

OPINION 6

**RATAN NAVAL TATA:
A GEM OF A PERSON**

MONEY 10

**RBI CALLS FOR CHEAPER,
FASTER REMITTANCES**

WORLD 9

**POLISH GOVT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND
ASYLUM LAW TRIGGERS CONCERN**

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

Late City Vol. 20 Issue 281
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

Established 1865

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



**BEN STOKES RETURNS
FOR SECOND TEST
AGAINST PAKISTAN**
12 SPORTS

Communal conflagration in Uttar Pradesh

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
LUCKNOW**

Tensions escalated in Bahraich district on Monday, as protests and violence erupted following a communal clash during a Durga idol immersion procession in the Mahasi area. The violence, which broke out on Sunday, led to the death of a 22-year-old man, Ram Gopal Mishra, who succumbed to a gunshot wound during the incident. The clash reportedly began over loud music being played from a Durga procession as it passed through the Maharajganj area of Mansoor village. The altercation led to further violence, including incidents of stone-pelting and gunfire, which left around six people injured. As tensions mounted, a local hospital and several shops were set ablaze on Monday morning, prompting the local administration to suspend internet services in an effort to curb the spread of rumors and restore order.



Security personnel deployed to maintain law & order in a violence-affected area, a day after a 22-year-old man was killed in communal violence during a Goddess Durga idol immersion procession, in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, Monday PTI

Authorities, including Home Secretary Sanjeev Gupta and Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash, have arrived in Bahraich to assess the situation and coordinate the security response. Police have conducted flag marches in the area to ensure a visible presence and to deter further unrest. Despite these efforts, sporadic protests continued, with locals raising slogans against police and administrative officials. In response to the violence, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya condemned the incident and warned against any attempts

to disturb the peace and harmony in Uttar Pradesh. He emphasized that the state government would take stringent action against those involved in the violence, assuring that the victims would receive justice. Maurya appealed to the public to maintain peace and patience during this sensitive time, stating, "The bright future of the state will not be allowed to be tampered with." Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed concern over the incident, criticizing what she described as the "inaction" of the administration. In a statement on X (formerly

Twitter), she called for immediate intervention by the state government and urged the public to avoid taking the law into their own hands. Vadra emphasized the need for the state administration to take the public into confidence and to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable. As the situation in Bahraich remains tense, the local administration is working to restore normalcy. The suspension of internet services is expected to remain in effect until the situation stabilizes, to prevent the spread of rumors and

misinformation. Authorities have also appealed to community leaders to help in maintaining peace. What had happened: The initial clash in Bahraich reportedly stemmed from a dispute over loud music being played during the Durga idol immersion procession. As tensions flared, the situation escalated dramatically after the death of Ram Gopal Mishra, which triggered outrage among local villagers. In retaliation, angry residents vandalized vehicles and set fire to several properties in the Maharajganj market area. According to Mishra's family, he was shot while walking with the procession and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. His death intensified the already volatile atmosphere in the area, leading to further acts of arson and damage to property. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condemned the violence and assured that those responsible would face strict consequences. He directed authorities to ensure that the process of idol immersion continues smoothly, despite the communal tensions. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of coordinating with local religious organizations to carry out the immersions as planned, while also maintaining law and order.



Manic Monday for Air India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a worrying trend, five Hoax bomb threat messages to three international flights, a mail train and a university, made it a manic Monday for security agencies. Three separate international flights with 600 passengers on board departing from Mumbai received bomb threat messages early this morning. Besides, Gujarat based National Law University and Mumbai-Howrah mail train number 12809 also received bomb threat messages, which proved to be hoaxes. Since any threat is taken seriously, one flight Air India Mumbai-New York was diverted to Indira Gandhi international airport at New Delhi and two others delayed for being checked thoroughly before being allowed to proceed for their destinations. According to the Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS), the affected flights were AI 119, that was the Mumbai-New York Air India flight that diverted to IGI airport, IndiGo Mumbai-Muscat 6E 1275 and Mumbai-Jeddah

6E56. Hoax messages severely cripple flight schedules. On getting a threat like this airports/aircraft, passengers and baggage has to be thoroughly checked. Getting the all clear nod takes several hours and by then sometimes the maximum time for which crew can operate is about to lapse. "Flight AI 119 operating from Mumbai to JFK on October 14 received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee, (it) was diverted to Delhi," Air India said in a statement. "Staff on ground are working to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption, it said. All 258 people onboard the aircraft have disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures. Once the security protocols are completed, the passengers will be moved to hotels, it added. There were 239 passengers and 19 crew members onboard the plane. The flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from

Delhi on Tuesday morning, the airline said. "The aircraft was thoroughly checked at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, and all standard safety protocols were diligently followed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board," a senior police officer said, adding that nothing suspicious was found during checking. The Boeing 777 aircraft - VT-AER - departed Mumbai at 2:27 am, nearly 50 minutes behind its scheduled departure of 1:40 am, and landed around one-and-a-half hours later, according to flight tracking service Flightradar24. Passengers were made to deplane the aircraft at around 4:10 am, but were asked to leave their bags on board. The bomb threat was received through a post on the microblogging platform X and the handle is being verified, the officer said. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol visited the Delhi airport to take stock of the situation.



Opposition MPs boycott Waqf parliamentary committee meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several opposition MPs on Monday boycotted a meeting of the parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill alleging that the panel is not functioning in accordance with rules, after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was accused by a deposer of being involved in Waqf land scam. The lengthy meetings of the Joint Committee of Parliament have been marked by the exchange of words between its Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Opposition members, and things turned especially stormy on Monday as the latter questioned the rationale behind calling members of Hindu groups for deposition on a law concerning Muslims. Opposition MPs walked out in protest against the submission of Anwar Maniappady, a former chairman of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission and the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation. He is also a former Karnataka BJP vice-president. Maniappady named several Congress leaders from Karnataka, including Kharge and Rehman Khan, and others for their alleged involvement in embezzling Waqf properties.

Odia woman gang-raped in Delhi

Odisha Police in contract with Delhi cops: DGP

Right activist moves NHRC for probe

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the alleged gang-rape of an Odia woman in New Delhi triggered outrage in Odisha, Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania on Monday said the incident is being followed up with the Delhi Police with all seriousness and sensitivity. Khurania said the Odisha Police is in touch with the family members of the victim and is also following up the progress of investigation with their Delhi counterparts. Meanwhile, Odisha Resident Commissioner in Delhi Vishal Gagan said that a senior woman official is in touch with the victim and the local police. As per sources, the woman's family members have left for New Delhi after the incident came to light. Meanwhile, the BJD has come down heavily on the Odisha Government over the incident and questioned the silence of the Mohan Majhi administration on the issue. BJD Rajya Sabha member Manas Mangaraj said, "Call it negligence or apathy, the State Government has turned a blind eye to the plight of distressed woman and seems to be busy in holidays," he said.

The victim, stated to be a nursing graduate from Odisha, was raped by unknown miscreants who later dumped the victim in a semi-conscious state in the Sarai Kale Khan area of southeast Delhi on the intervening night of October 10 and 11. The woman was rescued by a police team and taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where she is undergoing treatment. The Delhi Police have registered a case against the miscreants under Sections 70(1) (gang rape) and 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Multiple teams have been formed to apprehend the culprits. In a related development, a rights activist has moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking its direction to the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. Advocate and human rights activist Radhakant Tripathy has lodged a complaint with the NHRC for steps to ensure proper probe. Accusing the Government of Delhi of failing to take precautions and preventive measures even after the Nirbhaya case, Tripathy urged the commission to investigate the case independently and impartially. The NHRC has also been requested to issue directions for rehabilitation of the victim with proper medical care and compensation. Tripathy urged the commission to direct the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to provide Rs 10 lakh to the victim as per the NALSA Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other Crimes, 2018.



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets people to be apprised of their grievances at the Circuit House in Keonjhar on Monday on the last day of a three-day visit to his home district.

Ratna Bhandar GPR report in couple of days Says Minister

PNS ■ PURI

The report of the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey that was conducted to assess the condition of both the 'Bahar' and 'Bhitar' Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath Temple in Puri to determine the existence of any hidden chambers to tunnels is most likely to come in a couple of days. The survey conducted by an expert team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) would come out in two or four days, said Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Sunday. The expert team in the presence of the nine-member Ratna Bhandar committee, chaired by Justice Biswanath Rath, had used the latest equipment to scan the walls of Ratna Bhandars of the 12th-century shrine. Speaking to media, Harichandan said, "The report of

the GPR survey that was conducted has not come yet. It is most likely to come in another two to four days. The next course of action will be taken by the State Government only after getting the report." "If the report says that there are any gold or silver ornaments inside or any other treasure, or some hidden tunnel, the Odisha government will take necessary steps accordingly. If nothing is found, then the ASI will undertake the report work immediately," he added. "The counting of the ornaments will be done only after the treasure boxes are taken back to the Ratna Bhandar after the repair work is completed," he added. In the final phase, all the treasures would be again brought back to the Ratna Bhandar where the fresh inventory of the wealth would be conducted and then compared with the inventory made in 1978.



E-rickshaws, the Capital's ticking time bombs

The untrained drivers carry extra passengers, choke traffic on busy stretches

BY RAJESH KUMAR

Be it Laxmi Nagar to CR Park or Seelampur to Aerocity, e-rickshaws have become a ubiquitous sight across the capital, often seen wobbling slowly on roads overloaded with passengers, choking traffic on busy stretches. They congregate mostly at bus stands, metro stations, markets, malls and shopping centres. Experts say the design of e-rickshaws is inherently faulty and their operation by non licensed/untrained/underage drivers render them dangerous on the roads. They always park and travel on the wrong side. Another danger associated with e-rickshaws is the illegal charging of batteries which has caused fire and explosion in the past. According to the transport

official, the major complaints against e-rickshaws were clustering on the road that was leading to traffic jams and long tailbacks, improper parking, violation of restrictions on road use, one-way violations, overloading passengers and underage driving. Since they usually do not move until they pick up a certain number of passengers, they block roads and cause congestion. These vehicles also pose risk to people in different ways. Data showed there are approximately 120,000 registered e-rickshaws in the national capital. However, there are many plying on the road without valid registration causing congestion and safety hazards. Recently, a 40-year-old e-rickshaw driver died after being



PHOTO: RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

electrocuted at an illegal charging station in Shahbad Dairy. He was sitting in his vehicle while it was being charged. Last month, two men sustained serious injuries while a woman succumbed at the hospital after an e-rickshaw they were travelling in caught fire in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri,

Besides, they not only cause traffic jams on most arterial roads and Inter State Bus Terminals but also engaged in power theft. In its report earlier, power Discoms flagged to government agencies that around half of these are engaged in power theft, resulting in a loss of 15-20 MW across the

city. This translates to an annual loss of around Rs 120 crore. Approximately 200 e-rickshaw charging locations, with a load of about 3 MW, are booked for theft every year in Delhi. These e-rickshaws were largely engaged in illegal charging

through direct theft and the use of sub-standard batteries, which posed significant safety hazards. Exposed electricity wires left open during illegal charging and non-adherence to safety standards often cause sparks and short circuits. These live wires also pose a danger to the public, especially children playing in these areas during the daytime. Such open wires have led to electrocutions in the past. The areas where such illegal businesses are proliferating include Sangam Vihar, Jamia, Kalkaji, Tughlakabad, Sarai Kale Khan, Paschim Vihar, Matiyala and Mahavir Enclave in south and west Delhi. In East Delhi, the breeding grounds for such activity are Shastri Park, Karawal Nagar, and Mustafabad, while Civil Lines, Mukherjee Nagar and Rohini are

hotbeds in north Delhi. Officials say the number of e-rickshaws has been spiralling in the city. Though they have slowly progressed towards becoming a traffic hazard, there is almost no regulation with Delhi government and traffic police passing the buck to each other. The first e-rickshaws started plying in 2012. In the past 12 years, they have mushroomed on neighbourhood as well as arterial roads. The reason for the meteoric rise in their numbers can be attributed to first and last mile connectivity at pocket-friendly rates. Without any regulations, almost anyone can become an e-rickshaw driver. These vehicles have now become a major nuisance even on arterial roads, where they are not allowed to ply.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Speeding up 'GatiShakti'

GatiShakti gets a fresh boost as PM Modi hails it as a game-changer for India's infrastructure

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded 'GatiShakti,' describing it as a transformative initiative poised to revolutionise India's infrastructure. Speaking on the third anniversary of 'GatiShakti' PM Modi hailed its potential to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's logistical network, thereby driving economic growth and development. The 'GatiShakti initiative,' introduced by the Central Government in 2021, aims to streamline and integrate various infrastructure projects across sectors, including roads, railways, ports and airports. The programme seeks to bridge gaps in existing networks, eliminate bottlenecks and promote the use of advanced technology and data analytics in planning and execution. GatiShakti goes beyond traditional infrastructure planning, as it involves the coordination of multiple departments and incorporates feedback from state governments, private sector stakeholders and local communities. The initiative is expected to transform



how infrastructure projects are conceived and executed, bringing about a paradigm shift in the country's growth trajectory. By fostering seamless integration of various sectors and improving the synergy between different modes of transport, GatiShakti is set to play a pivotal role in accelerating India's economic development.

