. The journey back to Mersin is

expected to take about 10 hours. Turkey’s government plans to organise more sea evacuations if necessary and is contemplating charter flights to repatriate citizens. Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel on October 8, 2023, the day after Hamas’ surprise attack into Israel ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran, and Hezbollah says its attacks are aimed at aiding the Palestinians. Israel has carried out airstrikes in response and the conflict steadily escalated, erupting into a full-fledged war last month. Israel has inflicted a punishing wave of blows against Hezbollah in recent weeks and says it will keep fighting until tens of thousands of displaced Israeli citizens can return to their homes in the north. More than 1,300 people have been killed in Lebanon and over a million displaced since the fighting escalated in mid-September. Earlier on Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ramped up his rhetoric against Israel during his party’s first meeting of the new legislative year, declaring that Turkey “has more than enough power to thwart expansionist ambitions” of Israel and doubling down on his claims that Israel would target Turkey after Gaza and Lebanon.



# Israeli strike on Gaza shelter kills at least 27

**AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH**

An Israeli strike on a school sheltering the displaced in the Gaza Strip killed at least 27 people on Thursday, Palestinian medical officials said.

The Israeli military said it targeted militants hiding among civilians, without providing evidence.

Israel has continued to strike at what it says are militant targets across the Palestinian enclave even as attention has shifted to its war against Hezbollah in Lebanon and rising tensions with Iran. The military launched a large-scale air and ground operation against Hamas in northern Gaza earlier this week. In a separate development, a United Nations official said Israeli forces fired on three positions of the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, wounding two peacekeepers. The official was not authorised to brief media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the bodies were brought, said the strike in the central town of Deir al-Balah killed 27 people, including a child and seven women. It said several other people were wounded. An Associated Press reporter saw ambulances streaming into the hospital and counted the bodies, many of which arrived in pieces.

"We appeal to the world. We are dying!" one man screamed.

The Israeli military said it carried out a precise strike targeting a militant command and control centre inside the school. Israel has repeatedly attacked schools that were turned into shelters in Gaza, accusing militants of hiding out in them.

Witnesses who spoke on condition of

anonymity for security reasons said the strike occurred while school managers were meeting with representatives of an aid group in a room normally used by Hamas-run police who provide security. They said there were no police in the room at the time.

The Hamas-run government operated a civilian police force numbering in the tens of thousands. They largely vanished from the streets after the start of the war as Israel targeted them with airstrikes, but plainclothes Hamas security personnel still exert control over most areas.

Hamas has continued to launch attacks on Israeli forces and fire occasional rockets into Israel more than a year after its October 7 attack ignited the war.

Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel and rampaged through army bases and farming communities in that attack, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 others. They are still holding around 100 captives, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's offensive has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many

were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced around 90 per cent of its population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

The Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon began firing rockets into Israel on October 8, 2023, in support of Hamas and the Palestinians, drawing Israeli airstrikes in retaliation.

The fighting steadily escalated, and eventually boiled over into all-out war in recent weeks, with Israel carrying out waves of heavy strikes across Lebanon and launching a ground invasion. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire to more populated areas deeper inside Israel, causing few casualties but disrupting daily life.

## SUKHO KHALSA SR. SEC. SCHOOL

### JAIL ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058

Recruitment for following 09 Posts in Sukho Khalsa Sr. Sec. School (Govt. Aided Minority, Co-Educational) (School ID 1514045).

1. PGT Political Science (UR)
2. PGT History (PH)
3. TGT Hindi (UR)
4. TGT English (UR)
5. TGT S. Sc. (PH)
6. TGT Computer Sc.(UR)
7. Special Education Teacher (UR)
8. Music Teacher (UR)
9. PET (UR)

Age, Qualification etc. are as per Recruitment Rules applicable for Govt. Aided Minority Schools of the Directorate of Education Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Pay Scale is as per 7th CPC. Preference will be given to Sikh Candidates being a Minority School.

\* Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the Interview.  
\* Experience Certificate (if any) must mention designation of the post, Pay Scale, Period and must be countersigned by the concerned DDE Zone.

\* Blank Application Form to be collected (Free of cost) from school office on all working days between 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

\* Application Form duly completed in all respects along with self attested copies of testimonials should reach through Speed Post/Regd. Post to the Chairman/Manager Sukho Khalsa Sr. Sec. School, Jail Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi- 110058 within 21 days from the date of Advertisement. Thereafter no Application will be accepted No application will be received by hand.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Vivekshankar S/o Sh. Shiv Ranjita Dass is the Owner of Plot No. F-25, Block-F, Kirti Nagar New Delhi 110015. And The Original Sale Deed Dated 06/01/1969 in Favour of Permanand Sharma executed by Rehabilitation Housing Corporation Ltd has been lost. If anyone Found these Original Documents and have any objection Regarding these Documents of the Property, Inform me on my given Mob No.-9911004142 Within 7 days.

**Yogesh Kumar(Advocate)**

Ch. No. 717, Lawaya's Chamber Block, Rohini Court, Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is Informed that Smt. Rajkumari Gupta D/o Late Shri Banarasi Dass is the Owner of Plot No. F-25, Block-F, Kirti Nagar New Delhi 110015. And The Original Sale Deed Dated 06/01/1969 in Favour of Permanand Sharma executed by Rehabilitation Housing Corporation Ltd has been lost. If anyone Found these Original Documents and have any objection Regarding these Documents of the Property, Inform me on my given Mob No.-9911004142 Within 7 days.

**Yogesh Kumar(Advocate)**

Ch. No. 717, Lawaya's Chamber Block, Rohini Court, Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Senu, Dubey is the owner of Residential House, area measuring 50 sq. Yards or 4180 sq. Mtrs. out of Khara No. 97, Situated in village Shargol Begampur, Pargana and Tehsil- Bahri, District- Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 29/02/2014. Vide No. 4991, Sale Deed dated 09/05/2008 Vide Doc. No. 1155 Sale Deed dated 20/11/2011 Vide Doc. No. 387 and original GPA. ATC & Will dated 07/04/2007, pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complaint bearing, LR No. 209960/2024 was registered on 09/10/2024, with Delhi Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original documents, kindly contact the undersigned, immediately with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**Raghav V.K. Legal (Advocate)**

Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001  
Mob: +91-8078989328

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. Kehar Singh S/o Sh. Bharat Singh, through Khatori/Jamabandi, is the owner of property bearing address Freehold Residential House built on Plot, area 100 sq. yds. of Falling under Kharsa No. 235, situated at Village-Behta Hazpur, Tehsil-Loni, Distt.-Ghaziabad (U.P.) A registered General Power of Attorney dated on 03.03.1998 was executed by Mr. Kehar Singh in favour of Mr. Prembir Singh Dharma. Further, another registered General Power of Attorney dated 12.04.1999 was issued by Mr. Prembir Singh Dharma in favour of Mr. Rajender Kumar Jain and the property is now being sold by Mr. Umesh Kumar Saxena & Mrs. Anuradha Sangar (Intending borrower) and the same property being financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/ interest/Title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**TAPAN RAGHAV (ADVOCATE),**  
Ch. No. G-220, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032.  
Email- raghavtk.legal@gmail.com,  
M. - 8800995622

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD)**  
**NEW DELHI - 110001**

**E-TENDER No. 2024RS19546TC**

Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for Procurement of 17 Nos. End Unloading Kares (EUR) using BRNHS (BG) wagons for transportation of 260m long rail panels from SAUL/Bhilai to RDSO Specification No. WD-06-BRN-2011 of March 2011.

2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4.0 Tender will be closed at 10:00 hours on 18.11.2024.

5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.

**Director, Railway Stores (W),**  
**Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi,**  
for and on behalf of the President of India.

