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INSIDE

**SPORTS**  
THAT DAY BELONGED TO NADEEM: NEERAJ ON PARIS OLYMPICS JAVELIN FINAL



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## KASHMIR UNDER ATTACK



FILE PHOTO/PTI

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the second dastardly act of terror in the last two days, two non-local construction workers were killed and two others were injured by terrorists near Sonamarg in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir late Sunday evening. This is also the second major incident of terrorist violence after the formation of the Omar Abdullah-led government in Jammu and Kashmir. According to preliminary reports, the terrorists opened fire on the camp housing labourers of a private company working on the construction of a tunnel in the Gund area in the Ganderbal district. The identity of the deceased could not be ascertained immediately. Both the workers were shot in the head. Their bodies were seen lying on the floor of the camp while panicked migrant workers

were seen taking videos. The workers who were targeted by the group of terrorists were part of the construction team working on the Z Morh tunnel, connecting Gaganer to Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The 6.412 km long Z-Morh tunnel, a flagship project, aims to ensure all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Sonamarg and Kargil in Ladakh. A migrant worker, hailing from the Banka district of Bihar, was mercilessly killed by terrorists in the Wachi area of Shopian on Friday. He worked in the corn fields to earn his livelihood. Official sources claimed two labourers died on the spot while two others sustained injuries, they said, adding further details are awaited. Police and army have cordoned off the area to track down the footprints of the terrorists. Reacting to the news Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted a message on X

(earlier Twitter), "Very sad news of a dastardly & cowardly attack on non-local labourers at Gagangir in Sonamarg region. These people were working on a key infrastructure project in the area. 2 have been killed & 2-3 more have been injured in this militant attack. I strongly condemn this attack on unarmed innocent people & send my condolences to their loved ones". In February this year, two migrant workers hailing from Amritsar were targeted from a close range by unidentified terrorists in the Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar. A sikh carpenter identified as 31-year-old Amritpal Singh was killed on the spot while another person identified as Rohit Masih succumbed to his critical injuries the next day. In 2023, a total number of 14 civilians were killed in different incidents of terrorist-related violence while 31 were killed in 2022, 41 in 2021, 38 in 2020, and 44 in 2019 across J&K.



## Hoax threats to airlines continue on Sunday

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The menace of hoax bomb threat calls to airlines continued on Sunday, with more than 24 flights of IndiGo, Air India, Akasa Air and Vistara flights receiving fresh bomb threats messages. This affected both domestic and international flights, scaring air passengers in the festive season. Six flights each of IndiGo, Vistara and Air India received the threats. So far this week, more than 90 flights have received bomb threats and most of them have turned out to be hoaxes. The overall impact of these hoax threats has resulted in financial losses of up to Rs 100 crore for various airlines.

IndiGo released a series of press statements sharing details of the bomb threat received by the flights. In its statement, IndiGo confirmed the airline is cognisant of a situation involving flight 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E11 (Delhi to Istanbul), 6E17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E133 (Pune to Jodhpur) and 6E112 operating (Goa to Ahmedabad). Security alerts were received for six Akasa Air flights - QP 1102 (Ahmedabad to Mumbai), QP 1378 (Delhi to Goa), QP 1385 (Mumbai to Bagdogra), QP 1406 (Delhi to Hyderabad), QP 1519 (Kochi to Mumbai) and QP 1526 (Lucknow to Mumbai). Vistara said it got security threats for six flights - UK25 (Delhi to Frankfurt), UK106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK146 (Bali to Delhi), UK116 (Singapore to Delhi), UK110 (Singapore to Pune) and UK107 (Mumbai to Singapore). "In line with the protocols, all relevant authorities were immediately notified, and security procedures, as directed by them, are being carried out," a Vistara spokesperson said in a statement.