By improving logistical efficiency, reducing costs and promoting seamless connectivity, the initiative can significantly bring down the cost of production. China's rapid economic growth provides a valuable lesson for India. Over the past few decades, China has focused heavily on large-scale infrastructure

development, including extensive networks of high-speed railways, highways and ports. This not only improved connectivity but also drastically lowered logistics costs, making it easier for businesses to thrive. Following a similar path, 'GatiShakti' can serve as a catalyst for India's economic transformation, driving sustainable growth and helping the country achieve its ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy. While 'GatiShakti' promises to transform India's infrastructure, several challenges may hinder its implementation. Key impediments include land acquisition issues, where delays and disputes over land ownership can stall projects. Regulatory bottlenecks also pose challenges, with complex approval processes across different ministries slowing down progress. Additionally, financing constraints may arise, as large-scale infrastructure projects require substantial investment and public-private partnerships. To overcome these hurdles, the government can implement policy reforms to streamline land acquisition and simplify approval procedures, reducing bureaucratic delays. Encouraging private investment through tax benefits and offering risk-sharing models can attract more participation from the private sector. GatiShakti is the need of the hour and must be prioritised to realise India's growth potential.

PICTALK



Devotees carry the palanquin of the deities to participate in the Dussehra festival, in Kullu

Ratan Naval Tata: A gem of a person



BHOPINDER SINGH

The passing of Ratan Tata has left the nation mourning not just an industrialist, but a rare leader who transcended divides, representing the 'Idea of India'

The year was 2000 and the list of Padma Awardees sent to the Rashtrapati Bhawan had included a list of super achievers. The scholarly constitutionalist in President K R Narayanan went through each name carefully, as he always did. The list had included luminaries like Pandit Hariprasad Churasia, Prof J B Bhagwati, Rajnikanth, Tarlok Singh etc., but one particular name brought a smile to the face of the otherwise reserved and ultra-correct Rashtrapati K R Narayanan, and it was the name of the then relatively young, 63-year-old Chairman of the Tata Group, Ratan Tata.

Arguably the most accomplished President ever, with a curriculum vitae of achievements that included recognition as the 'best diplomat of Indian Foreign Service,' Ambassadorship to countries like USA, China etc., Vice Chancellorship of JNU, 3 consecutive wins as Member of Parliament, posts of Union Minister, Vice President of India, all on merit was no small achievement. Unbeknownst to many, his brilliant journey had the benefit of winds in his sails instilled by the Tata Group, long back! K R Narayanan had never forgotten what the Tatas had done to make its version of the 'Indian Dream' - the story from Uzhavoor in Kottayam to the Rashtrapati Bhawan had an unmistakably selfless, generous, and humble hand of the Tatas.

The topper from his school days who overcame unimaginable tribulations of financial and social nature fought against all odds and with the timely aid of the Travancore Royal family. In 1944, K R Narayanan was helped immeasurably by the Tata Scholarship to pursue his obvious genius in economics, politics and journalism at the London School of Economics - it was just the academic break that the precocious talent needed, and the rest as they say, is history. JRD Tata had heeded a recommendation letter stating that Narayanan had secured an MA at Travancore University, ranking first. He further noted that he achieved the distinction after surmounting many personal obstacles. Ironically, there



was yet another name in the 2000 Padma awardees who had a Tata hand in his own life story, the illustrious scientist, RA Mashelkar. Given his financial hardship, he too would attribute a large part of his success to the "Tata scholarship of 60 rupees per month for six years that helped me study".

He conflated his own story to that of K R Narayanan's, "Both of us were Tata scholars. We both left India, only to return when we were fairly young with a zeal to do more for our homeland". The surreal moment was described by Mashelkar, "Padma Bhushan, was bestowed on both me, a Tata scholar, and Ratan Tata, head of the house of Tatas. By whom? President Narayanan, another Tata scholar. This was the best endorsement of President Narayanan's remarks about moving from the 'side-lines of the society to the hub of social standing'".

As President Narayanan's Military Secretary, I was responsible for protocols et al, and I distinctly remember the President telling me that presumably Ratan Tata knew of the Tata connection in Narayanan's life, yet he had never sought any favour, consideration, or familiarity, out of any sense of entitlement.



HIS DEATH SHOWED WHAT A COLOSSUS HE WAS, WHOSE LOSS IS FELT BY ALL, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTIONS. HE WAS UNBELIEVABLY ABOVE ALL POSSIBLE 'DIVIDES' THAT BESET A 5000-YEAR-OLD CIVILISATION AND DEMOCRACY CALLED INDIA

Always one for puns with languages, he suggested fondly that perhaps the Tata leaders were not 'Captains of the Industry', but more fittingly 'Generals of the Industry'.

As one from the 'Uniform' and knowing Narayanan personally, I knew immediately that the remark was not about seniority (ranks) but about leadership, inviolable values, and personal integrity, which is asked of an individual, as she/he is in a position to walk-the-talk. Much before expressions like affirmative action, corporate social responsibility or corporate trusteeship were defined - Tatas were already doing the same, with no vested interest, whatsoever. It was always about a larger purpose. It is with this sense of immutable responsibility that Ratan Tata stepped into the shoes of the legendary JRD Tata, who had been passed the baton by Nowroji Saklatwala and Jamsetji Tata. The silent dignity, grace, and magnanimity of the typical Tata way of doing things were upheld and reinforced by Ratan Tata - in his passing, the nation lost its most loved son and the 'Idea of India' its finest exponent.

The passing away of Ratan Tata has also exposed just how poor (in leadership) we have suddenly become. In

wounded and polarised times of bitter conflicts between the realms of majority-minority denominations, capitalist-socialist societies, agrarian-industry priorities, and white collar-blue collar dimension - it is ironic that Ratan Tata was never ascribed to be working for a restricted denomination. His death showed what a colossus he was, whose loss is felt by all. He was unbelievably above all possible 'divides' that beset a 5000-year-old civilisation and democracy called India.

Today there are many leaders of political parties, communities, regions, corporations and even perhaps of causes - but none who can be said to be a leader of the inclusive and caring 'Idea of India'. In such desperate times, his passing away has also inadvertently posited the relevance of 'humility' and basic 'decency' that is so sadly missing in the national discourse. So, there may be leaders or even 'Captains of Industry', but 'General' of Leadership (and beyond) - absolutely none. Ratan Tata was the last of the knights, a first-rate hero.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RSS CALLS FOR HINDU UNITY

Madam - Apropos of the news 'Hindus be united, empowered, weakness not an option: RSS' (October 13). The message of RSS Sar Sangh Chalak for unity of Hindus amidst political subversion on caste lines has made a wide impact and sensitises Hindus to diminish caste lines. The media made it headlines like never before. This is highly worrisome, as religious conversions by Islamic and missionary institutions and consequent demography change are the most potent threats emanating from caste divisions. Kashmiri Hindus have faced the worst violence and mass exodus since independence and even before, which is yet another consequence of weakened and divided Hindus but which was taboo for a selected media and the intellectuals to even discuss.

Narratives have been set on caste divisions weakening and dividing Hindus for more than a century on misrepresentation of oppression bereft of any evidence, whereas the former rulers of various princely states, entrepreneurs of traditional businesses, and defeated warriors faced persecutions by the Mughal and British rulers and were reduced to penury and ruins and classified later as lower castes. Such narratives should be busted. The movies and OTT platforms are equally responsible for inculcating inferiority complexes among Hindus selectively. Lately, there is a noticeably undercurrent among Hindus against those who are insulting Hindus and their Gods and undercutting their religious faiths. The constitutional term secular has been misused to the extreme for dividing Hindus. The demand for caste census selectively for Hindus only while excluding other religions, though not provided in the Constitution is yet another shot to divide Hindus and create vote banks. Sangh Pramukh's message is loud and clear.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

TRAIN CRASH SPARKS PANIC

Madam - Gruesome rail accidents in the recent past caused concern and created a

Md Siraj appointed as DSP



Star Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has been appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) by the Telangana state. The post has been extended to him by the state government in appreciation of his exceptional and splendid achievement in international cricket. Siraj no doubt fought all odds to get into the national team and has carved a niche of his own with his superb

performance since his entry. The state in its declaration cited that the young cricketer has made Telangana proud and brought honours to the nation, hence this great honour for him. Among his noteworthy accomplishments are his participation in the Cricket World Cup series and the ongoing series with various teams before World Test Championship finals.

It has to be noted that the state made amendments in its regulations of appointments to felicitate and honour sportspersons as heads of government departments. He now joins the likes of Joginder Sharma (Cricketer), Akhil Kumar, Jitender and Vijender (Boxers) and Hima Das (Athlete) to name a few who became police officers for their contributions to sports. This no doubt will attract more youngsters to sports and encourage them to showcase their best to bring laurels to the state and the nation.

M Pradyu | Kannur

panic among railway passengers. This is a serious lapse and it will be treated as a human error to save heads from sacking. Following a collision between Darbhanga-bound Bagmati Express and a stationary goods train on Friday night, the Railways ordered a high-level inquiry to ascertain the cause.

Nine injuries and no fatalities have been reported, although 11 coaches of the express train derailed on impact, leaving a parcel van in flames and mangled coaches strewn across the crash site. After crossing Ponneri railway station, the Darbhanga-bound train received the green signal to pass through the main line towards the next station, Kavaripetta, near Gummidipoondi. However, the express train carrying more than 1,600 passengers experienced a "heavy jerk" while entering the station. It ended up entering the loop line instead and colliding with the rear of a goods train stabled there around 8:30 PM, according to the Railways. This is a serious lapse on the part of the railways and heads must roll.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

BABA SIDDIQUE ASSASSINATED

Madam - Former Maharashtra minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique was killed in Mumbai. He was shot outside his office by three unidentified men. Siddique, 66, was a key Muslim political leader in Maharashtra and also served as Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, Labour and FDA. More than politics, Siddique was known for his social image and hosting grand iftar parties every year. During his time as an MLA, Siddique worked extensively on improving the infrastructure of his constituency, focusing on slum rehabilitation, upgrading healthcare facilities, and enhancing educational institutions. It is too premature to say anything as an investigation is going on. The law and order situation is deteriorating. This is not good for the city and state of Maharashtra. If the third shooter is also arrested, then we can make a breakthrough in this murder case.

MR Jayanthi | Trichy

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Navigating the complex path of integrity

In a world where honesty is often presented as situational, staying true to one's principles can be a daunting task

I caught snatches of an interesting conversation on the radio recently. The host and the guest were having a free-flowing discussion on the role of honesty and truthfulness in life. The conclusion was that honesty always pays, but a half-truth may be acceptable to avoid hurting the other person. I did not agree to subjective honesty as the situation demands. I remembered a few incidents while working in the government. These were lessons learned about integrity and honesty in public life. I was working on an arbitration case a few decades back. The advocate representing the contractor approached me to tilt the report in his favour for consideration. I told him that the case would be dealt with on merits. He was expecting elevation as a High Court judge, and I was warned of being hauled up in his court. I do not know if he was promoted. I was certainly not summoned. I moved to a government company in Delhi. I started commuting to work with my senior colleague in his official vehicle. New to the organisation, I claimed the



entitled conveyance allowance for the commute. He gently pulled me up and told me that I could not claim the money till the time he chauffeured me. I continued to travel with him till I was elevated and had been provided with an official vehicle. Another acquaintance from the private sector informed me about his promotion. Having received my congratulatory wishes, he hesitantly told me he was now in a position of authority to do something for me. I pointed out that I was better placed to do his company a favour, and not broach the subject again if he wished to remain a friend and a business associate. We continue to be friends. The word got around. I was not subject to any more proposals of illegal gratification.