3130/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

1. Ashok Kumar, son of Shri Shiv Karan Lal, Resident of Jhuggi No. 144/120, K Block, T-HUT, opposite Mig Flats, Jahangirpur, Delhi-33, has evicted my son Sonu and daughter-in-law Lakshmi from my movable and immovable property for not following my instructions. If any person has any kind of transaction or connection with Sonu and Lakshmi, he will be responsible. Me (Ashok Kumar) will have no responsibility.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To be known to all that I, Sohni Pal S/o Kharab Lal Resident of H.No. 222, Jatey, Mohan Nagar, Distt. Bagpat, UP Pin 250101, am the allottee of VDA EWS flat No. 22, G/F, Block-4, Shwaji Marg, Delhi, Vide DDA's File No. E/488(21)2018/DDA 14/SM. My original document vide Demand Letter of above said flat has been misplaced. An Information Report of the said flat has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 2165533/2024 on 30.09.2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, Interest having any objection or found in Possession of the said original Document may Write/Contact with above named person at above address/phone No. -9834989519 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Re: Property Bearing Plot No. 18, MC No. 245, area measuring 203 sq. yds. i.e. 169.28 sq. mtrs. situated in Colony named Laxmi Vihar, Mahiwada, Village-Jarwada Kalyan, Pargana and Tehsil- Ghaziabad, U.P. Hereinafter referred to as "said property".

Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Smt. Renu Goyal, she is the sole and absolute owner of the said property vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Ashwani Sharma in respect of the said property. The said Deed is registered as LR No. 9834989519 in favour of IDFC First Bank Limited, pages 211-246, on 26.07.2024 (SRO- Ghaziabad). Mr. Ashwani Sharma had purchased the said property from Mr. Mohit Mittal vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 13629 on 28.12.2023. The seller also informed the purchaser that the said property was earlier owned by Mr. Mahender Kumar Mittal. After his death, the said property devolved on his legal heirs viz. Mrs. Renu Mittal and Mr. Mohit Mittal. Mrs. Renu Mittal executed a Will vide document No. 789 on 03.03.2024 (SRO- Ghaziabad) in favour of Mr. Mohit Mittal. Mrs. Renu Mittal and her share devolved on Mr. Mohit Mittal and he became the sole and absolute owner of the said property and sold the said property to Mr. Ashwani Sharma. Now, our clientless intends to mortgage the said property with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited for availing loan facility.

If any person, society, bank, financial institution or other institutions have any objection against the ownership of our clientless on the said property and subsequently rightly mortgage of the said property, they may write/ contact with our clientless, may raise his/her objections, in writing, by Registered AD post, to the undersigned, within 15 days, on address mentioned below. Otherwise after expiry of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, the said property shall be mortgaged by our clientless in favour of IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. and no objection shall be acceptable against such mortgage.

**SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE**  
**FOR MS INTELLIGENCE LAW OFFICES,**  
**A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR,**  
**DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is informed to the public at large that Mr. Jeet Singh who wants to purchase the Freehold SFS Flat No.330, Category-III, on First Floor, situated in Pocket-L, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 from Mrs. Angela Sawhney owner vide Release Deed with Consideration dated 11.04.2012 (vide Doc.No.5603) executed by Mrs. Niliya Dal and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. that, SMC of Late Mr. Jagdish Mittler is not available. If any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc.

**B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank**  
**Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301 Contact No. 0120-4289373**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is informed to the public at large that Mrs. Sushma Chawla, Sh. Chirag Chawla and Sh. Chakshu Chawla are absolute Title holder in possession of Property bearing No. G-40, Area measuring 180 sq. yds., Preet Vihar, New Delhi that the Original Agreement to sell dated 24.10.1989 executed by Sh. Bharat Shuman in favour of Sh. Sanjay Chawla has been lost/ misplaced and are untraceable. The F/R/ Lost to this effect has already been lodged dated 09.10.2024 with LR/No. 2193020/2024. Any person(s) company (ies) authority (ies) society (ies)/organisation (s) financial institution (s) bank (s) claiming any right/ interest having any objection or found in possession of the original document may write/contact to the above name and address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, post expiration Any claims (s) or objection (s) if raised or received shall be treated as null & void and such claims.

**Rishabh Tewari (Advocate) Ch. No. K-67B, Near Tishu Building, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054, (M): 701183514.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that of Mrs. Babita Jain is the owner through Sale Deed dated 16.04.2010 of Property Bearing No. Freehold Residential Plot No. A-3, area measuring 30 sq. yds. (28.38 sq. mtrs.) of Falling Under Kharsa No. 394 MI situated at Village-Daroli Khurd, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad (U.P.) and a Registered General Power of Attorney dated 25.05.2022 has been executed by Mrs. Babita Jain in favour of Mrs. Anuradha Goyal. The property is now being sold to the owner by Mr. Piyush Sharma, Mr. Rajesh Sharma & Mrs. Sunita Sharma, and being financed by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/ interest/Title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**TAPAN RAGHAV (ADVOCATE),**  
Ch. No. G-220, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032.  
Email- raghavtk.legal@gmail.com,  
M. - 8800995622

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that M/s Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance for Group Housing Development Project (2.303 Acres) at Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana, with EC Identification No. EC24C3801HR5368082N Dated 27th September 2024 (File No. SEACHR/2024/137).

General Public is further informed that copy of clearance letter along with the conditions to be complied is available at office of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana, and on the website of the MOEF&CC at <http://parivesh.nic.in>. Also available at the registered office of the company at plot no. 114, Sector-44, District- Gurugram, Haryana, 122002 and also on website of the company at [www.ramprastha.com](http://www.ramprastha.com).

For Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited  
CIN: U45400HR2007PTTC064534  
Address: Plot No. 114, Sector-44, Gurugram, Haryana, India, 122002

**TSR(P) WORKS IN ALIPURDAR DIVISION**

**E-Tender Notice No. 94/W-21ADP/J**  
**Dated: 08-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works:**  
**Tender No.: 23-AP-11-2024; Name of Property: New Mal Jn. Alipurjard Jn. (S.L.)-TSR(P)-22.00 Trm & Siliguri Jn.-New Mal Jn. Value: ₹18,11,79,388.85/- Earnest Money : ₹10,55,900/- Date & time of Closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 04-11-2024. For details please visit in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.**

**DRM(W), Alipurjard Junction**  
**(NORTH WEST FRONTIER RAILWAY)**  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Information is given to general public at large that Mrs. Kiran Devi G/Wo Mr. Mahendra Sahu who isare purchasing the Property Bearing No. 253 Southern & Eastern side Corner Portion area measuring 26.7 sq. yds., Out of total area measuring 108 sq. yds., in Gani No. 13, situated at in Village- Sinohara Khurd, Anand Parbat from Mrs. Rakha Devi W/o Mr. Cunnin Lal W/o Mrs. Seema W/o Mr. Narad Mittal who was the owner by deed of G.P. & Will dated 08.12.2017. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited, previous Original Regd. GPA & Will dated 06.12.2000 (Doc. No. 27857) in favour of Mr. Khem Chand S/o Late Mr. Mansukh Ram are not available with the seller i.e. Mrs. Rakha Devi W/o Mr. Cunnin Lal (i.e. Mrs. Seema W/o Mr. Narad Mittal). To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.

**NCR LAW ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES, A-98, Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.) - 201009**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that M/s Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance for Group Housing Development Project (2.303 Acres) at Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana, with EC Identification No. EC24C3801HR5368082N Dated 27th September 2024 (File No. SEACHR/2024/137).

General Public is further informed that copy of clearance letter along with the conditions to be complied is available at office of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana, and on the website of the MOEF&CC at <http://parivesh.nic.in>. Also available at the registered office of the company at plot no. 114, Sector-44, District- Gurugram, Haryana, 122002 and also on website of the company at [www.ramprastha.com](http://www.ramprastha.com).

For Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited  
CIN: U45400HR2007PTTC064534  
Address: Plot No. 114, Sector-44, Gurugram, Haryana, India, 122002

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed that M/s Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance for Group Housing Development Project (2.303 Acres) at Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana, with EC Identification No. EC24C3801HR5368082N Dated 27th September 2024 (File No. SEACHR/2024/137).