## Bomb blast shatters Delhi's Sunday slumber

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Shattered glass panes, showcases, signboards, frightened residents and heavy deployment of intra-department security forces marked a high stress Sunday in the National Capital. Delhi woke up to the shocking news of a 'bomb blast' near the renowned Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF) school in Rohini Sector-14 on Sunday morning, when many had woken up early to begin rituals for Karwachauth, a festival celebrated by married women. While the school was closed for the weekend, the markets were to open as usual, especially sweet shops as the festive season has begun in the city. A quiet Sunday morning turned into a nightmare for the residents when they heard a loud blast around 7:45 am. The sound they recalled could be heard up to a kilometer away. The Prashant Vihar area where the blast occurred is densely populated and has residential buildings, schools, Rohini Court and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) complex. Pramod Chauhan, a security guard, who was on duty outside a jewelry shop right opposite of the school at the time of the blast, said that there was dense smoke for at least 10 minutes after a sudden loud noise was heard. "I was almost about to leave since my shift was over when the blast happened. I could not see anything for the next 10 minutes after the blast as there was thick white smoke all around. My heart started palpitating very fast. The glass panes of the shops around were shattered, and cars that were parked near the school were also damaged," 52-year-old Chauhan said. He added that there was a "chemical-like smell" from the site, and that the police arrived about 20 minutes after the incident. The owner of the shop Vinod Kumar said that he incurred losses worth Rs 2 lakhs because of the blast. Ankit, a 25-year-old who lives near the CRPF school said the sound



National Security Guard (NSG) personnel conduct investigations at the site of the blast at Prashant Vihar, near the CRPF school in Rohini area of New Delhi on Sunday

was so loud that it was heard for at least a kilometer away from the place. According to police sources, the investigation may be transferred to the National Investigative Agency (NIA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday, after it sought a report from the Delhi Police on the matter. The Delhi Police has already submitted a preliminary report to the MHA. Police officials added that it seems to be a crude bomb made of ammonium nitrate and ammonium chloride. The usually bustling area which has markets and eateries was relatively quiet and many shops remained closed on Sunday. Residents also stayed in their homes. A frightened Kiran Sachdeva, a resident of the locality, described the blast as "an earthquake-like shock", that they felt in her house which was about 200-250 meters away from the site. A senior police official said, "On Sunday, at 07:47 am, a PCR call was received in which the caller informed that a blast with a lot of noise took place near CRPF school Sector 14, Rohini. Local police reached the spot, where the school wall was found damaged with a foul smell. The glasses of a nearby shop and a car

parked near the shop were found to be damaged." The place has been cordoned off and there is heavy deployment of officials from Crime team, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team, bomb squad team, National Security Guard (NSG) team, National Investigative Agency (NIA) team, CRPF Team and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team visited the spot. "FSL and NSG teams conducted the inspection of spot and lifted samples. A case under section 326(g) (Mischievous by injury, inundation, fire or explosive substance, etc) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 4 Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and 3 Explosives Act has been registered at Prashant Vihar police station. Delhi Police said it is collecting mobile network data to find out who was present nearby when the explosion happened, which is suspected to be a crude bomb. Forensic experts inspecting the area outside the CRPF school, found a suspicious "white powder" from the spot and sent it to the laboratory for examination. They have also dug up a hole near the school's wall and taken soil samples with them.

### OCS 2022

## Bonda girl cracks exam with help of YouTube

Becomes first OAS officer of her clan

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The daughter of a cook and an Anganwadi Worker, a Bonda tribe girl, has successfully cracked the prestigious Odisha Civil Services (OCS) examination-2022 conducted by the Orissa Public Service Commission (OPSC), the results of which were declared on Saturday.

With no formal coaching or tuition, the brilliant mind cracked the exam just by watching YouTube videos.

Bini Muduli from the Bonda Hills in the tribals-dominated Malkangiri district battled all financial constraints to secure an impressive rank and finally become the first OAS officer of her tribe.

"Due to financial constraints, I mainly focused on self-study. My major source of knowledge was YouTube. I watched videos online and gained a lot of



knowledge. For the Mains, I had to take the help of an institute after clearing my Prelims," Bini added. "My aim for the future is to uplift people of my community and every human being who is struggling to

do better in life or who is willing to bring out the best in themselves," she said.