A gentleman joined the dispute resolution board that I am part of only when he was assured by a former senior colleague about my proven integrity in public life. I am not vain, or at least try not to be demonstrative of my vanity, but I could not resist a proud smile. There were also incidents when I was on the receiving end. I did not live up to the standards that I had set. My father-in-law met an untimely death three decades back. A few days after the rituals were over, I accompanied my brother-in-law to the local post office to withdraw the savings. The dealing assistant's table was piled high with earlier case files. The work was done within the time frame promised, without his touching the money that we



SANJAY CHANDRA

were asked to put in the office drawer. I could have refused and waited out. I chose the easy way. I once read an article that corruption is a global phenomenon. It exists even in developed countries like America and Japan. The difference is that it is at the highest levels and does not affect the common man. I recently flew with a senior corporate leader who echoed exactly similar sentiments. This is the conundrum that I am unable to resolve. We should not be teaching our children conflicting lessons. To me, being truthful or honest are the two sides of the same coin. There cannot be two standards, be it in business, politics, personal life, or at the common man's level. American author, H Jackson Brown Jr said "Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you." That will be the day when we will be truly proud of ourselves.

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

THE CHANGING FACE OF RAM LEELA

As traditional values blur, concerns grow about the erosion of cultural heritage of Ram Leela



VINOD TAKIAWALA

The connection between Delhi's residents and Ram Leelas is a deeply rooted tradition, with the historic Ramlila Maidan serving as a living testament to this cultural bond. Stories linked to the venue continue to be shared even today. During the Ram Leela performances, the atmosphere in Delhi and the NCR resonates with the chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Har Har Mahadev." As evening falls, families eagerly set out to partake in the festivities. I, too, had the opportunity to witness some of these performances. However, to my disappointment, the portrayal of Ram's story often appeared distorted, with dialogues sounding jarring and performances lacking in choreography. It seemed as though the actors, much like the director and scriptwriter, had little familiarity with the original Ramayana.

The Ram Leela I watched during my younger days has transformed into a commercial event, with little regard for the religious and cultural essence of this annual festival. It has become more of an entertainment spectacle than an exploration of the Ramayana's teachings. For some, it's a means to profit, while others use it as a platform to pursue their personal agendas. In the capital, the celebrations—including the enactment of the Ram Leela and the ritual of burning Ravana's effigy—frequently feature prominent figures such as politicians and businessmen as guests of honour. It often feels as though the Ram Leela is being staged to honour them, as the announcements from the stage are filled with praises for their greatness and importance.

Yet, I couldn't help but wonder whether any of them truly embodied the



virtues of Maryada Purushottam Ram. Whether ministers, political leaders, social workers, or other distinguished personalities holding official positions, none struck me as being worthy of comparison to Ram. I kept asking myself, "Is there anyone among them who genuinely understands Ram or upholds his ideals?"

Moreover, the management of the Ram Leelas raises several concerns. From the chaotic parking outside the venues to the giant advertisements plastered on temporary boundaries, the arrangements leave much to be desired. The presence of high-ranking officials, Delhi police, and businessmen with their families often overshadows the experience of the common people. Organisers are granted access to public spaces with government support, including subsidised electricity, water, security, and other amenities. Despite this, substantial funds are collected through donations for staging the Ram Leelas, though there is no clear accounting or auditing of these finances. Only God knows where the money goes.

At one Ram Leela in Delhi, the organisers spared no expense in creating luxurious settings for themselves, while visitors had minimal or no facilities. A statue of Lord Ram was placed in an open field, and the idols of other Hindu deities were carelessly laid out on the ground. Meanwhile, the organisers and their close circle enjoyed lavish facilities in opulent tents with exclusive arrangements for food, photoshoots, and private promotions. Ordinary visitors, who came with their families to enjoy the performance, often struggled to gain entry. Once inside, they were met with private security guards employed to serve the organisers' guests, who sometimes treated the common people poorly.

Ram Leelas have now become major attractions and money-making opportunities, with little consideration for the people who come to witness them. The entire event is chaotic, and all one can hope for is that it concludes without any unfortunate incidents. The ideals of Ram seem to be the last thing on the minds of those who organise these events. The essence of Ram Leela has been overshadowed by the spectacle of wealth and status. Even the story of Ram is distorted, and the dialogues are awkward—but that is the reality of modern-day Ram Leela.

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

Why RBI should not look at food inflation



UTTAM GUPTA

Concerns over persistent food price volatility and the need for economic growth support have prompted the Reserve Bank of India to keep its options open



On October 9, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the decisions taken by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its fourth bi-monthly meeting of the current financial year (FY). It has kept the policy rate (the interest rate at which the RBI lends to banks) unchanged at 6.5 per cent. However, it has altered its policy stance from "withdrawal of accommodation" to a neutral stance. In 2016, the Union Government put in place an institutionalised framework to enable the MPC to formulate monetary policy and determine the key interest rates including the policy rate for inflation targeting. It mandated the RBI to fix the policy rate in such a manner as to maintain the Consumer Price Index or CPI (it corresponds to a basket that includes food, fuel, manufactured goods and select services) within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). The RBI decides the policy rates once in two months during each FY.

The mandate initially given for five years ending March 31, 2021, has since been extended till March 31, 2026. The other crucial policy instrument the banking regulator uses for targeting inflation is Liquidity - a jargon for the quantum of credit available in the banking system. Pumping more liquidity along with a reduction in the policy rate represents a scenario which in jargon is described as an 'accommodative' policy stance. The terminology was coined by Das in June 2019 when he started going for aggressive cuts in the policy rate and an increase in credit availability. Since June 2022 the RBI changed its stance to "withdrawal of accommodation" and has since stuck to it till date.

From October 9, 2024, it has decided to go for what it terms a "neutral" stance. A "neutral" stance connotes that the RBI has vowed to keep its options flexible meaning it will neither squeeze liquidity by restricting credit availability and keeping policy rates high nor go

for unrestrained lending at low interest rates.

At the time of taking charge in December 2018, Das was confronted with a legacy of policy rate at a peak of 6.5 per cent, courtesy of a tight stance taken by his predecessor Urjit Patel. In February 2019, he initiated a process of aggressive cut that led to its plummeting to a low of 4 per cent by May 2020. It stayed at that level for over two years. Beginning May 2022, the RBI delivered a hike of 1.4 per cent during the first half of FY 2022-23 and another dose of 1.1 per cent during the second half.

A total hike of 2.5 per cent thus restored the policy rate to its earlier peak of 6.5 per cent by February 2023. Since then, the rate has remained unchanged to date.

Why hasn't RBI reduced the rate? Look at the trajectory of the CPI inflation. It had scaled to a high of 7.8 per cent in April 2022. During FY 2022-23, it hovered around 8 per cent. In the following FY, it started decreasing from 7.4 per cent in July 2023 to 5 per cent in September 2023, 4.8 per cent in October 2023 and 5.1 per cent during January/February 2024. For the whole of FY 2023-24, it was 5.4 per cent. During the current FY also, the CPI inflation has kept low; 5.08 per cent in June 2024 and 3.54 per cent in July 2024. During FY 2024-25, the RBI expects the CPI inflation to be 4.5 per cent. Given the above, from the third quarter of FY 2023-24, the CPI inflation has remained well within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). Moreover, as per RBI's assessment, this position will be sustained till the end of the current FY.

There was thus a strong case for reducing the repo rate. This would have given a boost to economic

growth besides helping millions of borrowers reduce their EMIs and helping industries, especially MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) reduce the cost of servicing their loans. Yet, the RBI remains unfazed and has stuck to its stance of 'not reducing the policy rate'. This has to do with a mindset that was reflected in Das's observation while announcing the first bi-monthly policy of the current FY. He had said "The elephant has now gone out for a walk and appears to be returning to the forest. We would like the elephant to return to the forest and remain there on a durable basis." Put simply, he meant there was no need to start reducing interest rates until inflation reached the target of 4 per cent and stayed at that level. If, that figure of 4 per cent was so sacrosanct, then why keep (+/- 2 per cent)?

The short point is the RBI is clamoring for a scenario that is unlikely and even if it is reached, it won't be possible to stay there for long. A potent reason for this is food inflation which has a weight of around 40 per cent in the overall CPI and is impacted predominantly by supply side/seasonal factors whereas monetary policy instruments work on the demand side.

Invariably, food inflation maintains an upward trend even as a small disruption in supply caused by seasonal factors can lead to spiralling prices. This, in turn, lifts the CPI inflation more so because of its high weight of 40 per cent. In July 2023, food inflation was 11.8 per cent which led to CPI inflation of 7.4 per cent. In October 2023, the former decreased to 6.6 per cent, and so did the latter to 4.8 per cent. At the start of the current year, food inflation spurred to around 8 per cent and by June 2024, it had fur-

ther moved up to 9.4 per cent. As long as food (whose prices are fundamentally affected by supply-side factors) remains a part of the CPI basket, inflation targeting will always remain a problem. There is an urgent need to exclude it while setting benchmark interest rates, an idea that was mooted by the Chief Economic Advisor in the Economic Survey (ES) for 2023-24. The CEA argued that monetary policy has no bearing on the prices of food items, which are dictated by supply-side pressures. For instance, during 2021-22, wheat output was affected by unusually high temperatures. During 2022-23, rains accompanied by hailstorms acted as a spoiler. During the first half of FY 2023-24, food inflation went up due to a spike in the prices of vegetables caused by seasonal factors. The current inflationary trend in food prices also has to do with supply-side pressures only. The RBI can achieve little to control them by keeping the policy rate high.

The RBI should take the idea mooted in the ES - 2023-24 on board. Meanwhile, it should consider reducing the weight of food inflation in CPI to reflect the contemporary reality. The current 40 per cent weight is based on the Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) of 2011-12 whereas Summary Statistics from the 2022-23 CES point towards a significant reduction. While formulating its monetary policy, the RBI's prime responsibility is to ensure macro-economic stability its pivotal focus being on keeping inflation within reasonable bounds. However, it can't be oblivious of the dire need to support economic growth which could be adversely impacted if it keeps the interest rates high.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)



AS LONG AS FOOD (WHOSE PRICES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECTED BY SUPPLY-SIDE FACTORS) REMAINS A PART OF THE CPI BASKET, INFLATION TARGETING WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A PROBLEM

Laapataa Ladies: India's Oscar entry poised to captivate the world

This year's selection for Oscar marks a bold statement about the future of Indian cinema and its universal appeal

India is ready to stun the world once again, not only with its glamorous presence but also with its captivating storytelling at the 2025 Oscars. With Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies chosen as India's official entry for Best International Feature Film, the global stage is about to witness a film that exemplifies the power of Indian cinema where tradition meets modernity, and women's stories are told with gradation, strength and authenticity.

From the grand stages of Cannes and TIFF to the prestigious halls of the Oscars, India's cinematic journey continues to break boundaries, capturing hearts across the globe. The selection of Laapataa Ladies



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

stands out as a justified move that speaks volumes about the direction the Indian cinema will take in the future.

It signifies not just a bold statement but also a deeper narrative that India aims to convey to the world. The decision has stirred passionate discussions about the nature of Indian cinema, the evolving landscape of

global filmmaking, and the art of storytelling that resonates universally. It signifies not just a bold statement but also a deeper narrative that India aims to convey to the world. One characterised by powerful storytelling and emotional depth, laced with cultural authenticity that delves into the unique yet universally relatable experiences of women.

Kiran Rao's return to the director's chair after more than a decade has proven to be nothing short of a cinematic triumph of her evolution as a filmmaker. 'Laapataa Ladies' offers more than a film, it's an experience that beautifully blends humour and poignant social commentary and a fresh perspective on the complex-

ities of Indian womanhood. Set against the backdrop of rural India, the story revolves around two brides mistakenly swapped due to their veils, igniting a whirlwind of confusion and identity crisis. But beneath the surface, the film tackles deeper societal themes, portraying the often unspoken struggles women face while navigating tradition and personal identity. Rao's masterful storytelling elevates this from a simple narrative to a cultural dialogue, one that resonates with both Indian and global audiences. It's this jugabandi of emotion, drama, and humour that makes 'Laapataa Ladies' stand out as a universal story about women's empowerment.