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For Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited  
CIN: U45400HR2007PTTC064534  
Address: Plot No. 114, Sector-44, Gurugram, Haryana, India, 122002

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mohd. Majid S/o Mr. Vajid is the owner of BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 13, LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., FALLING IN KHARSA NO. 978, SITUATED AT VILLAGE BEHTA HAZI PUR, IN THE ABAD OF RAGHUNATHPUR, PARGANA, PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, U.P., by virtue of Gift Deed dated 27.09.2024, regd. as Doc. No. 17412, executed by Mr. Vajid S/o Mr. Fida, and same to be finance by SMFG India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/Title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**Mrs. Prason Lat & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate**  
SIC Associates (Law Firm)  
FF-18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vihar Khurd, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad U.P.  
Email: [sgavastoc@rediffmail.com](mailto:sgavastoc@rediffmail.com) | Ph: 011-70117274, 01244-610300

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform to all concern that M/s Yagnachal Press through its Prop. Mr. Lalit Tiwari S/o Sh. K.L. Tiwari R/o B-1, Sector-9, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) who is the original allottee of Flat No. 75-C, Block B-9, Udaigiri Apartment II, Sector- 34, Noida (U.P.) had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s): General Power of Attorney was executed on in favour of Mr. Francis Pottamma S/o Sh. N.J. Mathai R/o C-2C, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) which is registered and the Agreement to Sell was not registered or not executed. Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered, no Agreement to sell executed, no consent in all concern that the said Flat No. 75-C, Block B-9, Udaigiri Apartment II, Sector-34, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Ms. Lincy Francis D/o Mr. Francis Pottamma I/o C-2C, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) if any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Name of the transferee  
**M/s. Lincy Francis D/o Mr. Francis Pottamma**  
**R/o C-2C, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.)**

**BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**

**JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA**  
New Delhi - 110025

**Dated : 09.10.2024**

**AUCTION NOTICE**

The auction of Electrical and Civil absolute/unserviceable items light electrical fitting, fans, bathroom fittings, PVC tank, steel and wooden doors etc. will be held on 24.10.2024 at 03.00 PM.

"AS IS WHERE IS" basis at site, for details log on Jamia Website: <http://jmi.nic.in>

Prof. In-Charge Executive Engineer

**KLJ Developers Private Limited**

Regd. Office: KLJ House, 5th Floor, 8A-Shivaji Marg, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi-110 015 Ph. No.011-25194391/25458767

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed that in respect of the Project KLJ GREENS-Tower B-8, B-9, B-10, J-1 & J-2 registered with HRERA, Panchkula as HRERA-PKL-FBD-594-2024 dated 01.06.2024, forming part of Group Housing Colony being developed by KLJ Developers Private Limited at Village Neemka, Sub Tehsil Tigoan, Sector-77, District Faridabad, Haryana, in terms of the provisions of RERA the following Bank Accounts are being maintained:

S. No.	Account No.	Bank Name & Address	Purpose
01.	50200095330162	HDFC Bank Master Account SN 27, 28 & 42, Star Tower, NH 8, Near Stall Mall, Block A,	For 100%
02.	50200098622511	RERA Account Sector-30, Gurugram,	For 70%
03.	50200098622600	Free Account Haryana-122001	For 30%

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 11-10-2024

For KLJ Developers Private Limited  
Authorized Signatory

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Durga is the owner of PLOT BEARING NO. 60, AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., FALLING IN KHARSA NO. 978, SITUATED AT VILLAGE BEHTA HAZI PUR, IN THE ABAD OF RAGHUNATHPUR, PARGANA, PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, U.P., by virtue of Gift Deed dated 27.09.2024, regd. as Doc. No. 17412, executed by Mr. Vajid S/o Mr. Fida, and same to be finance by SMFG India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/Title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**Mrs. Prason Lat & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate**  
SIC Associates (Law Firm)  
FF-18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vihar Khurd, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad U.P.  
Email: [sgavastoc@rediffmail.com](mailto:sgavastoc@rediffmail.com) | Ph: 011-70117274, 01244-610300

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Name of the transferee  
**M/s. Lincy Francis D/o Mr. Francis Pottamma**  
**R/o C-2C, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.)**

**KLJ Developers Private Limited**

Regd. Office: KLJ House, 5th Floor, 8A-Shivaji Marg, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi-110 015 Ph. No.011-25194391/25458767

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby informed that in respect of the Project KLJ GREENS-Tower B-8, B-9, B-10, J-1 & J-2 registered with HRERA, Panchkula as HRERA-PKL-FBD-594-2024 dated 01.06.2024, forming part of Group Housing Colony being developed by KLJ Developers Private Limited at Village Neemka, Sub Tehsil Tigoan, Sector-77, District Faridabad, Haryana, in terms of the provisions of RERA the following Bank Accounts are being maintained:

S. No.	Account No.	Bank Name & Address	Purpose
01.	50200095330162	HDFC Bank Master Account SN 27, 28 & 42, Star Tower, NH 8, Near Stall Mall, Block A,	For 100%
02.	50200098622511	RERA Account Sector-30, Gurugram,	For 70%
03.	50200098622600	Free Account Haryana-122001	For 30%

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 11-10-2024

For KLJ Developers Private Limited  
Authorized Signatory

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //**

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स शुभम मिनरल्स (प्रो.- श्री बी.एल.रामानी, मोहभद्रा ज़ोलागाईट डिपोजीट), ग्राम- मोहभद्रा, तहसील- बेरला, जिला- बेतेतरा स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 1299, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304 एवं 1305, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 2.26 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित ज़ोलागाईट (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्रमात्ता- 4,698 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है।

**इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 11.11.2024 को समय- प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थान- ग्राम कोदवा-मोहभद्रा पक्की सड़क मार्ग पर रिपब्लिक गंगा स्मार्ट प्रा.सि. की खाली सड़क, खसरा नं.- 455, ग्राम- मोहभद्रा, तहसील-बेरला, जिला- बेतेतरा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-**

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा नाटक का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितंबर 2006 (यथा- संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन /पवन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कांयापालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोबा बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु, परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, बेतेतरा, जिला- महाराष्ट्र, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला- बेतेतरा, बेतेतरा, जिला- बेतेतरा, महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग जिला, पंचायत, जिला- बेतेतरा, सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत मोहभद्रा, तहसील- बेरला, जिला- बेतेतरा, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला- दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर में रखी गई है।

सदस्य सचिव  
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

**// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //**

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम-किरारी, कलेक्टर लाईन स्टेशन माईन, तहसील - अकलतरा, जिला- जांजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.) में स्थित कुल 02 घुना पथर खदानों (गौण खनिज) 01. मेसर्स निमायस मेटल्स एंड मिनरल्स, (किरारी लाईन स्टेशन माईन, पॉन्टन - श्री राजेन्द्र सिंह), खसरा क्रमांक- 821/114, 821/15, 821/17 एवं 821/18, लॉज परिया - 1.052 हेक्टेयर, खदान का उत्खनन क्षमता- 15,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-किरारी, तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला- जांजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.), एवं 02. मेसर्स नां गुरु मिनरल्स (किरारी लाईन स्टेशन माईन, पॉन्टन - श्री हेमंत कुमार सिंह), खसरा क्रमांक - 729/2, 729/3 एवं 729/6, लॉज परिया- 1.643 हेक्टेयर, ख