Despite being a government school student, Bini's success is an inspiration and a beacon of hope for those who dare to dream

big. Bini's father, who is a cook in a government Ashram school, said, "She always had the dream of doing something big in life. She has made our entire Bonda tribe proud."

## Cyclonic storm likely over BoB around Oct 23

Path, intensity prediction after low pressure forms

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

A cyclonic storm named 'Dana' is likely to form over the east-central Bay of Bengal around October 23, possibly intensifying into a severe cyclonic storm, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday.

The IMD said upper air cyclonic circulation formed over Central Andaman Sea on Saturday lay over North Andaman Sea in the early

morning (5.30 am) and persisted over the same region in the forenoon (8.30 am) of Sunday.

Under its influence, a low-pressure area is very likely to form over the East Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman Sea during next 24 hours, it said.

The weather system is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over East Central Bay of Bengal.

Thereafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and

reach northwest Bay of Bengal off the Odisha-West Bengal coast by October 24 mornings, the IMD forecasted.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the wind speed could reach up to 100-120 km per hour. Fishermen are advised to avoid the Bay of Bengal till October 25.

Mohapatra said, "Cyclone brings heavy rainfall, gusty wind and high tide simultaneously. So, we cannot take any cyclone lightly."

"There is no possibility of the impending cyclonic storm to intensify into a Super Cyclonic storm or extremely Su-

per Cyclonic storm. However, as per the prediction made today, the cyclonic storm may intensify into a severe cyclonic storm. The wind speed may reach up to 100 to 120 kmph," Mohapatra said.

Asked about the landfall of the possible cyclonic storm, Mohapatra said, "Its path, wind speed and intensity will be predicted after the system intensifies into a depression from low pressure."

Following the IMD's forecast, the Odisha Government has geared up to tackle the possible cyclone, which is expected to reach toward the Odisha-West Bengal coast.

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# Attack on Srimandir supervisor video goes viral

**PNS ■ PURI**  
Two days after the attack on Puri Srimandir Supervisor Buxi Ramachandra Pratihari, the CCTV footage of the entire incident of Friday has gone viral.

The temple supervisor had recently ousted several non-servitors selling Rabidi (condensed milk) in the Ananda Bazaar. Aggrieved by this, a man attacked Buxi while he was taking out his two-wheeler from the west gate of the temple. The video shows the man chasing Pratihari on the temple premises and attacking

him with a sharp weapon. The attacker walked away, leaving Pratihari injured. Later, Pratihari was rushed to District Headquarters Hospital by temple officials. Shockingly, the Puri police have miserably failed to apprehend the accused even as almost two days have passed since the incident. Puri Additional SP Sushil Mishra said, "An investigation

into the incident is on. The Town and Singhadwar PS IIC and a special squad are investigating the case. We are making efforts to establish the attacker's identity. Necessary action will be taken after that." Meanwhile, SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee has suspended a Pantibaduservitor, Chandan Samantara from temple duties in connection with the incident.

## Subhadra scheme

# No end to long queues by women in Subarnapur

**SRIKUMAR MAHANTA ■ SONEPUR**  
Long queues of women in banks, some squatting holding their babies and a few with their spouses, have become a common sight in Subarnapur. The State Government's much-touted Subhadra scheme and the need to link the beneficiaries' Aadhaar details with their phone numbers has led to a frenzy that refuses to die down even after several clarifications were issued by the officials recently.