The film doesn't just reflect the plight of Indian women, it taps into the global consciousness of gender roles, the subtle acts of defiance, and the resilience required to reclaim one's identity in a patriarchal society. By sending 'Laapataa Ladies' to the Oscars, India is presenting the world with a film that balances entertainment with a serious undercurrent. This

is the kind of storytelling that Hollywood needs to see an authentic narrative that reflects the socio-cultural realities of a nation while remaining universally relatable. With well-written characters, immersive performances, and a storyline that oscillates between light-heartedness and gravitas, 'Laapataa Ladies' will serve as a testament to Indian filmmaking talent. The performances of Nitanishi Goel and Pratibha Ranta shine, their portrayals brimming with vulnerability and strength, making their characters relatable on a universal scale. This film is not just a story about two women but about the entire spectrum of Indian womanhood—its beauty, complex-

ity, and contradictions. The landscape of global filmmaking is undergoing a revolution. The world is slowly waking up to the storytelling brilliance that many nations like South Korea, China, Turkey and India have always possessed but are now showcasing with greater confidence and finesse. India's selection of 'Laapataa Ladies' is part of this global wave of cinema that is redefining the narrative structure, giving voice to local stories with universal appeal. Much like South Korea's Parasite, which used the backdrop of class disparity to tell a universally compelling story, 'Laapataa Ladies' uses rural India's traditions to explore gender,

identity and empowerment in a way that transcends cultural boundaries. As 'Laapataa Ladies' makes its way to the Oscars, it carries with it the hopes of millions who believe in the power of authentic storytelling. The film's emotional depth, paired with Rao's visionary direction, is set to make waves on the international stage, showing Hollywood and the world what Indian cinema is truly capable of. With 'Laapataa Ladies', India has not just sent a film—it has sent a message.

(The writer is a former additional DG, DFF, and festival director at IFFI. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan; Views are personal)

UK sanctions Iranian military leaders, space agency over Israel attack

PTI ■ LONDON
The UK on Monday announced a new round of sanctions targeting senior Iranian military figures and organisations for their alleged role in attempting to destabilise West Asia. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said that the latest package comes in response to Iran's attack against Israel on October 1 and targets senior figures who facilitate such behaviour in the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, Iran's Air Force and the IRGC Intelligence Organisation. The sanctions will also designate Farzanegan Propulsion Systems Design Bureau (FPSDB), which designs and manufactures parts that can be used in cruise missiles, as well

as the Iranian Space Agency, which develops technologies that have applications in ballistic missile development. "Despite repeated warnings, the dangerous actions of Iran and its proxies are driving further escalation in the Middle East," said Foreign Secretary David Lammy. "Following its ballistic missile attack on Israel, we are holding Iran to account and exposing those who facilitated these acts. Alongside allies and partners, we will continue to take necessary measures to challenge Iran's unacceptable threats and press for de-escalation across the region," he said. Lammy also discussed Iran's actions with partners at the European Union (EU) Foreign Affairs Council, where he pushed for de-escalation across

the region during talks on Monday. The individuals sanctioned and subject to a travel ban and asset freeze include: Abdolrahman Mousavi, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army and a member of Iran's Supreme National Security Council; Mohammad-Hossein Dadras; Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army; Hamid Vahedi; Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force; Mohammad Kazemi; Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Intelligence Chief; Habibollah Sayyari; Head of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Army and Deputy Chief for Coordination of the Iranian Army; Ali-Mohammad Naini; IRGC Spokesperson; and Houssein Pourfarzaneh; Chief Engineer of Farzanegan

Propulsion Systems Design Bureau (FPSDB). The FCDO said the UK already has over 400 sanctions imposed on Iran, including designations against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in its entirety and many of those responsible for the recent attack on Israel. Monday's announcement follows warnings from the UK and international partners calling on Iran to cease its dangerous and escalatory activity across the Middle East. It also follows the G7 joint statement condemning Iran's missile attack on Israel and outlined the necessary steps being taken in response. The FCDO added: "The UK will continue to work with international partners to hold Iran to account for its escalatory behaviour in the Middle East and its attempts to undermine global security. "The UK is clear that a wider regional conflict must be avoided at all costs and is committed to working with partners to secure a ceasefire on all sides."

Polish gov't decision to suspend asylum law triggers concern

AP ■ WARSAW
Human rights and civil society groups voiced concerns Monday after Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced a plan to temporarily suspend the right to asylum because of its alleged abuse by eastern neighbours Belarus and Russia. Poland has struggled since 2021 with migration pressures on its border with Belarus — which is also part of the European Union's external border. Successive Polish governments have accused Belarus and Russia of organising the mass transfer of migrants from the Middle East and Africa to the border to destabilise the West. They view it as part of a hybrid war that they accuse Moscow of waging against the West as it continues its nearly three-year full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Some migrants have applied for asylum in Poland, but before the requests are processed, they travel across the EU's border-free travel zone to reach Germany or other countries in

Western Europe. Germany, where security fears are rising after a spate of extremist attacks, has recently responded by expanding border controls at all of its borders to fight irregular migration. Tusk called Germany's move "unacceptable". Tusk announced his plan to temporarily suspend the right for migrants to seek asylum at a convention of his Civic Coalition on Saturday. It will be part of a strategy that will be presented to a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday. In an open letter to Tusk published on Monday, dozens of non-governmental organisations urged him to respect the right to asylum guaranteed by international conventions which Poland signed, including the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and Poland's own constitution. The groups said that fundamental rights and freedoms must be respected. "It is thanks to them that thou-

sands of Polish women and men found shelter abroad in the difficult times of communist totalitarianism, and we have become one of the greatest beneficiaries of these rights," the letter said. "We live in difficult and uncertain times of war conflicts breaking out all over the world, and we ourselves exist on the outskirts of war, but this doesn't exempt us from humanity and from observing the law." It was signed by Amnesty International and 45 other organisations that represent a range of humanitarian, legal and civic causes. Tusk defended his decision to temporarily suspend asylum rights. He argued that Finland also suspended accepting asylum applications after facing migration pressure on its border with Russia. "The right to asylum is used instrumentally in this war and has nothing to do with human rights. Border control and the territorial security of Poland is and will be our priority. Our decisions and actions will be

absolutely subordinate to this," Tusk said on X on Sunday. A spokesperson for the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, acknowledged the challenge posed by Belarus, but also criticised Tusk's approach. "It is important and imperative that the union is protecting the external borders, and in particular from Russia and Belarus, both countries that have put in the past three years, a lot of pressure on the external borders," European Commission spokesperson Anita Hipper said during a briefing Monday. "This is something that is undermining the security of the EU member states and of the union as a whole." But she also underlined that EU member countries are legally obliged to allow people to apply for international protection. Hipper noted that the European Commission intends to "work on ensuring that the member states have the necessary tools to respond to these types of hybrid attacks."

Russia captures southern Ukraine village in push before winters

AP ■ KYIV
Russia said Monday it has captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 1,000-kilometre front line, including in eastern areas which currently are the main focus of Moscow's military effort before winter arrives. Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago it struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia's Krasnodar region where some 400 drones reportedly were being kept. In Moscow, the Defence Ministry said Russian troops took Levadne in the Zaporizhzhia region. Levadne was seized by the Russians

early during the war but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023. Ukraine's troops are straining to hold back Russia's military might, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, and don't have the manpower or weaponry to launch their own offensive. Though Russia's gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is slowly adding up as the Ukrainians are pushed backward. Ukraine says it needs more Western help to have a chance of holding back Russia's invasion. Russia illegally annexed four regions of Ukraine, including Zaporizhzhia, in September 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from all four regions as the main condition for a prospective peace deal, a

demand Ukraine and the West have rejected. The Ukrainian General Staff last week reported a direct hit on the Shahed drone warehouse inside Russia. "The destruction of the Shahed drone storage base will significantly reduce the ability of Russian occupiers to terrorise peaceful residents of Ukrainian cities and villages," it said at the time. Ukrainian officials are keen to show the West they are not giving up the fight against their much bigger neighbour. An incursion into Russia's Kursk border region has put Ukrainian troops on Russian soil for more than two months. Ukraine has also deployed sophisticated new long-range drones to strike targets inside Russia, including airfields, oil refineries and ammunition depots.

3 hurt in Dhaka clashes

PTI ■ DHAKA
At least three people were injured in a clash that broke out between police and Hindu community going to immerse idols following the conclusion of Durga Puja in an Old Dhaka locality, a media report said on Monday. The three people, including a police officer, were injured when miscreants threw bricks from the rooftop of Nur Super Market in Patuati area of Old Dhaka on the procession heading to immerse idols in the Buriganga river late Sunday night. The Daily Star newspaper said quoting an eyewitness.

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Rains claim 3 lives in Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO
Three people have lost their lives and over 1,25,000 marooned after Sri Lanka witnessed extreme weather conditions in 12 districts prompting authorities to close all schools in the capital region on Monday after heavy-rain triggered rains. President Anura Dissanayake has directed allocation of an additional Rs 50 million to provide relief to the affected people even as Sri Lankan Navy and army troops have been deployed for flood relief and rescue work, including to provide food and other essentials to the affected people. The island nation has been pummeled with heavy rainfall since October 8, however, some districts received rainfall over 100 mm over last two days along with high winds leading to flash floods and inundation in several areas. Forecast issued at 12 noon on Monday warned of further rainfall of over 100 mm to lash many areas across the nation over next 24 hours. As on Monday morning, over 32,000 families have been affected, and over 1,25,000 marooned, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said, adding, thousands have been evacuated and placed in over 80 temporary shelters.

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सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वप्रथम को सूचित किया जाता है कि, मेरा मुकदमा श्री महेन्द्र सिंह पुत्र स्वामी श्री मेवा राम, निवासी मकान नं. F-29, हरजन बस्ती, कोडली, पृथी दिल्ली-110096 में अपने पुत्र हिराचंद्र सिंह व उनकी पत्नी दीक्षा मय कन्या (द्वैतिका) को उनके द्वारा व दुर्भाग्यवश के कारण अपनी सम्पूर्ण जल-अचल संपत्ति से केवलवत् कर सातसत् सन्तान विच्छेद / खून कर लिए हैं। मेरे मुकदमा व उसके परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों का भविष्य में उनके कोई लेना-देना / सम्बन्ध नहीं है। यदि कोई व्यक्ति उनके साथ रिश्ता, व्यवहार रखता है तो अपनी जिम्मेदारी पर रहे। इसके लिए मेरे मुकदमा व उसके परिवार को कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।
अशोक चन्द मेहरा (एडवोकेट)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of DEEPAK KUMAR who is owner of the Plot No.67 and New Plot No. C-303, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No.270, Situated at Village Brahmapur @ Bhopura in the abadi of Harsh Vihar, Phase II, Pargana Loni, Tehsil District Ghaziabad, UP; purchased the same from Mr. Kamlesh, vide Sale Deed dated 10.06.2024 bearing Document No.7486, Book No.1, Volume No.21686, on pages 128-152, dated 10.06.2024, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from SMFG India Credit Co. (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/lien/interest in the said property, please inform us in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all types of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049 Contact # 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Rohit Khattana, Ranvir Singh Khattana & Karamvir Singh Khattana (hereinafter called the seller/s) claims to be owner and in possession of Prop. No. 102, Block-M, in South City -I, Phase-I, Gurgaon, Haryana (herein after called the said property) on the basis of Sale Deed dated 07.09.2016, Doc. No. 15687 r/w Relinquishment Deed dated 01.10.2024, Doc. No. 12860 after the death of Co-owner Vidhi Chand Khattana and Seller/s have agreed to sell the said Property to Bharat Bhushan Yadav & said Bharat Bhushan Yadav agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd, ITO Branch, any person's having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Raju Gupta, S/o Jagannath Gupta, Flat No. 6485, Second Floor Pocket 9, Sector-B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, is the sole owner of above mentioned Flat of vide DDA file no F125/5225/83/SP/SK/VII. The original Documents 1, Allocation Letter, 2, Fifth and Final Demand letter, 3 Bank Challan of above mentioned Flat. Has been Lost/ Misplaced somewhere and not traceable my best efforts. An FIR of this has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 2188030/2024, dated 08/10/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9840025465. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, LAB(H) or Director (H-1, D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, Ina, New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Property Bearing Plot No. 18, MC No. 245, area measuring 203 sq. yds. ie 169.728 sq. mtrs, situated in Colony namely Laxmi Vihar, Malviya, Village-Jarwa-Kalan, Pargana-Loni, Tehsil -Loni, Distt. Ghaziabad (U.P.). Hereinafter referred to as "said property". Reference Public Notice appeared in Col 1, page 9, (English Edition) and Col 1, page 2 (Hindi Edition) of New Delhi Edition of Pioneer dated 11.10.24, published by us on behalf of our client/s, Mrs Renu Goid, regarding the aforesaid property. Eronously, the Notice period has been mentioned as 15 days. The Notice period may be read as 07 days from the date of publication of the Notice i.e., 11.07.24 instead of 15 days. Inconvenience is regretted. SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE FOR M/S INTELLECTUAL LAW OFFICES, A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby notified that my client Mr. Rajaj Kalsi intend to purchase Entire Basement and Upper Ground Floor of the Property Bearing No. B-54, Swasthya Vihar, Delhi-110092 from Mrs. Jayna Janiwala W/o Late Shri Abhay Janiwala who became the owner of the entire property after the death of her husband Shri Abhay Janiwala. It is therefore, Notified that anybody claiming any right, title, interest or lien over the aforesaid property may file such claim or objection to the undersigned within a period of 10 days from the date of Publication of this notice. Otherwise, it will be presumed that the said property is free from all encumbrances, charges and/or lien, etc. and my client is free to purchase the said property from the above named seller. SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE) Office No.107, First Floor, M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 Mob. +91-9811912277