# Auto industry mourns Ratan Tata's loss, stocks still soar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ratan Tata championed innovations that are helping build a better tomorrow, auto industry body SIAM said on Thursday while paying homage to the eminent industrialist who passed away on Wednesday night. "Indian automobile industry is deeply saddened with the passing away of Shri Ratan Tata, a towering figure, who has played a stellar role in bringing the Indian auto industry to the global stage," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Shailesh Chandra said in a statement. A great humanist, visionary and leader, he championed innovations that are helping build a better tomorrow, he added. Hero MotoCorp Executive Chairman Pawan Munjal termed Tata as a visionary



leader and ethical statesman. "I am deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Ratan Tata. His unparalleled contributions as a visionary leader and ethical statesman have left an indelible mark on our nation," he stated. Munjal further said, "Tata's commitment to integrity and innovation not

only transformed industries but also uplifted communities, inspiring countless lives." A true hero, his legacy of compassion and service will resonate for generations, guiding the industry towards the greater good, he added. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Managing Director & Chief

Executive Officer Masakazu Yoshimura said that as a global corporate luminary, Ratan Tata will forever be remembered for his transformative contribution towards modernisation of the Indian business landscape and deep compassion towards the betterment of the society. His profound contribution and revolutionary thinking has inspired the automobile industry in India to think beyond conventional boundaries, he added. "Ratan Tata's legacy will continue to inspire and guide generations, reminding us that true leadership is defined not only by business acumen but by a selfless dedication to serve the betterment of humanity," Yoshimura stated. Tata, the former Tata Group chairman, breathed his last at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital at 11.30 pm on Wednesday. He was 86.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Tata Group companies on Thursday rose up to 10 per cent, with Tata Chemicals and Tata Teleservices among the major gainers. Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata, who played a key role in transforming the group into a global conglomerate, passed away late on Wednesday. He was 86. "Investors can pay tribute to Ratan Tata and the great corporate empire he built by buying stocks like TCS, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consumer and Indian Hotels. "Ratan Tata, while pursuing the group's growth, contributed substantially to India's growth and millions of ordinary investors gained from the great man's vision," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at



Geojit Financial Services, said. The stock of Tata Investment Corporation soared 10.47 per cent to trade at Rs 7,235.80 apiece, Tata Chemicals climbed 6.26 per cent to Rs 1,174.85, Tata Teleservices Maharashtra jumped 5.84 per cent to Rs 83.77, Tata Elxsi rose 3.37 per cent to Rs 7,867.80, Tata Power went up 2.56 per cent to Rs 472.70 on the BSE. Also, shares of Tata Technologies, Rallis India, Nelco, Tejas Networks, TajGVK Hotels & Resorts, and Indian Hotels & Company also rose on the

bourse. In addition, the scrip of Tata Steel rose 0.91 per cent, Tata Communications (0.84 per cent), Tata Consultancy Services (0.21 per cent), Tata Consumer Products (0.17 per cent), Voltas (0.24 per cent) and Automotive Stampings & Assemblies (0.23 per cent) on the BSE. However, Tata Group's retail firm Trent slipped 0.90 per cent to trade at Rs 8,146.35 apiece, Titan fell 0.81 per cent to Rs 3,465.80 and Tata Motors was down 0.40 per cent to Rs 935.35 per scrip. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 198.28 points, or 0.24 per cent, to 81,665.38 in the mid-session trade on Thursday. Investors should learn from the growth of the Tata empire that a long-term investment horizon is required to really participate in the wealth creation that happens

through the capital market. In a bull market like the present one, there will always be valuation concerns, Vijayakumar added. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has cancelled a press conference scheduled on Thursday evening to announce its second quarter performance, company officials said. The press conference was originally scheduled at 1730 hours on Thursday. As originally scheduled, TCS will inform the exchanges about its July-September performance after the board meeting, the officials said. A scheduled call with analysts at 7 pm will be held as per schedule, they said. The last rites of Ratan Tata, who passed away late on Wednesday evening, are scheduled to take place after 4 pm at central Mumbai's Worli on Thursday.

# Amazon focuses on customer experience, not competition in India

PTI ■ NASHVILLE

Amid the rise of quick commerce companies in India, Amazon said it is sharply focused on customers, not competition, and that the Prime proposition of offering users the largest selection at fastest speeds is a "winning" formula that "resonates" in India. The e-commerce giant is upbeat on India's prospects buoyed by the rapid pace of economic growth and digitisation, Amazon Prime Vice President, Jamil Ghani said, adding that the company is investing unprecedented amounts in making its Prime programme "even faster" and that the momentum will continue. India figures prominently as a hotbed of innovation for Amazon in every part of its business, he said. The company will continue to innovate in India for local markets, emerging markets and more and more for global markets. Amazon offers Prime - a

membership programme that promises savings, convenience and entertainment - across 24 countries and over 200 million households and "India figures prominently in that landscape for Amazon". Amazon says its breadth of selection in India covers 'needs' all the way to 'wants' and that it is focused on broadening the selection, with faster speed, more convenience and attractive prices. Asked about the challenges posed by the rise of quick commerce companies in India, Ghani said Amazon obsesses about customers, not competition. "Prime proposition is predicated on the largest selection at the fastest speeds. For instance, we have over a million items available the same day and four million items available, across India, the next day and so the breadth of selection we see in India covers the 'needs' all the way to 'wants'...And is delivered at ever faster



speeds. We're investing unprecedented amounts in making the programme even faster and we're going to continue to do that across the entire country," he told reporters on the sidelines of Amazon's flagship 'Delivering the Future' event here in Nashville. To a question of whether the

company would naturally progress towards quicker timelines in a select portfolio of product categories to take on competition from quick commerce firms, he said, "It's a very natural assumption that we're going to get faster on more selections every single day." "The reality is that not only

are there a lot of alternatives for our members, but our members' expectations keep going up," he said. The company is focused on broadening the selection, on faster speed, more convenience and attractive prices. "That combination that Prime delivers of the largest selection at the fastest speeds is a winning proposition. You see that in the continued growth of the Prime programme in India and also the increase in engagement from those members as well," he said. The marketplace offers many solutions tailored to consumer needs, he said, adding, "that's true around the globe, it's good for customers to have a lot of options." "And what we see with the growth of membership and the growth and engagement (is) that the prime proposition is resonating with our customers in India and we're going to keep on following that formula," Ghani said.

Amazon, he said, will continue inventing in India for the India market, for emerging countries and increasingly across the globe. "I am extremely excited about what is going on in the country in developing economically. There is fascinating and inspiring innovation going on in every sector of the economy, digitalisation of just about everything. We are not just going to continue inventing in India for India we are also inventing for emerging countries broadly, and increasingly for globe from India," he said. Amazon Store continues to get better every day with over a million items available for delivery the same day and four million items across India for delivery the next day, the senior executive said. "We are in the middle of the Great Indian festival and that is going exceptionally well with many members joining to avail the discount available across the entire store," Ghani said.



# UPI transactions surge in first half of 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian instant payment system (UPI) transaction volumes recorded a 52 per cent year-on-year surge to 78.97 billion in the first six months of 2024, according to a report. In its India Digital Payments Report for the first half of 2024 (January to June), payment technology service provider Worldline said on Thursday that UPI continues to rule the payment market and is rapidly expanding its reach. "The number of UPI transactions rose significantly from 8.03 billion in January 2023 to 13.9 billion by June 2024. This growth in volume was matched by an increase in transaction value, which climbed from Rs 12.98 trillion in January 2023 to an impressive Rs 20.07 trillion in June 2024. "When comparing H1 2024 to the same period in 2023, UPI transaction volume saw a substantial increase of 52 per cent, rising from 51.9 billion to 78.97 billion," the report said. The value of transactions grew 40 per cent, increasing from Rs 83.16 trillion to Rs 116.63 trillion. In terms of volume and value contribution, PhonePe emerged as the top UPI app, followed by Google Pay and Paytm. However, average ticket size (ATS) of UPI transactions saw a decline of 8 per cent, the report noted. The average ticket size (ATS) of all UPI transactions in H1 2023 was Rs 1,603, while it

dropped to Rs 1,478 in H1 2024, it said. ATS consists of person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. ATS in P2P transactions registered an almost flat year-on-year rise from Rs 2,812 to Rs 2,836. ATS for P2M transactions dropped from Rs 667 to Rs 643, representing a 4 per cent reduction. "This significant rise in UPI transactions, particularly in the person-to-merchant (P2M) segment, further cements its position as the preferred method for micro-transactions, demonstrating long-term sustainability and even movement to larger transactions in the coming years," Worldline India CEO Ramesh Narasimhan said. Grocery stores, restaurants, service stations, clothing stores, government services, pharmacies, and hospitals were the most visited in-store merchant categories in the first half of 2024. According to the research, they collectively accounted for almost 53 per cent of the overall transaction value and 68 per cent of the transaction volume. E-commerce, gaming, utilities, government services, and financial services made up around 81 per cent of the overall transaction volume and 74 per cent of the total transaction value in the online industry. Furthermore, the report revealed that between January 2023 and June 2024, the number of POS (point of sale) terminals increased 17 per cent, rising from 7.65 million to 8.96 million.