In Tarbha, the main post office witnessed long queues yet again on Friday as women in large numbers, many with their children in tow and accompanied by their husbands, lined up outside the Aadhaar service counter, anxiously waiting for their turn to update their Aadhaar details hoping to avail the benefits of Subhadra Yojana. The flagship scheme of the State Government has sparked an unnecessary rush among the public to ensure that their Aadhaar cards are updated and linked with their mobile numbers. However, the urgency is unwarranted, Deputy Chief

Minister Pravati Parida had clarified previously. She had said Aadhaar linking is not a requirement for eligibility and there is no deadline for applying for the scheme. Despite the assurances, the lack of proper outreach and communication has left many residents confused, leading to chaotic scenes at both Government-run post offices and private common service centres (CSCs). Senior officials of district administration said Aadhaar linkage with mobile number is not needed to apply for Subhadra scheme as Aadhaar can be vali-

dated through biometric system. Further, no deadline to apply for benefits under Subhadra Yojana has been fixed and women beneficiaries aged between 21 and 60 years can apply at the nearest seva kendras. Special camps have been set up in every block and urban area for correction of Aadhaar. Over 90 per cent of forms meant for the scheme have been distributed in 6 blocks and 3 NACs/Municipality. Still the queues in front of CSCs and post offices just keep getting longer by the day.

## In Baleswar

# Woman sets self on fire over family feud

**Hubby hurt trying to rescue her**  
**PNS ■ BALESWAR**  
A woman allegedly set herself on fire in Baleswar district following a feud with her husband on Sunday. While the woman is now battling for life, her husband also sustained grievous injuries during a bid to save her. Both of them were admitted to a hospital and their conditions remained critical, sources said. The incident was reported from Adia village under Jadida panchayat of Soro block. The victims were identified

as Sasikant Maharana and his wife Bhanumati. According to sources, Sasikant and Bhanumati were at loggerheads over some family matters. In the morning, the couple as usual woke up to a fight over some reason. The couple's usual tiff turned serious after an irate Bhanumati poured kerosene and set herself on fire. Immediately, Sasikant rushed to her rescue. However, he also sustained serious burn injuries in the process. Both of them were rescued and rushed to the Soro Community Health Centre. Bhanumati was shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack after her condition deteriorated.

# PMGSY road work below par in N'rangpur

**Villagers allege nexus between officials, contractor**  
**MONOHAR MOHANTY ■ NABARANGPUR**



The villagers of Adhikariguda in Umarkote Block of Nabarangpur district have alleged poor quality of work in the construction of the PMGSY road from Adhikariguda to Chikalpadar. The villagers alleged that the road is in a very bad shape even after the completion of the construction work due to use of substandard construction materials and non-compliance with the DPR specifications.

They said the large potholes and rough surface exposed the substandard work carried out by the contractor. They demanded that the State Government conduct a proper inquiry into the irregularities and take action against the contractor. Parsuram Patro, a local denizen, threatened to file a public interest litigation (PIL) before the Orissa High Court over the irregularities in construction.

Earlier, some villagers made a complaint to the department authorities and also to the Vigilance, but no action was taken, thanks to a nexus between the venal officials and contractor. The contractor, instead of getting penalised, was awarded with several more projects in the locality from the department as a bounty. Meanwhile, members cutting across party lines expressed displeasure over the poor quality of construction and maintenance of roads by the RD Department and urged stringent action against the erring officials and blacklisting of the contractor after a due inquiry.

## Man climbs 4L V electric tower to kill self



**Rescued after 5-hour efforts**  
**MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH**  
A man climbed a 4 lakh-volt and 60-meter-high electric tower of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) under Kuanrunda police outpost in Sundargarh district on Saturday to commit suicide. The man was rescued from the transmission tower after a five hours' long operation.

high tension electric tower and climbed up the tower at around 7 am and went up to 42-meter height of the tower. When some passersby noticed him perched on a height of the electric tower, they informed Kuanrunda police outpost. The family members of Sukanta and villagers also rushed near the tower and appealed to Sukanta not to touch the electric wire and only to stick to his place. Later, the fire brigade team and PGCIL officials were informed about the incident. An emergency shutdown was taken by PGCIL and Sukanta was safely brought down the tower by the PGCIL personnel. After he was brought down around 12.20 pm on Saturday, police sent him to Kuanrunda Community Health Centre, where his health condition was examined. Later, Sukanta was allowed to go with his family to his home.