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client SHRI NARENDER SINGH S/o- Late Sh. Raghubir Singh, R/o - D2A/66 B, D Block, LIG Flats, Janak Puri, West Delhi, Delhi - 110058, has severed all his relations and have disowned his son Sh. Nitin Singh, from his all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be responsible for any act of his Son Sh. Nitin Singh, if anyone do so then he/she will do so at his/her own risk. GAURAV SADANA Advocate Enrl No. D/6524/2021

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Rakesh Kumar is the GPA Holder of Property bearing no. 1359 X/13, area measuring 55 sq. yards, i.e., 15' x 33'9" situated at Gobind Park, Kalkaji, New Delhi. He is in possession through GPA, ATS & Will dated 16.02.1996 executed by Late Manohar Singh in favour of Mr. Rakesh Kumar in respect of Said Property. Mr. Rakesh Kumar intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforesaid Property by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline: +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase FREEHOLD DDA SFS Flat No. C-13-C, WITH SCOOTER GARAGE, SITUATED AT POKET-C GANGOTRI ENCLAVE ALKANANADA, NEW DELHI-110019 from (1) Shri VIJAY KUMAR SAMNTRA, son of Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samntra, and (2) Smt. VEENA SHARMA, daughter of Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samntra, which was inherited by them after demise of their father Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samntra on 17/02/2019 and demise of their mother Late Smt. Krishna Devi on 03/02/2023. That Shri VIJAY KUMAR SAMNTRA, and Smt. VEENA SHARMA, claim to be the only Class-I legal heirs of Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samntra and except them there are no other legal heirs of Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samntra. If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, person(s), relative(s) know to them have any claim, right, interest, objection, whatsoever in the said property shall inform to the undersigned within 7 days with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, our client shall presume that title of the said property is unencumbered and clear. ACHIN SHARMA (ADVOCATE) Reg No. DS425/2021 G-2/210 & 210A, Tulsī Tower, Alkananda Main Shopping Complex, New Delhi-110 019

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 द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स पुष्प स्टील्स एंड माईनिंग (प्रा.) लिमिटेड, ग्राम - हाहावाडी, तहसील - दुर्गकोदल, जिला उत्तर बस्तर कोकरे स्थित फॉरेस्ट रेंज दुर्गकोदल, कुल क्षेत्रफल - 66 हेक्टर में क्षमता विकतार के तहत आयरन ओर माईन (सूख्य खनिज) एंथोनो लिथ क्राशर एंड स्क्रीन प्लांट क्षमता 0.4 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष से 1.2 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष एवं न्यू आयरन ओर बेनिफिशिएशन (ड्राई/वेट) क्षमता - 0.95 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई शिबट छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना हेतु लोकसुनवाई दिनांक 26.09.2024 को आयोजित की गयी थी। कार्यालय कलेक्टर (खनिज शाखा) जिला- उत्तर बस्तर कोकरे (छ.ग.) के ज्ञान क्रमांक 1813, दिनांक 03.10.2024 के माध्यम से उक्त लोक सुनवाई को अपरिहार्य कारणों से स्थगित किया गया था। भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के अधिसूचना दिनांक 09.05.2022 के परिप्रेक्ष्य में उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्तियां/सुझाव/विचार/टीका-टिप्पणियाँ, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 15 दिवस के अन्दर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जावलपुर (छ.ग.) में कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। उक्त परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक - 30/10/2024, दिन- बुधवार, समय - प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थान- जनपद पंचायत हॉल, दुर्गकोदल, तहसील - दुर्गकोदल, जिला - उ.ब. कोकरे (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालयक साइट फिन्डी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कॉपी), डायरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जो बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली; एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, कोकरे, जिला-उत्तर बस्तर कोकरे, जिला पंचायत कार्यालय, कोकरे, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, कोकरे, कार्यालय जनपद पंचायत, दुर्गकोदल, कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत - चिहरो, बरहेली, परभेली, खुर्दोवा, दुर्गकोदल, हाणपतरी, दमकसा, गुदुम, जाडेकुर्से, साधुमिर्गांव, जिला- उत्तर बस्तर कोकरे, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जावलपुर, जिला- बस्तर तथा मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है। सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Ms Safety Doors LLP/ Mohit Kapoor/ Sahil Goel/ Shamma Kapoor/ Shalini Kapoor/ 731605000042/ 73165500001	Address-1: House No./ Plot No. 7 (Third Floor With Roof Rights), Block-1, Pocket-11, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi- 110089, Address-2: House No./ Plot No. 6 (Third Floor With Roof Rights), Block-1, Pocket-11, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi- 110089./ October 09, 2024	February 23,2024 Rs. 57,60,512.00/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: October 15, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Yogesh Kumar Sharma/ Parul Dhawan/ LBDEL00002089897/ LBDEL00000509429	Unit No. Carnation-02, Block- Carnation, Edeco Residency Greens, Plot No-12, Pocket-B, Sector-P1, Greater Noida./ October 9, 2024	November 15, 2021 Rs. 30,60,384/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sharad Mohan Chaudhary/ Mohini/ LBDEL00002069400/ LBDEL00002069401	Unit No. D-1102, 10th Floor, Situated at Neel Padm- 1, Plot No.4, Sector-04, Vaishali, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201001./ October 10, 2024	May 31, 2024 Rs. 20,07,572/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Vishwanath Purohit/ Bhawana Purohit/ LBDEL00002325463	Flat No. B7- G003, Ground Floor, Tower B 7, Gardena Aims Goyal, Gh-01, Sector 46 Noida, G.B Nagar, Noida./ October 9, 2024	January 18, 2022 Rs. 11,80,439/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Mukesh Jalathuria/ Geeta Ranil/ LBDEL00001409962/ LBDEL00001435575	House No-105, Second Floor, Pkt-12, Sec-20, Rohini Delhi./ October 9, 2024	December 04, 2019 Rs. 25,09,031/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Vikash Kumar/ Raju Kumar Yadav/ Santosh Kumar Sharma/ LBDEL00002381624	Dda Lig Flat No. 46, Floor 1st, Sector-G-2 Pocket-2, Block-D6, Narela, Delhi- 110040/ October 9, 2024	May 07, 2022 Rs. 12,12,629/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: October 15, 2024 Place: Delhi/NCR Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

noida Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E – Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://tender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc. A) Fresh- Tender Work:-

S. No	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	21/DGM/SM(WC-1)/2024-25	M/o Building (Annual Maintenance Work in CAG Guest House, Police Control Room and Staff Quarter in Sector-14A and Sector-15A), Noida.	39.96
2	17/DGM/SM(WC-3)/2024-25	M/o Road (P/L DBM & BC for service road Barola and Construction of Traffic Diversion Tripod at Vishwakarma Marg DSC road Junction near Piler No.59 of Elevated road), Noida.	44.08
3	22/DGM/SM(WC-3)/2024-25	M/o Drain (C/O RCC drain in front of Kartik Kunj Society Sector-44), Noida.	48.99
4	25/DGM/SM(WC-3)/2024-25	M/o Road (Widening and Construction of RCC road & RCC Adjoining road for Kashiram Colony, Sector-45), Noida.	51.44
5	14/DGM/SM(WC-10)/ET/2024-25	D/o & M/o Village (R/o C.C. Roads, drain & M.S. Jaal at different location in Village Jhatta, Sector-159), Noida.	45.23

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 28.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 29.10.2024 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re- Tender Work:-

S. No	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
6	62/DGM/SM(WC-7)/ET/2023-24	M/o Road (C/O Drain and footpath in front of A-08, Sector-87), Noida.	36.53
7	15/DGM/SM(WC-1)/2024-25	M/o Drain (P/L 600 mm M.S. Pipe Underground by Trench less by Augar Boring Method & Construction Water Harvesting in front of Dalit Prana Sihal on Expressway), Noida.	52.55
8	22/DGM/SM(WC-6)/2024-25	Development of Sector-73 (Reconstruction of damaged C.C. Road, Drain Repairing, Covering and other Misc. Work in EWS flats Sector-73), Noida.	98.22

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 21.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 22.10.2024 at 11.00 AM.

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

RBI calls for cheaper, faster remittances

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday made a case for reducing time and cost of overseas remittances, which are important for developing economies including India. According to the World Migration Report 2024 released by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), India's remittances surged to USD 111 billion last year, surpassing all other nations.

As per the Bank of England projection, the value of global cross-border payments is estimated to surpass USD 250 trillion by 2027.

The significant volume of cross-border worker remittances, the growing size of gross flows of capital, and the increasing importance of cross-border e-commerce have acted as catalysts to this growth, he noted.

"Remittances are the starting point for many emerging and developing economies, including India, to explore cross-border peer-to-peer (P2P) payments. We believe there is immense scope to significantly reduce the cost and time for such remittances," Das said in his keynote address at the conference on 'Central Banking at Crossroads'. Besides, he said, the feasibility of expanding real-



time gross settlement (RTGS) to settle transactions in major trade currencies such as dollar, Euro and Pound can be explored through bilateral or multilateral arrangements. India and a few other economies have already commenced efforts to expand linkage of cross-border fast payment systems both in the bilateral and multilateral modes, he said.

These include Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Instant Payment Systems (IPSS) of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and

Thailand) and India. Under bilateral arrangements, cross-border payment linkages have already been established by India with Singapore, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc.

The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is another area which has the potential to facilitate efficient cross-border payments, he added. On November 1, 2022, the RBI started the wholesale pilot of CBDC for settlement in government bonds. A month later, the pilot of the retail CBDC kicked off.

Going forward, he said, harmonisation of standards and interoperability would be important for CBDCs for cross-border payments and

to overcome the serious financial stability concerns associated with cryptocurrencies.

"A key challenge could be the fact that countries may prefer to design their own systems as per their domestic considerations. I feel we can overcome this challenge by developing a plug-and-play system that allows replicability of India's experience while also maintaining the sovereignty of respective countries," he said.

Talking about the risk of digitisation, the RBI Governor said, in the modern world with deep social media presence and vast access to online banking with money transfer

happening in seconds, rumours and misinformation can spread very quickly and can cause liquidity stress.

Banks have to remain alert in the social media space and also strengthen their liquidity buffers, he said.

The RBI Governor also raised concerns over misuse of Artificial Intelligence in the banking space saying it could lead to more cyber attacks and data breaches.

"Banks and other financial institutions must put in place adequate risk mitigation measures against all these risks. In the ultimate analysis, banks have to ride on the advantages of AI and Bigtech and not allow the latter to ride on them," he said.

Observing that the global economy is more financially integrated than ever before, Das said, the divergence in global monetary policies monetary easing in some economies, tightening in a few, and pause in several other economies can be expected to lead to volatility in capital flows and exchange rates, which may disrupt financial stability.

Private credit markets have expanded rapidly with limited regulation, he said, adding, they pose significant risks to financial stability, particularly since they have not been stress-tested in a downturn.

Blockchain leaders discuss future opportunities

PTI ■ DUBAI

Participants from across the global blockchain and cryptocurrency community gathered at the Future Blockchain Summit 2024 to explore the latest advancements and opportunities within the blockchain ecosystem.

The event features a series of sessions under the theme 'Investments in Blockchain & Gaming.'