# Sensex, Nifty close higher amid buying in heavyweight stocks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled higher on Thursday due to gains in banking, power and industrial stocks amid a firm trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 144.31 points, or 0.18 per cent, to settle at 81,611.41. During the day, it soared 535.74 points, or 0.65 per cent, to hit an intra-day high of 82,002.84. The NSE Nifty increased 16.50 points, or 0.07 per cent, to close at 24,998.45. In the intra-day trade, it rose 152.1 points, or 0.60 per cent, to hit a high of 25,134.05. "The market traded on a range bound trend with a negative



bias ahead of the start of Q2 result. "The Asian market started well but could not hold on to the gains as European markets wavered on a negative trend in anticipation of the key US inflation data, global bond yields are rising," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. From the 30 Sensex companies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, NTPC,

Axis Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the gainers. Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Infosys, Titan, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards. Domestic broader market momentum was mixed with caution as the initial expectation of Q2FY25 results is subdued due to a subpar momentum in the global and rural demand, Nair added. Shares of Tata Group companies on Thursday rose up to 15 per cent, with Tata Investment Corporation, Tata Chemicals, and Tata Teleservices among the major gainers.

# India plays crucial geopolitical role from American standpoint: USISPF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India plays a pivotal role geopolitically from an American perspective and offers US companies the opportunity to de-risk from China in the manufacturing sector, the head of a top India-centric American business and strategic advocacy group has said. The economic growth story of India is tremendous. India is among very few large economies which are growing seven to eight per cent, Mukesh Aghi, the President and CEO of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said on Wednesday. From an American

perspective, India plays a "pivotal role" geopolitically, he said. "India is one economy which is providing market opportunity, especially to US companies that come in and invest and gain market share. It is an economy which is providing de-risking from China itself in the manufacturing area," Aghi told PTI in an interview. "What we are seeing is the Indian economy is not just becoming a market opportunity, it's becoming an opportunity for manufacturing. ..But more important is we are seeing a growth of global capability centres in India," Aghi said. The Indian economy is

expected to gain momentum in 2025, he said. India is exporting roughly almost USD 125 billion of services. Aghi's remarks came ahead of the annual India Leadership Summit of the USISPF on October 14. Several top American business leaders, including CEOs of Fortune 100, are heading to New Delhi to attend the event. The summit will feature thought-provoking sessions and panel discussions to advance and strengthen the India-US partnership. "We have potential investors and also in startups and looking at technology companies.

## INBRIEF

**NFR OPERATING 238 TRIPS OF SPECIAL TRAINS**

**MALIGAON:** In anticipation of the increased passenger traffic during the upcoming festive season, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is all set to THE operate 13 pairs or 26 numbers of special trains. These trains will facilitate smooth travel experience during the forthcoming festive of Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja.

**EDUCATION COLLEGES ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL**

**AMRITSAR:** The Education Colleges Zonal Youth festival of Guru Nanak Dev University was inaugurated today in the Dashmesh Auditorium of the University. Students-artists from Education Colleges affiliated to the University are participating in this zone.

**BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS GNDU**

**AMRITSAR:** Her Excellency Ms. Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India visited Guru Nanak Dev University. During her visit, Ms. Lindy Cameron met with officials of teaching, research & Innovation of the Guru Nanak Dev University.

**NFR REVISES TIMINGS OF FEW IMPORTANT TRAINS**

**MALIGAON:** The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to revise timings of ten (10) trains at few stations commencing its journeys from 12th October, 2024 onwards running across its network. The revisions have been made to enhance passenger convenience and improve punctuality.

**IRFC to achieve Modi's Viksit Bharat goal**

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), a Schedule A Miniratna public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, announced on Thursday the appointment of Manoj Kumar Dubey, a 1993-batch Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer, as its Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Dubey assumed office on Thursday. Dubey, who previously served as Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), expressed his honor at taking on the leadership of IRFC during what he sees as a defining moment for India's growth. "India is on the cusp of significant economic advancements, and leading one of the nation's iconic public sector enterprises is both a privilege and a responsibility. We want to be in the mainstream of the Viksit Bharat 2047 strategy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Dubey said. "India's rail infrastructure has flourished under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister and the dynamic leadership of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The swift launch of Vande Bharat Express, rapid expansion of railway routes, and enhanced capacity and speed of freight trains are clear markers of this success. In a decade, India has constructed 14,985 km of new railway tracks, surpassing the achievements of developed nations like France," added Dubey. To put it in perspective, between 2004 and 2014, the total track length was just 14,000 km; however, in the past decade alone, this figure has more than doubled, now exceeding 31,000 kilometers.

**RBI urges banks to enhance risk assessment**

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday asked banks, NBFCs, and other entities regulated by it to use information obtained from all relevant internal and external sources for their risk assessment exercise. Reserve Bank's Regulated entities (REs) have to carry out 'Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment' exercise periodically to identify, assess and take effective measures to mitigate their Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) risks for clients, countries or geographic areas, products, services, and transactions or delivery channels. In this regard, the central bank has issued "The Internal Risk Assessment Guidance for Money Laundering/ Terrorist Financing" for the REs, particularly for the dealing staff and the Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/ Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) / Counter

department, internal audit function, compliance function, etc," it said. The central bank also emphasised that a siloed approach wherein only the AML team is involved in the IRA exercise should be avoided. It further said REs may endeavor to adopt a data oriented objective approach to avert any kind of bias in the IRA exercise while quality of data inputs would need to be ensured so that the results are meaningful/useful. RBI said that in an ever changing business environment and the increasing level of complexities in the banking and other financial products offered by banks and other regulated entities, there is always a likely exposure to the elevated money laundering, terrorist financing, or proliferation financing risks. The risks are further multiplied as use of emergent technologies and newer methods of payments enter the scene, it added.

Proliferation Financing (CPF) practitioners of the REs. It specifies key principles for an internal risk assessment (IRA) exercise. "The enterprise-level risk assessment forms the bedrock of RBA (Risk-Based Approach). It enables the REs to understand how and to what extent they are vulnerable to ML/TF/PF risks which help REs in determining the allocation of attention and AML/CFT resources necessary to mitigate that risk," the RBI

# EMBRACING SELF-LOVE

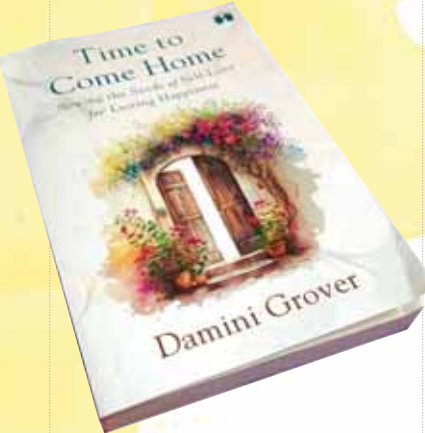
In 'Time to Come Home', Damini Grover invites readers on a transformative journey of self-love, guiding them to rediscover their true selves and embrace their worth says, **SAKSHI PRIYA**

**"YOU CANNOT LOVE YOURSELF WITHOUT ACCEPTING YOUR TRUE FORM." THIS SIMPLE YET PROFOUND CONCEPT INVITES READERS TO EMBRACE WHO THEY TRULY ARE, RATHER THAN CONSTANTLY SEEKING VALIDATION FROM OTHERS OR STRIVING FOR PERFECTION.**

**T**ime to Come Home by Damini Grover is an insightful and transformative guide that invites readers to embark on a personal journey of self-love and growth. From the very first chapter, Grover begins with the question, "What is self-love?" and encourages readers to dive into an activity that helps define its true meaning. This exercise serves as a powerful reminder that the love we show to others - support, encouragement, forgiveness, should be equally extended to ourselves.