# Public hearing: Nod to Dalpahal mines expansion

**PNS ■ KEONJHAR**  
The affected people of Joda area extended their conditional support to the expansion of Dalpahal iron and manganese mines of DC Jain in a public hearing meeting that was held on Thursday near the mines. The public hearing was organised for the increase of annual production capacity of the iron and manganese mine located in Baitarani reserve forest under Barbil tehsil of

Champua sub division of Keonjhar district from 0.31 million tonnes to 2.99 million tonnes and the production of manganese to 0.094 million tonnes as before. The meeting was presided over by Regional Officer of State Pollution Control Board, Keonjhar Prashant Kumar Kar and attended by Additional District Magistrate, Keonjhar Alok Kumar Pradhan. Samarendra Mahanta on behalf of the company read out the environmen-



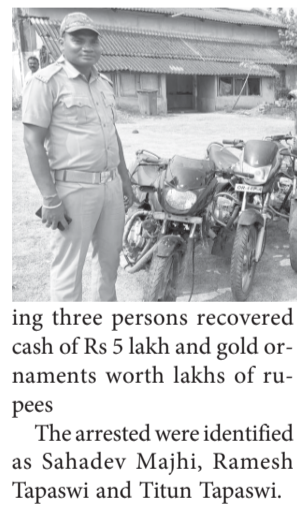
tal report for approval in the meeting. Out of hundreds there were 61 members of the public present in the meeting supporting the expansion with certain conditions. Among them, Councillor Ward No. 14 of Joda Municipality Pramod Kumar Behera, former Joda Municipality Chairman Rabindra Kumar Das, Vice-Chairman of Joda Municipality Sandhyarani Patra, Councillor of Ward No. 11 Barun Apat and Councillor of Ward No. 12 Diptiranjana

Behera were present on the occasion. Samarendra Mahanta, on behalf of the mining firm, agreed to start expansion work after considering the demands of the people. "Around 300 people, including representatives of MPs, intellectuals, environmentalists, and people's representatives were present. Out of these, 61 supported the project, while 15 participated through representation and expressed their views," said Regional Officer OPCB Keonjhar Kar.

## In Baleswar

# Cops recover 9 stolen bikes, arrest 7

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**  
Police have busted a couple of motorcycle lifting gangs by arresting seven persons, including some recoverers, in this connection in Baleswar district. The cops recovered as many nine stolen bikes from their possession. While the Sadar police recovered five bikes, the Soro police seized four bikes, said Sadar SDPO SS Beura in a press meet on Sunday. In another development, the Sadar police after arrest-



ing three persons recovered cash of Rs 5 lakh and gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees. The arrested were identified as Sahadev Majhi, Ramesh Tapaswi and Titun Tapaswi. The police had begun a probe after an 89-year-old person lodged an FIR alleging that miscreants looted cash of Rs 5.6 lakh and gold ornaments after breaking open his house during his absence.

# '15th Kumar Punei Janha Lo' held in Ganjam

**Artists displayed rural sports, feted**  
**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**  
In order to revive the rural women's games and sports, the Madhumaya Panigrahi Foundation celebrated the 15th Kumar Punei Janha Lo fest on October 17. Director of the Foundation, Dr Hrushikesh Panigrahi, an eminent stage manager and a great orator, guided the show. Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy attended as chief guest and appreciated the foundation for keeping alive the an-

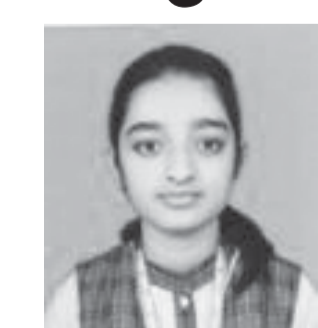


cient traditions of Odisha rural women. She emphasized on the unique folk arts and vivid culture of Ganjam district, which occupy a special place in our glorious tradition. She advised the foundation and others to thrive for restoration of these traditions and customs. Dean, Brahmapur IISER, Jayadeb Mukhopadhyay and Member of OCA, from South Africa Trisam Pati Jena attended as special guests (virtual connect) while OCA secretary Sanjeet Nayak joined the function online. Sudipta Panigrahi managed the stage and intro-