Marwan AlZarouni, CEO of AI, Dubai Department of Economy & Tourism led a session, highlighting Dubai's leadership in AI and blockchain innovation, as well as its approach to AI. "Here, you can engage with us and our regulators to bring your projects to life. If it can't be done anywhere else in the world, it can be done here," he said.

Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman & CEO, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), talked about the potential impact of AI, crypto and gaming in the future of trade.

"I think from 2026 you won't recognise your life. It will continue to change. Security will be the deciding factor of how far we go, but automated systems, AI and blockchain would be very well embraced," he said.

The accelerated institutional



adoption of blockchain technology was a key focus area. John Fan, Venture Partner, Inception Capital, USA, Marcel Kasumovich, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Coinbase Asset Management, Oliver von Wolff, Founder & CEO, Helion Edge, UAE and

According to Mansoor Madhavji, Partner, Blockchain Founders Fund, UAE, "the UAE is rapidly becoming a global hub for blockchain innovation, with key industry players and potential founders converging here, especially during major conferences."

Mike Williams, Chief Communication Officer, Toobit shed light on the investment opportunities in blockchain technology. Projects are increasingly using blockchain to fractionalise traditionally

illiquid assets such as real estate and commodities, making them accessible to a broader audience, he said.

"Today, crypto is not just an asset class, it is a growing community. Geographically, we see regions like Southeast Asia, Middle East and Africa becoming key players in driving innovation and creating new crypto markets," Williams said.

Meanwhile, Blowfish Studios, a fully-owned subsidiary of Animoca Brands, showcased their AAA open-world space adventure with integrated blockchain technology as well as a new cooperative game mode where players can team up to complete objectives online, offering attendees a hands-on experience of the future of blockchain gaming.

Consumer Affairs Minister criticises air purifier false claims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday criticised air purifier manufacturers for making false claims about their products, and called for increased consumer awareness ahead of winter when air pollution worsens in Delhi due to crop stubble burning in neighbouring states.

Addressing an event commemorating World Standards Day, Joshi expressed concern over misleading marketing tactics adopted by some air purifier companies.

"Discussion on air pollution has begun. Looking at Air Quality Index (AQI) on mobiles, people out of fear, go and buy air purifiers. Air purifiers make such false claims... We see air purifiers and so much is written but nothing is there in it. There is just a fan in it, yet claims are still made," the minister stated.

Joshi called for a collaborative approach involving the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the consumer affairs ministry and consumers to address the issue. While praising the BIS for their "exceptionally wonderful job" in recent years, the minister emphasized that more needs to be done.

"I do not blame BIS for this. BIS in the last few years has done an exceptionally wonderful job. But both BIS and the consumer affairs ministry and consumers together need to create



awareness. It is important, and I strongly feel (this way)," the minister said stressing the collective responsibility in combating misleading product claims. He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring every Indian has access to safe, reliable, and high-quality products and services.

These comments come as concerns grow about air quality in major Indian cities and expansion of the air purifier market. Joshi also announced plans to make BIS standards mandatory for public procurement on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal. "BIS standards are partially implemented on GeM. We'll try to make it mandatory." The minister highlighted the government's focus on quality standards, noting that Cabinet proposals now include global standard notes.

"These days, the tradition has started in the Union Cabinet. Wherever a bill to be introduced in Parliament comes before the Cabinet,

the global standard note comes with it. That has been made mandatory for the Cabinet," he said.

This note mentions which countries perform best in the particular field, rules and how India can achieve it. "So, we have to match every Cabinet note with the global standards. This helps our government to make decisions to set high standards whether it is quality infrastructure or urban metro trains."

Implementation of standards at national level has been given a top priority by the government and is actively bringing more products under mandatory quality controls, he said. He said that over 22,300 standards are currently in force, with 94 per cent harmonized with international standards. The number of Quality Control Orders has risen from 14 (covering 106 products) in 2014 to 174 (covering 732 products) now. Also, 94 per cent of Indian Standards are harmonised with with international standards.

Indian markets outperform China in last five years, says SEBI



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sebi Whole-time Member Ananath Narayan G on Monday reminded investors that Indian equities have consistently delivered 15 per cent returns over the last five years whereas the same has been zero or even negative in China.

"Termining the Indian markets 'some pe suhaga' for delivering higher returns for lower risks, Narayan also flagged a few areas of caution for investors and asked them to be conscious of the risks. "There's a lot of talk about China markets over the last few days. But over the last five years, while Indian markets have given around 15 per cent compound annual growth rate consistently, Chinese markets are nowhere close to that. It's almost zero. In fact, in some cases, like in Hong Kong, it's actually negative," Narayan said. Speaking at an event marking the start of the Investor

Awareness Week at NSE, Narayan said FY24 was a "remarkable" year for India, with the benchmark indices returning 28 per cent and the volatility just 10 per cent.

"That's like 'some pe suhaga'. It's like the best of all worlds: low risk and very high return," Narayan said, underlining that there are side effects of this as well.

Making it clear that it will not be the same going forward and investors should not assume it to be a one-way street, Narayan said such handsome returns can lead to complacency and pointed to a lot of youngsters opening up demat accounts to join the bandwagon.

Educating people about risks is very important, Narayan said, giving the analogy of driving a car. "There has to be a light push on the accelerator to get more investors to provide risk capital for the economic growth, we also need to be aware of risks and use the brakes if need be."

He said that 40 per cent of the small and midcap scrips have shot up by 5 times in the last five years, because of an imbalance between inflow of investor money and supply of new paper.

On its part, the capital markets regulator is trying hard to ensure that fund-raising clearances are done early so that there is a steady stream of quality paper supply in the market.

From a broader, longer-term perspective, Indian markets will only go north from here given the economic growth prospects in the country, Narayan said, issuing specific advice to investors.

Investors need to have the right intermediaries to capitalise on this opportunity presented by India, and not fall for the unregistered and fly-by-night 'influencers' who might be driven by vested interests, he said.

Using the oft-repeated idiom of "all roads lead to Rome", Narayan remarked that Rome is not a traveller-friendly place and one may get scammed there as well. Therefore, it is important to seek advice from the right people for the investors, he said.

He also said that it is in investors' interests to trade less and stay invested for longer for higher returns, and added that studies prove the same.

Sebi, which has flagged certain areas like derivatives recently, is not against speculation or participants taking short-term trades, but it would want investors to understand the risks, Narayan said.



WPI inflation rises to 1.84 per cent in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price inflation rose to 1.84 per cent in September as food items, especially vegetables, turned costlier, as per the government data released on Monday.

The wholesale price index (WPI) inflation was 1.31 per cent in August. It was (-)0.07 per cent in September last year. Inflation in food items shot up to 11.53 per cent last month against 3.11 per cent in August. This was led by 48.73 per cent inflation in vegetables as against (-)10.01 per cent in August.

Inflation in potato and onion continued to be high at 78.13 per cent and 78.82 per cent, respectively in September.

Fuel and power category witnessed deflation of 4.05 per cent in September against a deflation of 0.67 per cent in August.

"Positive rate of inflation in September 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, food products, other manufacturing, manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers, manufacture of machinery & equipment, etc," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy, kept benchmark interest rate or repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its monetary policy review earlier this month.

Mobius Foundation calls for Green Curriculums

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 6th International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE), organized by the Mobius Foundation in collaboration with key global organizations, concluded in New Delhi, sending a strong message on the urgency of incorporating sustainability into educational frameworks. The two-day event, which centered around the theme "Greening Education for a Sustainable Future," brought together over 500 educators, policymakers, environmentalists, and thought leaders from more than 20 countries.

The conference underscored the need for an education system that actively promotes eco-conscious living and sustainable lifestyles. Discussions

highlighted the critical role of the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework 2023 in furthering sustainable education efforts.

The recognition of these policies as instrumental in embedding environmental consciousness into curriculums was one of the event's key takeaways. This year's ICSE focused on the emerging importance of "green education" and "green jobs" as essential components in driving future sustainability initiatives in India and beyond. By advocating for the integration of these elements into educational systems, the conference aimed to foster a collective movement towards a more sustainable world.

Windy India 2024 set to propel wind energy growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The sixth edition of Windy India, a key international trade fair and conference for the wind energy sector.

It will be held from October 23-25, 2024, at the Chennai Trade Centre, Tamil Nadu. The event will host over 300 exhibitors from 25 countries, showcasing cutting-edge innovations and driving discussions on India's renewable energy future. The conference, themed "Wind: Powering India's Energy Transition," will feature industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators addressing key topics such as: policy frameworks,

technology trends, and investment strategies.

India, a global leader in wind energy, ranks fourth in installations and aims to achieve 140 GW of wind power capacity by 2030. The Union Cabinet recently approved 1 GW of offshore wind projects in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, with an investment of Rs 7,453 crore, highlighting the nation's commitment to its Net Zero 2070 goals.

Hosted by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd, Windy India 2024 is supported by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Niti Aayog.

BACL breaks ground on major Bengaluru Business Park

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL), a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), broke ground for its ambitious two million sq. Ft. Business Park, aimed at promoting the city as a global hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

This comes as part of the Karnataka Government's new GCC policy (2024-2029), which aims to create 3.5 lakh jobs and contribute USD 50 billion to the economy, a BIAL statement said on Monday. Located within the larger Kempegowda International Airport's (BLR Airport) campus, Bengaluru Airport City is being developed as a mixed-use destination, featuring business parks, an education & health district, R&D hubs, and multiple entertainment and hospitality options, it said.



The Business Park will be built over 17.7 acres. Executive Director & CEO of BACL, Rao Munukutla, said: "The city has cemented its status as India's premier hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with 36 per cent of India's GCC workforce driving growth across IT, biotechnology, automotive, and aerospace." The upcoming Airport West metro station, located within

walking distance from the Business Park, will enhance connectivity to Bengaluru's city centre, providing faster and eco-friendly travel for employees and visitors, it was noted. As a future entertainment and hospitality hub, plans include India's first 'Concert Arena' within an airport ecosystem and a Convention & Exhibition Centre, it added.

SW Energy arm, NTPC sign agreement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

JSW Renew Energy Thirteen Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of JSW Energy, has signed a 25-year power purchase agreement with state-owned NTPC.

The tariff for the 700 MW solar project is Rs 2.59/kilowatt hour, JSW Energy said in an exchange filing. JSW Renew Energy Thirteen has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with NTPC for ISTS/STU-connected solar capacity of 700 MW, the company said. The project is expected to be commissioned by June 2026.

The current solar pipeline capacity stands at 3.2 GW, with PPAs signed for 2.0 GW.

SINDHU, LAKSHYA AIM TO REGAIN FORM AT DENMARK OPEN

PTI ■ ODENSE (DENMARK)

Indian badminton stars PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be eager to bounce back from a disappointing resumption to their season when they compete in the USD 850,000 Denmark Open Super 750, starting Tuesday. Both players found the going tough in the Arctic Open in Vantaa, Finland, last week where former world champion Sindhu suffered a first-round exit, while 2021 world bronze winner Sen bowed out in the second round.

At Arena Fyn in Odense, they will hope for better results as they lead India's challenge in this prestigious tournament, the 13th event of the 2024 BWF World Tour. Sen, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, went down fighting to Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen last week.

Here, the 23-year-old from Almora will face China's Lu Guang Zu in his opening match an opponent he is yet to meet in professional badminton.

Should he advance, Sen might face Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in the second round, with reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand will, in all likelihood, be waiting for him in the quarter-finals. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, will need to quickly address the issues affecting her performance after a disappointing first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li, an opponent she had previously defeated 10 times.

Under the guidance of new coaches Anup Sridhar and Korea's Lee Hyun-il,



she will open against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po and could potentially face China's Han Yue in the second round if she progresses.

In addition to Sindhu, India will have several other competitors in women's singles, including the in-form Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and promising talent Unnati Hooda. Bansod, who had reached the quarterfinals of China Open, will go up against Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy

Linh at first, while Kashyap faces Thailand's Supanida Katethong. Hooda, the 2022 Odisha Open winner, will compete against Lauren Lam from the USA.

While there will be no Indian representation in men's doubles, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who had missed the Paris Olympics, will compete in the women's doubles, taking on the fifth-seeded Malaysian duo of Pearly Tan and Thinnah

Muralitharan. The Panda sisters, Swetaparna and Rutaparna, will face off against Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tung of Chinese Taipei. In mixed doubles, the husband-wife combination of B Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy are set to face Canada's Kevin Lee and Eliana Zhang, while Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath will take on Indonesia's Rehan Kusharjanto and Lisa Kusumawati.