One of the key ideas that Grover highlights is that self-love isn't selfish, it's essential for living a balanced and fulfilling life. As she points out, "You cannot love yourself without accepting your true form." This simple yet profound concept invites readers to embrace who they truly are, rather than constantly seeking validation from others or striving for perfection. The book's first chapter makes an impactful start by showing how we often think of love in terms of what we give to others, our time, attention and care. As I read through this list, I realised how rarely we apply the same level of care to ourselves. Grover encourages us to view self-love as nurturing and forgiving ourselves, just as we would those closest to us. This includes celebrating our successes, whether big or small, and giving ourselves the compassion we so often reserve for others. Grover's experience as a psychologist shines through in her practical advice, which is grounded in both personal anecdotes and examples from her professional life. These real-life stories make the book relatable and offer readers concrete ways to overcome common barriers to self-love, such as societal pressures and internalised doubt. She provides practical exercises that help readers incorporate self-love into their daily routines, making this journey toward personal growth more accessible and achievable.

A particularly powerful moment in the book is when the author explains how we often forget to celebrate our own achievements.



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

**Book :** Time To Come Home - Sowing the Seeds of Self-Love for Lasting Happiness  
**by DAMINI GROVER**  
**Publisher :** Hay House  
**Number of Pages:** 280  
**₹399.00**  
**Availability:** Amazon

Whether it's a small personal victory or a significant milestone, Grover reminds us that recognising our own efforts is a vital part of self-love. This isn't about pride, but about valuing ourselves and the work we put into our lives. It struck me how often we fail to give ourselves credit, constantly seeking praise from others, when, in reality, we should be the first to acknowledge our accomplishments.

What sets this book apart is its approachable tone and simplicity. Grover doesn't complicate her message with overwhelming ideas or heavy jargon. Instead, she offers practical guidance, allowing the reader to feel more connected to the process of self-love. Each chapter ends with exercises that encourage reflection and action, guiding readers toward building a stronger, more compassionate relationship with themselves.

One of the standout sections of *Time to Come Home* explores the concept of self-acceptance. Grover touches on how critical it is to stop battling with ourselves and to accept who we are in the present moment. She writes, "It is what it is," which resonates as a gentle yet powerful reminder that acceptance is the foundation for self-love. It's about acknowledging our imperfections without judgment, and choosing to embrace ourselves as we are.

A theme that deeply resonated with me was the emphasis on forgiveness, not just of others, but of ourselves. The author beautifully explains how forgiving ourselves for past mistakes and shortcomings is essential to moving forward. This aspect of self-love, often overlooked, is crucial for personal growth and healing. She also emphasises that loving ourselves includes uplifting ourselves in moments of doubt and difficulty, just as we would for a friend.

*Time to Come Home* is a guide for anyone seeking to rediscover themselves and strengthen their foundation of self-love. Through relatable stories, practical exercises, and a compassionate tone, Damini Grover highlights the vital role self-love plays in our overall well-being. According to Grover, self-love is not a luxury but a necessity. Without it, we may feel disconnected and unfulfilled, constantly seeking validation from others. By embracing self-love, we improve our relationships, make better decisions and lead more authentic lives. This book is a must-read for anyone ready to embark on the journey of returning to themselves and embracing the power of self-love.

**NEW ARRIVALS**

**OCTOBER NEW RELEASES BY ALEPH BOOK COMPANY**

**India: A Linguistic Civilisation**  
 By GN DEVY  
 (PRICE: ₹599, PAGES: 200)



In *India: A Linguistic Civilisation*, by GN Devy examines the profound linguistic diversity of India and its role in shaping national identity and culture. This insightful book traces the evolution of languages, addressing the challenges of documenting their histories while highlighting the impact of migration, colonialism and cultural practices. Devy emphasises the importance of preserving endangered languages and the rich oral traditions that enrich Indian heritage, making a compelling case for collective responsibility in safeguarding linguistic diversity.

**Become an Achiever Right Now**  
 (Price: ₹299, Pages: 144)



In *Become an Achiever Right Now: A Masterclass from the SuperGurus*, a collection of insights from the world's leading self-help gurus, this book uncovers the common traits and strategies shared by great achievers. It explores how taking risks, learning from failures and possessing unique character attributes can propel individuals toward their dreams. With practical advice and inspirational stories, this masterclass equips readers with the tools they need to navigate life's challenges and achieve lasting success.

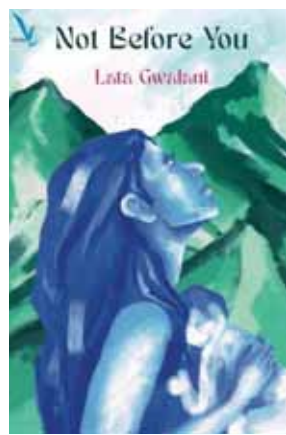
## A Mother's Pain and Family Struggles

Lata Gwalani 'Not Before You' reveals the emotional depth and challenges of a family with a differently-abled child.



BY SANJAY CHANDRA

**N**ot Before You by Lata Gwalani is a layered story that explores different facets of human emotions and accompanying family dynamics. It is the story of a mother's angst as she faces the reality that her first-born son is differently-abled and would not survive long. The story also explores the fragile balance of the family, as the other two members - the father and the second child, a normal daughter, deal with the situation in their own way, which does not include a caregiver role for the child. Jaya works in the media. A chance meeting with Suraj who runs his Yoga Ashram, culminates into romance, and marriage. Their joy soon turns into despair when they realise that the child, Nikhil, is different. The diagnosis after several visits to the doctors shatters them. In time, they have a daughter, Divya, who is normal. Jaya is determined to care for son till the end. Suraj takes refuge by escaping from reality. Divya is traumatised



**ABOUT THE BOOK**  
**Book :** Not Before You  
**by LATA GWALANI**  
**Publisher:** Vishwakarma Publication  
**Paperback:** 216 page  
**₹325**

as she does not understand the reason for her mother spending more time with her brother to her exclusion. She also wants her mother to cuddle and care for her the way she sees her caring for Nikhil or the way the mothers of her friends care for their children. She continues to fight her demons even as an adult. She also blames her mother for the missing father. The mother bears it stoically. Years pass. Jaya retires from her professional responsibilities. She realises with dismay that she is not getting any younger. She is not invincible. She is worried about Nikhil if she passes away before her son. She is willing to go to the extremes to ensure that the young man, who has been bedridden since birth, does not suffer if she dies before him. She is a mother who wants her son to die first. She is not certain if the two other people who matter to her, Suraj and Divya, would support her. Almost 8 million children in India live with disabilities.

The first thought that runs through our minds is a silent prayer to the supreme being that our children lead a normal life, and then a sympathy towards the parents. We do not pause and reflect upon the sentiments of the affected parents. Lata shows us the mirror to do just that. It is a sensitive subject beautifully handled by her. There are short references to Yama, the God of death, looking down upon this unique mother and bowing to her wishes to not die before the child. These passages do not interrupt the flow of the story, but could have been avoided. This is a book that teaches us the meaning of empathy. Lata Gwalani has a career spanning three decades in journalism and behavioural training. She is a renowned speaker on Emotional Intelligence and Leadership. Lata uncovers captivating tales in the mundane and has published three works.