duced the guests. On the occasion, Sankhanada by Sarata Mohapatra and his team, Ramalila by Shyamsundar Panigrahi, presentation of the song 'Kumar Punei Jahnalo' by artists from West Bengal and Odisha were made. Artists Amaresh Kumar Sahu, Raimita Ghuriye and Asit Tripathi received a reward of Rs 10,000 each, in the youth talent category. The cultural programmes were coordinated by Dr Mihir Kumar Tripathi, Dr Sonali Sahu and Niranjan Palata.

# Addressing the war between man and the machine

John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton's groundbreaking works paved the way for a spellbinding discovery that sounds as fascinating as it truly is - to mimic human intelligence with artificial neural networks. This physics-inspired approach to learning has rightfully been bestowed with the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics and has become the backbone in introducing facial recognition intelligence, chatbots and more. Initial concepts of building machines that were capable of logical thinking were derived from mathematical functions and theories, but the driving force behind working with artificial intelligence was the desire and objective to mimic human brain function. In essence, expanded use of AI is destined to take over the world, but a lot of people are still skeptical about how to ad-



**DISHASHREE SWAIN**

dress the war between man and the machine. Technically, even if AI has permeated our lives to such a staggering extent, just a handful of people actually understand it; let alone use it right. A majority of people fear it or passively ignore it. Over the years, AI has undeniably made lives easier by taking over the

manual jobs, piqued our curiosity by being an excellent player of chess and what not; yet importantly, how has AI impacted our understanding of ourselves? Today, what is a little more discussed than the development of artificial intelligence is how powerful it will be in just a few years. Can it code? It can, and it will get faster. Can it think? What if it creates a chemical compound that is dangerous to humanity? Can AI also perform tasks on a website? Maybe it will manipulate the stock markets and disrupt the flow of finance? Such questions, which arise from an assumption that AI is alive, intelligent and 'conscious' are endless. And an answer to quench such paranoia is - AI cannot do all the things we think AI can do. When Hopfield suggests the activity of AI in learning being similar

to the ways humans learn, what he implies is merely that they perform the same mechanical task during training that the human brain does. However, the human brain does more than simply build connections. Humans have a complex brain that simply multitasks and does many things intertwined, but the core concept that we call learning has as its root a simple mechanism; neurons strengthen or weaken their connections based on input information. For instance, let's say AI doesn't forget and remembers things, unlike humans. It recalls information much faster than a human brain. But when it comes to art, recalling what you have learned is just a very small part of what makes art truly interesting! And in essence, bringing forth a newer idea and presenting it in all the different ways is what

makes our art unique, and in the grand scheme of things, it is how evolution happens. A different approach to understanding it could start with what we learn in physics today. Much of the physics we know is based on assuming different characteristics of particles that are not relevant in real life. But since we have done useful things with such simulations, it becomes a topic of relevance. Similarly, artificial neurons are numeric simulations of the actual things that use hacks and shortcuts to achieve what nature does using bio-electricity and assorted neurochemicals. In a human brain, neurons constantly form new synapses and somehow rearrange themselves in response to learning. In an artificial neural network all the neurons in a layer come pre-linked and only the link

strength changes during training. Essentially, it's not a pipe; it's a painting of one - but if it serves to be useful, people will use it. Now, it is right that AI will definitely completely replace innumerable jobs; but what it is doing isn't taking these jobs away but opening us up to the possibility of newer, smarter jobs that require creativity, which is the single most unique thing that humans are blessed with. For years, we've let workaholicism take precedence in our lives; and what is more significant isn't the loss of jobs but the loss of meaning. As humans, we're all endowed with the ability to think as differently from others as our fingerprint varies. But only a few people are celebrated as those who have brought new meaning and advancements to the world. Why is that? We all have ideas but

lack the knowledge that a collaboration with AI is the single-most powerful thing that will help us convert our dreams into a reality. A lot of people say AI is changing the world; but at its core, that is not what is happening. People who use AI the right way are changing the world. Hopfield and Hinton's ideas paired with the attempts and research of many others now let computers act like dumb or clumsy people. Soon, they will also let us know how brilliant, graceful human beings do what we do best. Until then, if we're worried about AI replacing human beings, we should only think about making AI pay taxes! (The writer is a student of 1st Year, Computer Engineering (2024-28), Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR), Bhubaneswar)