Australia faces toughest of challenges in Asian World Cup qualifying

AP ■ TOKYO

Australia faces the most daunting road trip in Asia on Tuesday when it faces a dominant Japan at Saitama Stadium, knowing a win would put the Socceroos back on track for a sixth successive World Cup appearance after a mixed start in the third round of qualification.

The Group C meeting is also a chance for new coach Tony Popovic, appointed in September to replace Graham Arnold, to make a statement win in his second game in charge and cross swords with a former team-mate. Popovic played for Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima from 1997 to 2001 alongside Hajime Moriyasu - now coach of Japan. "I know their

head coach very well; he was my captain during my time in Japan. A remarkable person who has dedicated years to developing the national team," said Popovic.

Japan is on course for an eighth successive World Cup appearance with three wins against China, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, scoring 14 goals and conceding none.

This is undoubtedly a significant challenge, but it also presents a fantastic opportunity to etch our name in history by winning in Japan," Popovic said after defeating China 3-1 in his first game in charge on Thursday, a result that took Australia to four points in the group, five behind Japan. The top two teams from each of the three groups of six

qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup with the third and fourth place finishers advancing to the next stage.

Like Australia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have four points and meet in Jeddah, while winless China hosts Indonesia at home. The top two in Group B meet as South Korea hosts Iraq with both teams on seven points. The game has been switched to the city of Yongin, due to the poor condition of the playing surface at Seoul World Cup Stadium.

South Korea will be without English Premier League stars Tottenham Hotspur captain Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton Wanderers due to injury.

Over 350 players in fray for first ever women's HIL auctions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 350 players from around the world will go under the hammer in the inaugural women's Hockey India League auctions here on Tuesday.

After a seven-year hiatus, the highly-anticipated HIL is making a grand return with an expanded format, featuring both men's and an exclusive women's league for the first time.

The historic auction will witness over 250 domestic players and more than 70 overseas players vying for a spot in the inaugural season of the women's HIL.

India's top women players, including seasoned goalkeeper Savita, national team captain Salima Tete, rising drag-flicker Deepika, the most-capped women's player Vandana Katariva, and forward Lalremisiami are some of the big names from the country.

Additionally, former Indian stalwarts such as Yogita Bali, Lilima Minz, and Namita Toppo have registered, adding further excitement to the auction.



On the international front, renowned players such as Delfina Merino (Argentina), Charlotte Staphenhorst (Germany), Maria Granatto (Argentina), Rachael Lynch (Australia), and Nike Lorenz (Germany) are set to participate, ensuring a global spectacle.

Notably, the maiden season of the women's edition of the HIL will witness participation of total four teams, while two more teams will be added in the second season of the tournament.

The participating teams for this season include Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rahr

Bengal Tigers, Delhi SG Pipers, and Odisha Warriors. For the second season, Hyderabad Toofans and a team owned by the BC Jindal Group will be added, expanding the lineup to six teams.

Each team will consist of 24 players, including 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight overseas players, aligning with HIL's vision of promoting both local and global talent.

Franchises will have a purse of Rs 2 crore to select players, with athletes categorised under three base price slabs --

Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakhs, and Rs 2 lakh.

The historic women's auction marks a major milestone in the world of hockey, showcasing the sport's growth and the increasing prominence of women's hockey.

It also stands out as one of the rare instances in India where both men's and women's editions of a major sports league will run concurrently.

"This is not just a revival of the Hockey India League but also a celebration of the growth of women's hockey in India. We are proud to host the first-ever women's auction, which is not just about building teams but also about building legacies," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said.

We are excited to see our domestic talent go head-to-head with some of the best international players and create new heroes for the next generation. The Women's HIL 2024-25 promises to be a watershed moment for Indian hockey, further propelling the sport's growth on both national and international stages."

Top British shooters miss World Cup due to 'confusion' over visa paperwork

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ISSF World Cup final here has been robbed of some sheen as three of Britain's top shotgun shooters, including Paris Olympics trap gold-medallist Nathan Hales, will not be competing in the prestigious year-ending event owing to "confusion" over paperwork that led to denial of visa to them.

The World Cup final got underway at the Karni Singh Ranges with elite shooters from across the world, including Olympic and world championship medallists, taking part in the training sessions on Monday. The competitions will start on Tuesday.

"No, he's (Hales) not (coming). They couldn't get their business visas in time. I don't know the exact ins and outs of it, but there was a complication...I think, what happened is that one of them (shooters) applied for a tourist visa, which was accepted," former shooter Peter Wilson, personal coach of Hales in the Paris Games, told PTI.

"But, then, they were told that they had to apply for a business visa and there was, for whatever reason, a complication and it was either revoked and the rest were left pending and they just didn't have the time for it to be processed," added the legendary double-trap marksman who won a gold in the 2012 London Olympics. Wilson, who had recently expressed his



desire to coach the Indian trap team, said it was a huge setback for British shooters. "Obviously, it's a massive shame that they're not competing. So, there were three (shooters), two in men's trap, Hales and Matt Coward-Holley, and one in men's skeet Ben Llewellyn. Ben got a tourist visa but was then told by our federation that he should reapply for a business visa. "He applied incorrectly and at that point he had left it too late; apparently he was refused... I don't know why he was refused," Wilson revealed. Asked if the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) had provided these

shooters details on the visa they should apply for, Wilson said, "I would assume so, but I think at the moment no one knows quite where the blame lies. "But it's just a shame that of all the teams, we've not got the Great Britain team and the Olympic gold medallist here, so it's a real shame." NRAI president Kalikesh Singh Deo said, "I think there was some confusion with the way they applied." Most of India's Paris Games squad will compete at the World Cup. A prominent who would skip is double bronze-medallist Manu Bhaker, who is on a break after her exploits in the French capital.

Tough competition expected at Delhi Half Marathon elite field

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethiopia's two-time 5000m world champion Muktar Edris is expected to challenge Paris Olympics 10,000m winner Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda for the top prize in the men's elite race at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on October 20 here.

Fresh from his victory in the 10,000m in Paris, the 28-year-old Cheptegei is set to make his debut at the Delhi Half Marathon. He has been a three-time world champion in 10,000m and boasts a personal best of 59:21 seconds in half marathon.

He is the current world record holder for both the 5000m and 10,000m, and holds the world's best time over the 15km distance. A three-time world champion in the 10,000m, he made his international debut in India at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2014, finishing second. Cheptegei will face formidable opposition from Ethiopia's Edris, who will be returning to the Delhi Half Marathon after 2022. A star of the sport at the junior level, Edris finished fourth on debut in the Delhi Half Marathon in 2020 with an impressive run of 59:04 seconds.

Before that, he won two world



championship titles in the 5,000m in 2017 and 2019. His half marathon personal best is better than that of Cheptegei at 58:40 seconds, which he had clocked in Valencia, Spain in 2021.

The women's elite field will be led by 2022 Commonwealth Games 10000m champion Eilish McColgan of Great Britain.

McColgan holds the European record for the 10km road race and British records for multiple distances. She has also represented Great Britain in four Olympic Games (2012-2024) and Scotland in three Commonwealth Games (2014-2022). She won the Berlin Half Marathon with a personal best time of 65:43 seconds in 2023.

Several top athletes, including Kenya's Cynthia Limo (66:04), Ethiopia's Yalemget Yaregal (66:27s), Tiruye Mesfin (66:31), and Tanzania's Magdalena Shauri (66:37), are joining McColgan in the women's race. With five women having clocked times under 67 minutes, the competition promises to be a fast-paced one. Ethiopians Amdework Walelegn (58:53) and Yalemzerf Yehualaw (64:46) held the men's and women's course records in the Delhi Half Marathon since 2020. A World Athletics Gold Label Road Race, the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, with a prize pool of USD 260,000, will be flagged off from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

England gets back to winning, interim coach Carsley says team needs "world class" manager

AP ■ LONDON

After three wins from four Agames as England interim coach, Lee Carsley appeared to distance himself from taking on the job full time.

A 3-1 victory against Finland in the Nations League on Sunday saw England get back to winning ways after the shock 2-1 home loss to Greece. But Carsley sounded uncertain about his credentials to succeed Gareth Southgate in one of the biggest management roles in world soccer.

"This job deserves a world class coach that's won trophies and been there and done it and I'm still on the path to that," Carsley said after goals from Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Declan Rice secured the win in Helsinki. Carsley led England's under-21 team to victory in the European Championship last year and was seen as one of the leading contenders to replace Southgate, who stepped down in July. But after naming an experimental team that lost to Greece on Thursday, questions about his suitability were raised. If not for some errant finishing from No. 64-ranked Finland, Sunday could have been another



uncomfortable night for an England team ranked 60 places higher. Carsley said he hadn't enjoyed the days following the loss to Greece. "I'm just not used to losing with an England team. I don't take losing very well," he said. Grealish helped lift his mood when opening the scoring

from close range in the 18th minute at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium after being set up by a clever flick from Angel Gomes. Alexander-Arnold doubled England's lead in the 74th with a trademark free kick and Rice converted at the near post 10 minutes later from substitute Ollie

Watkins' cross. Arttu Hoskonen scored a consolation for Finland in the 87th. Carsley said his remit was to take charge of the six Nations League games before the end of the year, with two remaining against Greece and Ireland next month. "My bosses have made it

totally clear what they need from me," he said.

GREECE WINS: Greece still leads Group B2 after extending its perfect start in the Nations League with a 2-0 win against Ireland.

Anastasios Bakasetas and Petros Mantalos scored the goals that kept Greece three points ahead of England. Before the game, Greece's players held up the jersey of defender George Baldock, who was found dead at his home in Athens on Wednesday.

NORWAY ROUTED: Not even Erling Haaland could prevent Norway from a humbling 5-1 loss against Austria.

The Manchester City striker became his country's all time leading scorer this week with 34 goals. But he was kept quiet by Austria in Group B3. Marko Arnautovic opened the scoring at Austria's Raiffeisen Arena before Alexander Sorloth evened the game before halftime.

In the second half Austria took control with Arnautovic scoring again. Philipp Lienhart, Stefan Posch and Michael Gregoritsch also scored.

Norway still leads the group but is level on seven points with Austria in second and third-place Slovenia, which beat Kazakhstan 1-0.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF WE TOOK CHANCES: MUZUMDAR

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Disheartened India head coach Amol Muzumdar rued the missed opportunities that could have altered the game's outcome after his team's hopes of reaching the women's T20 World Cup semifinals were dashed by a loss to Australia. In a bid to control their own destiny, the Indian team delivered a lackluster performance on the field, ultimately resulting in a nine-run loss to defending champions Australia in their must-win game on Sunday. "I think we were right in the game, right till the last over. Just that experience of Australia, saw them through," Muzumdar said at the post match press conference. "Just a little disappointing with the loss. And I feel we've fielded pretty well. But yeah, a couple of chances could have been, we could have taken those chances and then the things could have been different. "Maybe 10-15 runs less, even the last over. But at the same time, I would like to say that we put in our best effort



forward in this game," he added. India dropped as many as three catches, while also missing a stumping opportunity. To add to their woes, a close lbw call also went against them. In the 17th over of the Australian innings, Phoebe Litchfield, batting on 5, had attempted a reverse sweep with the on-field umpire giving her leg-before-wicket after she missed the shot. However, a decision to review handed her a reprieve because the ball pitched outside leg stump. India players, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, protested, claiming the ball pitching outside the leg-stump line should be deemed inconsequential given the batter had switched stances. Litchfield went on to add 10 more crucial runs, helping Australia post the highest team total at Sharjah in the ongoing tournament. "What I gathered from that non-dismissal is that she didn't move before the ball was released. So, the leg mark, what was there, it stood as it is. That was my only understanding about it.

Whether it was out or not, it was up to the umpires to decide or the third umpire. So yeah, it was a crucial one." Australia posted a total of 151/8. In response, India fell short, finishing at 142/9 despite skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's unbeaten 54. With senior players Harmanpreet and Deepti Sharma in the middle, India needed 85 off 10 overs. Asked what message was being sent to the duo in the middle at the time, Muzumdar said: "First and foremost, it was about the run chase. Second was keeping the net run rate also in account. But the only message was if we take it a little deeper, then we do have a good chance to chase these runs down. "I think Harman's presence was very important till the end. That is what I felt in her run chase. We almost got it through." India's chances of making the semifinal now hinge on Pakistan beating New Zealand on Monday. "Well, I just want to wish Pakistan all the best. That's all I can say. But we will be watching the game very closely, that's for sure."