**ABOUT THE REVIEWER**

Sanjay Chandra is an author, speaker and strategy consultant who writes for The Pioneer and The Hindu. His novels include Behind Closed Doors (2023), The Gymnast (2022) and The Life and Times of a Common Man (2019). He lives in Gurugram and connects with readers through his website and social media. Sanjay loves to interact with readers through his email sanjaychandra59@gmail.com, his website www.authorsanjaychandra.com and various social media handles.

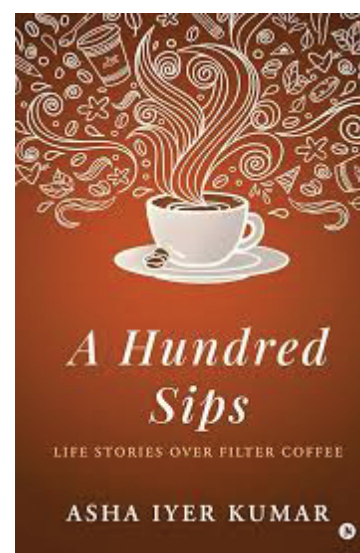


## Finding joy: A hundred sips of life's simple moments

In 'A Hundred Sips: Life Stories over Filter Coffee,' Asha Iyer Kumar invites readers to explore the essence of happiness and the beauty found in life's everyday moments, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

What is happiness and how can we discover it in the simple moments of daily life? Is there a pattern to the challenges and hardships we face on this journey? In 'A Hundred Sips: Life Stories over Filter Coffee,' Asha Iyer Kumar presents a collection of uplifting stories that explore these questions and more. Rooted in her personal experiences, Kumar's narratives reveal how hope and joy can be found even amid life's struggles and tough decisions.

*A Hundred Sips* is a thought-provoking and beautifully crafted collection of stories that take the reader on a reflective journey through life's everyday moments. Each essay is like a sip from the cup of life, offering warmth, insight, and the subtle flavours of human experience. Kumar's writing is both intimate and relatable, drawing from her personal observations and universal truths. Her book explores themes of love, loss, joy and the simple pleasures that often go unnoticed in our fast-paced world. The strength of her prose lies in its simplicity; she conveys profound ideas in a conversational tone, making it feel like the reader is having a heartfelt discussion with an old friend. Her stories remind us that although life may not always be perfect, there are always glimmers of light, even in the darkest times. With her straightforward yet profound writing, Kumar encourages readers to recognise the happiness and contentment hidden in everyday



moments, celebrating the small pleasures often overlooked. Through this journey, Kumar invites readers to pause and reflect on their own lives, helping them uncover beauty in the ordinary and find the extraordinary within the mundane. Whether you're searching for comfort, inspiration or a fresh perspective, 'A Hundred Sips: Life Stories over Filter Coffee' is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the joy that can be discovered in the simplest of experiences. Her message is clear: Immerse yourself in these deep stories and let them guide you in savouring life, one sip at a time.

# NITISH KUMAR REDDY CREDITS GAUTAM GAMBHIR FOR ALL-ROUND SHOW IN 2ND T20I

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy said the idea was to take on the Bangladeshi spinners and credited head coach Gautam Gambhir for boosting his confidence after his all-round effort powered the hosts to an 86-run win in the second T20I here.

India, who had lost to Bangladesh the last time these two teams clashed here, landed in trouble with their top order blown away inside the powerplay but Reddy and Rinku Singh joined forces to turn the tables on Bangladesh. The pair put on 108 runs for the fourth wicket from 49 balls to take the game away from Bangladesh, with Reddy clobbering seven sixes and four fours to make 74 from a mere 34 balls.

"The conversation that we were having (was) a smooth conversation, we were not taking any pressure. We did not plan anything about the score. We saw the spinner coming on to bowl, and we thought that this was the main over and we should take him on," he said in a video shared by BCCI.

"To be honest, I should thank Gautam sir for this. He gave a lot of confidence in me. He told me to believe in my bowling." "He said 'when you are bowling, you should think like a bowler and not as a batsman who can bowl.' That is what he kept telling me and that somehow boosted me," he added.

Reddy said he was grateful for being adjudged the Player of



the Match. "Playing for India is in itself a proud moment and getting the man of the match (award), I feel so grateful for this and I just want to live in this moment," he said. "Once I got to know that from here you should take on. I just knew that I will take on the bowlers. I was backing myself saying 'you can do this,' added Reddy, who returned 4-0-23-2.

"The conversation between us was like, he was telling me that maybe it is God's plan. We were just believing (in) it and we were just hitting the balls," Reddy said in a video shared by BCCI. Rinku, who scored 53 off 29 balls with five fours and three sixes, said the pair decided to take the attack to the opposition.

"We were enjoying our batting. I just said it is God's plan, just keep hitting and leave it on the one above. Nitesh bhai also batted well," said Rinku. "It was only his second international match and it felt really good watching him," he added. Rinku looked at his record with pride saying he has won each series that he has played

for India and expressed his wish to continue doing that. "This was my third century in T20Is and all three have come in situations where India have lost early wickets have been lost and I got the chance to bat and I made a fifty," he said. "I have won all the series with the Indian team since I started playing, so I would want to

remain with the team and the key keep winning," added Rinku, who also has 'God' plan tattooed on his arm. Rinku said India skipper Suryakumar Yadav urges his players to remain aggressive and play their natural game. "Surya bhai has asked us to be aggressive and play our natural game, just back our shots and show our energy," he said.



## IAMGAME Conclave for the Future of Indian Sports

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

The IAMGAME Conclave took place on Wednesday to put together key leaders, athletes, and industry experts to share their valuable insights on the evolution and global potential of Indian sports.

The conclave addressed the most pressing challenges and opportunities within the Indian sports ecosystem, from infrastructure development and athlete nurturing to the growing influence of technology and the critical role of inclusivity and diversity.

The conclave was inaugurated by Mr Sudhanshu Mittal, President of Kho Kho federation. This more than just an event; it is a call to action. By facilitating open dialogue and knowledge sharing, the conclave aims to empower participants to drive positive change in the sports sector. The conclave had prominent speakers such as Harmanpreet Singh, Ronjan Sodhi, Udit Sheth, Jaspal Rana, Nikhat Zareen, Namrata Parekh, Aparna Popat, and Rathindra Basu. Who shared their insights about how they can make the game better for athletes.

"The conclave was not just about conversations, but

about fostering collaboration and setting the foundation for action that will shape the future of sports in India," said Karan Chettri, IAMGAME Founder.

IAMGAME inspired innovation, tackled inclusivity, and empowered the next generation of athletes by fostering a collaborative environment for meaningful discussions. The insights generated at the event will serve as a roadmap for India's continued progress as a global sports powerhouse.

Co-founder Mandeep Malhotra added, "Through IAMGAME, we have built a platform for collaboration and growth, positioning Indian sports for a brighter future."

The event concluded on a high note, with a renewed focus on empowering the next generation of athletes, promoting inclusivity, and fostering innovation. The insights and ideas generated at IAMGAME 2024 are expected to serve as a roadmap for India's continued progress as a global sports powerhouse. As the momentum from the conclave carries forward, it is expected to drive meaningful changes within the Indian sports ecosystem, pushing it to new heights.

## Iyer-Kishan on a "mission" as half of season to be held without top 60 players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shreyas Iyer would like to sit back on a 'Time Machine' to revive his start-stop international career while Ishan Kishan would aim to clear the popular perception about his allegedly "misplaced priorities", when the 90th edition of Ranji Trophy starts across the country with hundreds of players ready to slog it out for different ambitions and varied goals.

The Indian cricket board's powerful rap on the knuckles to the 'IPL happy duo' was a message loud and clear to anyone who would care to listen - to earn mega bucks in IPL auction, learn to give respect to the foundation of country's cricket - India's very own national championship. Iyer wouldn't mind having a 1,321-run reason like he had in the 2015-16 Ranji edition which brought him into national reckoning.

He is at the cross-roads where it may not take long to slip off the selector's radar as his favourite ODI format is slowly losing relevance. Similarly, Kishan, who has fallen off the pecking order among national 'keepers, has accepted the responsibility to captain Jharkhand which would also be a signal of his intent for Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues.

Like every edition, Ranji Trophy will be devoid of star power with none of country's top 17-18 players likely to be available throughout the season due to eight Test



matches scheduled between October 16 to January 7. The next 18 will only be available for a single round before they embark on India 'A' tour to Australia while another 15 among the younger crop of top T20 stars also unavailable for a couple of weeks owing to a four-match T20I series in South Africa. If that is not enough, another 15 will be in Muscat for the Emerging Asia Cup tournament, where BCCI wouldn't send its U-23 team like previous years as other Asian nations don't have robust age-group programme. Like every year, the national selectors would be out there to unearth hidden diamonds and give them wings to fly in coming years.

The Indian Test team's philosophy has undergone sea-change over the years and it will no longer just be about volume of runs scored and quantum of wickets.

"If runs and wickets alone

would have been a marker then Milind Kumar or Jalaj Saxena would have played for India," a former national selector, who has a deep understanding of the process said.

"If a batter has scored only 500 runs in a season but there is hundred on a green-top against good domestic attack and 60-odd on a proverbial akhaada (rank turner), his name would find a place in selector's notebook for India A and pathways programme. "Similarly, if a fast bowler is running in and making things happen on a batting belt with sun beating down, he will automatically grab eyeballs. It is all about adaptability and challenging yourself to get out of your comfort zone. If it's a flat deck, then show your stamina and score a triple even when you are suffering from cramps."

"To play for India, show that you are different. All selectors have specific names in mind

when they go for an assignment. Yes, they look at all players but focus would be on what national team requirements are," the selector, a former India Test player said. Among the teams, Mumbai once again would be a team to beat with Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer in its ranks although the Khan brothers — Sarfaraz and Vyshak Vijaykumar would like to put their best foot forward to remain among the fringe pacers.

Mukesh Kumar might get to play a match for Bengal before he also leaves for India A tour while Yash Dhull, who has been panned by one and all for technique and temperament, would like to redeem himself. But in another corner of the country, one would like to see Cheteshwar Pujara quietly go about his day job of scoring runs, frustrating bowlers with dead defence while his one-time colleagues in the deepest core of their hearts knowing that they will miss him Down Under.

## Not going in with pre-determined mindset has helped Smriti and me, says Shafali

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian batter Shafali Verma said she and her opening partner Smriti Mandhana have moved away from the mindset of entering matches with "pre-determined" ideas about targeting any particular type of bowling, which has helped them achieve greater success.

The duo put up a 98-run opening stand to lay the foundation of India's emphatic 82-run win over Sri Lanka on Wednesday. In her 38-ball 50, Mandhana attacked the spinners, which is noteworthy since she typically relies on Shafali to handle tweakers.

"Yes, we have a very good combination now, as you said. That's because now we don't go being pre-determined. Whoever is connecting well with the bat and ball on that day, we try to give singles and let her play more balls," Shafali said at the post-match press conference.

"She's hitting the spinners very well. So, it's a good thing. And we both just try to give as good a start as we can then it'd be good for the team to build a good inning and hit a good target," she added. Under the pump after the heavy loss to New Zealand and an underwhelming win over Pakistan, India's hammering of Sri Lanka massively boosted their net run rate, elevating them to the second spot in Group A. The Indian women have,



however, struggled to hit the maximums at the Dubai Cricket Stadium, where they have played all of their matches till now.

Shafali and Mandhana also copped criticism for their running between the wickets, which improved drastically against Sri Lanka

"We missed a lot of runs in the starting. I know about that. I think we're used to the condition. Maybe because of that, we're running well in between wickets. But we're trying to get the first run fast. Because the ground is very big, 70 meters, if I'm not wrong.

"So, we try to take the first run fast. It's very difficult to hit the sixes but we're thinking of taking the first run fast," Shafali said.

India next take on group leaders Australia in Sharjah on Sunday. It will be a change of venue for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co.

"For Sharjah, we will have three days off, if I am not wrong. So, we will work on the process and we will focus

on what we can do to be confident. And hopefully, if we give our 100% individually then of course, we will win."

**AFFIDAVIT**  
I, Manju Singhal, w/o Shiv Kumar Agarwal, Resident of Qtr. No. B/11, GMT Colony Dera Colliery, Po- Dera Colliery, Ps- Colliery, Dist- Angul, Odisha, Pin-759103, Declare by this affidavit No.7319 date 05/10/2024 that now onwards I shall be Known as Manju Agarwal for all future purposes.

**AFFIDAVIT**  
I, Shiv Kumar Singhal, S/o Late Ram Kishore Agarwal, Resident of Qtr. No. B/11, GMT Colony Dera Colliery, Po- Dera Colliery, Ps- Colliery, Dist- Angul, Odisha, Pin-759103, Declare by this affidavit No.7319 date 05/10/2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Shiv Kumar Agarwal for all future purposes.

## Major Dhyan Chand Stadium gets a facelift to ahead of India-Germany hockey series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Once it chronicled Mir Ranjan Negi's epic fall from grace, Dhanraj Pillay's artistic stick-work and Sandeep Singh's muscular drag-flicks but in the past decade or so, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium seemed resigned to the fact that its glory days as epicentre of Indian hockey were a thing of past.

find its home in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela was a major factor in the shift of momentum, which can swing once again if the fans show up. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey is hoping for a good turnout considering the growing popularity of hockey after two consecutive Olympic bronze medals.

"Earlier domestic tournaments used to be held in Delhi in a very spectacular manner. I too made my international debut in Delhi through Indira Gandhi Gold Cup 1995. A large number of spectators used to come here and we also want that the glory of hockey to return to Delhi," Tirkey told PTI Bhasha.



"After the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, the popularity of hockey has increased manifold and now the stadium will be waiting for the spectators," said the legendary former defender.

The last international match played here was the 2014 Hero World League Final. Inter-departmental hockey of institutions has also been held here occasionally.

"I was an official here during the 2010 World Cup and people from all over the country came here to watch the match. It was a different atmosphere," said Ajay Kumar Bansal, former coach of the Indian junior and women's hockey team and ex administrator of the National Stadium.

"Hockey was being played in Odisha for the last few years, due to which the graph of the game went up there and on the contrary, due to the absence of hockey in Delhi, it went down. The youth did not see any big hockey tournament here, so automatically their interest decreased," he said. "Apart from this, due to lack of

tournaments, the maintenance of the stadium is also affected. I want that from next time, four or five more venues including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana should be included in the Hockey India League."

India's World Cup winning former captain Ajitpal Singh believes that matches with big teams should be played in all the pockets of hockey in India. "An international match is happening in Delhi after many years. Earlier, many 'Test' matches used to be held at the Shivaji Stadium. I think it is important to have matches and tournaments across the country, rather centralising them," the former skipper said.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

Email Address: cermch.ecicwr.od@gmail.com

**e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- CEM/MDC-04/ 2024-25**

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM / MDC - 04/ 2024-25
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 25,33,290.00
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From dt. 15.10.2024 (10.00 AM) to dt. 28.10.2024 (5.30 PM)
- Last date/ time for receipt of bid In the Portal : dt. 28.10.2024 (up to 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of opening of Bid : dt. 29.10.2024 (12.00 Noon onwards in the OIO the undersigned)
- Name of the Officer inviting bid : Chief Engineer, Mechanical, O/O the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer, Mechanical  
O/O- Engineer-In-Chief,  
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-225201/100100225