Ben Stokes returns for second Test against Pakistan

PTI ■ MULTAN

Captain Ben Stokes made a return to the England Test team as he was on Monday named in the playing eleven for the second match against Pakistan beginning here Tuesday, after he was declared to have been recovered from an injury he sustained in August. Stokes, who has been out of action due to a hamstring problem, is one of the two changes in the England side that beat Pakistan in the first Test by an innings and 47 runs. Fast bowler Matthew Potts was included in place of Gus Atkinson. Stokes has replaced pacer Chris Woakes while England have retained both spinners Shoaib Bashir and Jack Leach in their eleven. According to the visiting team management, Stokes has bowled and batted

without any discomfort in the nets in the last few days and was cleared by medical experts to make his comeback. The 33-year-old all-rounder last played in the Hundred where he sustained his injury in August forcing him to miss the entire three-match series against Sri Lanka at home. He also missed the first Test against Pakistan here. Pakistan is yet to announce its playing eleven although the selectors on Sunday dropped Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah for the remaining two Tests and also released Sarfaraz Ahmed from the squad. **England Playing XI:** Ben Stokes (capt), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk), Brydon Carse, Matthew Potts, Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir.



Cummins to lead Australia in Pakistan ODIs, McGuirk retained

AP ■ SYDNEY

Pat Cummins will captain Australia's one-day squad for the first time since lifting the Cricket World Cup in November in its three-match series against Pakistan at home next month. Cummins was named Monday in the 14-man Australia squad for the matches at Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth along with Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc, the other regular members of Australia's test pace lineup. Jake Fraser-McGuirk has been given another chance after struggling in Australia's Twenty20 series against Scotland in September, in which he made 16 runs in three innings with two ducks. While he made a 30-ball 50 against England, he wasn't selected for the subsequent five-match ODI series. Fraser-McGuirk will likely open the batting with Matt Short in the absence of Travis Head and Mitch Marsh who are on paternity leave. The squad also includes batters Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne and white ball regulars Glenn Maxwell, Josh Inglis and Adam Zampa. Cooper Connolly also has

been retained after making his one-day and T20 debuts on Australia's September tour to Britain. Allrounder Aaron Hardie who scored 67 runs in two innings while batting No. 8 and took four wickets in the England series has kept his place while Marcus Stoinis returns after being left out of the England one-dayers. Seamer Sean Abbott also has held his spot with several bowlers recovering from injuries suffered in England. Nathan Ellis, Xavier Bartlett, Ben Dwarshuis and Riley Meredith all left that series with injuries while Spencer Johnson was ruled out with a side strain before it began. Meanwhile, test allrounder Cameron Green confirmed Monday he will undergo surgery on a stress fracture in his back and will be out of action for six months. A squad for the Twenty20 series against Pakistan will be named later this month. The Pakistan series which comprises matches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Nov. 4, the Adelaide Oval on Nov. 8 and Perth Stadium on Nov. 10 is Australia's last one-day series before the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February.

Kohli hungry for runs, no need to judge after every match: Gambhir



PTI ■ BENGALURU

India head coach Gautam Gambhir is not too concerned about the recent lukewarm form of Virat Kohli, insisting that the star batter remains as hungry as he was when he made his debut and should not be judged after every match. Kohli has made only one fifty, a 76 against South Africa at Centurion in December 2023, in his last eight innings, and him regaining his touch is crucial for India against New Zealand in a three-Test rubber starting on Wednesday and during the five-match series against Australia next month. Gambhir is confident that Kohli will come good very soon. "See, my thoughts about Virat have always been very clear that he is a world-class cricketer. He has performed

for such a long period of time. He is as hungry as when he made his debut. To now, his hunger is always there," Gambhir told reporters here on Monday. "That hunger is what makes him a world-class cricketer. I am sure that he will be hungry to get runs in this series and probably moving forward to Australia as well," he added. Gambhir said the prolific batter, once he gets into "those runs scoring phases", is remarkably consistent. "So, I am sure that he will be looking for these three Test matches in the series and then to Australia." Gambhir reiterated his opinion that a player should not be judged on the basis of a one bad match or a series. "You don't keep judging people after every game. If you keep judging people after every game, that's not fair on

them. It's a sport and people are bound to fail. "But more importantly, I think if we can get the results, if people are doing what is needed of them to get the results in our favour, that is fine," he noted. The former opener said his job is to back the players and keep them hungry for success, particularly during a long season where India is scheduled to play eight more Test matches. "Everyone doesn't have the best days everyday. I think the kind of vibe we have is we keep backing our players. My job is to keep backing the players. My job is to keep selecting the best playing 11, not dropping anyone. "I'm sure everyone is hungry and they know there are eight Test matches in a row. So, this is probably the start of them looking at eight Test matches in a row and performing well," said Gambhir.

Green ruled out of India Test series, to undergo back surgery

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was on Monday ruled out of the marquee Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India owing to a stress fracture in his spine that will need six months to heal after a surgery. The 25-year-old seam-bowling all-rounder was diagnosed with the problem in his lower back after experiencing pain during last month's tour of the UK. Green has previously suffered four stress fractures in his back but has not encountered any issues in that area since 2019. "Whilst spine stress fractures are not unusual in pace bowlers, Cam has a unique defect in an adjacent area to the fracture that is believed to be contributing to the injury," a CA statement said on Monday. A six-month recovery time will mean Green misses not just the Border Gavaskar Trophy, but also February's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy. His participation in the IPL is also in doubt. Green has decided to opt for a similar type of surgery undergone by several pacers including Jasprit Bumrah, James Pattinson, Jason Behrendorff, and Ben Dwarshuis. "After thorough consultation it was determined Cameron would benefit from the surgery to stabilise the defect and reduce the risk of future recurrence," CA said. The alternative to surgery would have involved rehabilitation and restricting his bowling during the five-match series against India, starting November 22 in Perth. "The surgery has been performed successfully with



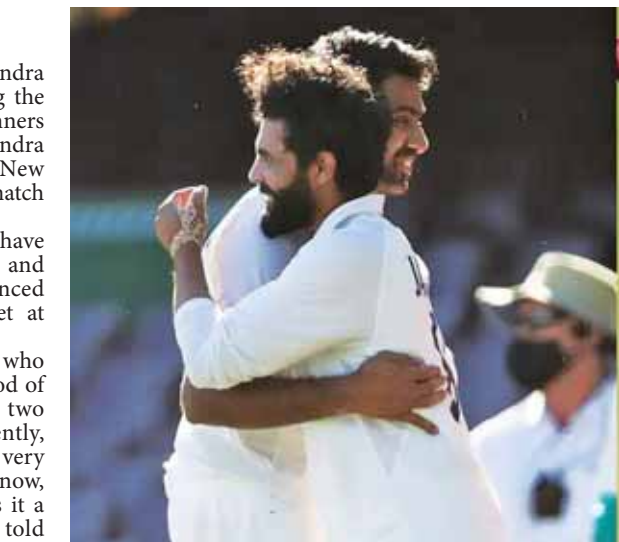
elite pace bowlers in the past. Recovery time is anticipated to be around six-months. "The decision to proceed to surgery is with Cameron's long-term future as an all-rounder in mind," the statement added. The operation will be performed by New Zealand surgeons Grahame Inglis and Rowan Schouten, which involves screws and titanium wire to bind vertebrae together, according to 'cricket.Com.Au'. His absence would mean Australia will have to rejig their batting order. Green had returned to the Test side following veteran opener David Warner's retirement earlier this year with Steve Smith being

pushed to open the innings. However, the veteran struggled at the top of the order and will drop back to his preferred number four position, which has been left vacant by Green. The selectors will now keep an eye on Australia's A series against India where the likes of Cameron Bancroft, and teen prodigy Sam Konstas will vie for the now vacant opening spot. Additionally, Australia will also have to find someone to bowl Green's overs. Mitchell Marsh did not bowl in Western Australia's Sheffield Shield match against Queensland and hardly rolled his arm while captaining the white-ball teams over the winter.

Battling accomplished Ashwin, Jadeja crucial for New Zealand: Rachin Ravindra

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Top-order batter Rachin Ravindra said on Monday that nullifying the twin threat posed by senior spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will be crucial to New Zealand's success in the three-match series against India. Ashwin and Jadeja together have grabbed over 800 Test wickets, and are among the most experienced bowling pairs in world cricket at present. "They've got consistent bowlers who bowl in an area for a long period of time. I mean, you see the two spinners who play consistently, Ashwin and Jadeja, they're two very accomplished bowlers. You know, they can bat too, which makes it a little bit hard," Ravindra told reporters here on Monday. "They're consistent, they're good to battle, especially in this part of the world. Obviously, we know how good India are in their own conditions, the quality of their bowlers and batters. It shows how hard it is for a team to come and win here. So, it's difficult," he added. Ravindra banked on his previous experience of playing cricket in India to come good in the upcoming Test rubber.



The Kiwi played in this part of the world during last year's ODI World Cup before appearing for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL 2024. "Although it is different formats, it gives you confidence that you can perform in this part of the world. I think it's (Test cricket) a different challenge entirely and it's something I'm really looking forward to. "As you've seen, those two tournaments (ODI WC and IPL)

were amazing, the crowds and the passion and the hype and the buzz around them. So, I'm excited to have a full-fledged series here," he noted. From a team perspective, the 24-year-old said the tourists will have to keep focus on their game plans rather than worrying about India's approach. "The brand of cricket they play is very positive, especially in their own conditions. The way they've evolved

over the last few years has been amazing, especially away (from home). "As New Zealanders, we don't necessarily try and look at the opposition too much. We know what a quality side they are and what they bring to the table, but I think if we're able to play our game and be consistent and put our best foot forward, hopefully, that will result in a win," he added. New Zealand's preparation for the

series against India has been far from ideal as they lost 0-2 against Sri Lanka recently, while their one-off Test match against Afghanistan was a washout at Noida. However, Ravindra was confident that the team can lean upon the learnings from those experiences against India. "We did some really good stuff during the Sri Lankan series, obviously, came on the wrong side of the win and loss column. But I think as a group there were times where we really pushed and that first Test was close," he said. In the first Test against the Islanders at Galle, the left-hander made a fine 92 but the Kiwis lost the match by 63 runs while chasing 275. Ravindra wanted his side not to repeat the mistake of faltering at the crunch moments. "I think we've got to understand that we've got to do it (fighting) for long periods of time because that's what Test match cricket is about. Obviously, Sri Lanka and India are different places, but similar in terms of the amount of spin you might play. "So, we have learnt a lot. So, it's about, you know, seeing how we can play our game and how we can bring that here to India," he added.

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. PWDK-15/2024-25
 No G2/8070 Dt. 05.10.2024
 email : eepwdkeonjhar@yahoo.com

1 No of work :-	01 No. Building Work
2 Estimated cost :-	Rs. 16.15 Lakh
3 Period of completion :-	04 (four) Calendar Month.
4 Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :-	From 10.00 Hr 15.10.2024 to 17.00 Hr of 25.10.2024
5 Last date /Time for receipt of bids in the portal :-	17.00 Hr of 25.10.2024.
6. Date of opening of Bid from Portal :-	10.30 Hr of 28.10.2024.
7 Name and address of the officer inviting Bid :-	Additional Chief Engineer (I/C) Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in

Additional Chief Engineer (I/C) Superintending Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

ODPR-34004/11/001/2425

A-401 email : srgeologistbolangir@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GEOLOGY, GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, BOLANGIR
 Jyotinagar, Laltikra, P.O. : Rajendra College, Dist : Bolangir, PIN - 767002

Letter No - 518 Date - 08.10.24

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No.03/GWBLGR/2024-25 of 2024-25 Dt. 08-10-24 e-Procurement Notice

01. Name of the work	: 4 nos Work
02. Type of Bid	: Single System
03. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 07.23 Lakhs to 19.58 Lakhs
04. Period of Completion	: 02 Calendar Months
05. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt. 17.10.2024 to 5.00 PM of 28.10.2024
06. Last date /time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 28.10.2024
07. Date & Time of opening of technical bids	: At 11.30 AM of 29.10.2024
08. Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	: Deputy Director, Geology : Ground Water Development Division Jyotinagar, Laltikra, P.O. : Rajendra College - 767002, Bolangir, Dist : Bolangir

Further details can be seen from the web site http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 Deputy Director, Geology, G.W.D. Division, Bolangir

ODPR-32471/11/0005/2425