# Junior doctors continue protests amid talks with Mamata Banerjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Twenty four hours after Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee offered a conditional offer for talks to the protesting junior doctors asking them to first withdraw the ongoing fast-unto-death before returning to the dialogue table...

get back to work," she said adding "I can call you for a dialogue but only on Monday for 45 minutes but I will ask you to call off the fast and then join the meeting."

While the Chief Ministerial offer for talks to the ruling Trinamool Congress continued to mount vehement attack on the junior doctors calling them "puppets in the hands of the CPI(M) and Maoists."

# Omar Abdullah completes 21 km Kashmir Half Marathon

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



After recording a historic victory in the recently concluded Assembly elections and taking the oath of office, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sunday hit another milestone after crossing the finish line by completing the 21 km long Kashmir Half Marathon in just over two hours.

Feeling elated Omar said, "The best part was running past my home with family & others out to cheer me on."

ever since he won an emphatic victory in the Assembly polls said he thoroughly enjoyed the marathon and clicked lots of selfies and interacted with the journos who wanted to record a quick interview on the way.

# Four arrested for stealing temple artefact in Kerala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Four people were taken into custody from Haryana for allegedly stealing a bronze vessel from the famed Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple here, Kerala police said on Sunday.

# RSS launches outreach programme to boost BJP prospects in Maharashtra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



With the assembly polls in Maharashtra just a month away, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has launched an extensive outreach programme to shape public opinion in favour of the BJP-led alliance in the state.

the office bearers of the RSS and its affiliates held coordination meetings across all levels in the state to devise the strategy, the source said.

in Haryana, held over 1.25 lakh small group meetings across the state," another source told PTL. These meetings helped shape public opinion in Haryana by highlighting various issues including the erstwhile Congress government's "Jat-centric policies" under then Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the source said.

shaping a favourable public opinion in the run-up to assembly polls has injected optimism in the BJP rank and file with many in the party hoping that replication of the Haryana strategy may yield favourable results in Maharashtra as well.

# Kanchi Shankaracharya: NDA is 'Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Shankaracharya of Kanchi Shri Shankar Vijayendra Saraswati Swami on Sunday said that God has blessed Narendra Modi and his government is 'NDA, which means "Narendra Damodar Das ka Anushasan".'

The eye hospital was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, who was present at the function. The Shankaracharya started his address in Sanskrit and said, "Today is an opportunity to see Netra Utsav and this is an important occasion of service."

# Won't settle for less than 12 seats: RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI

Expressing its disappointment with the JMM and Congress over seat-sharing for the Jharkhand assembly polls, the RJD on Sunday said it would not settle for less than 12 seats, but it will not sabotage the prospects of the INDIA bloc even if it goes solo.

# Health Minister Nadda defends AIIMS standards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Amid criticisms regarding staff shortages at the new AIIMS facilities in various States, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Sunday said that he would not allow any dilution in the standards of teaching and faculty at the institutions and would protect the brand.

increase in the number of medical colleges over the past decade, which aims to boost the supply of trained healthcare professionals. No compromise will be made in the faculty recruitment, he added.

sub-centres have been converted into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. At present, there are 1.73 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and their quality assessment is being done digitally, he said.

# Assam CM welcomes SC judgement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday expressed a "mixed reaction of happiness and sorrow" regarding the Supreme Court judgment on the cut-off date of the Assam Accord. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an official function on Sunday, Sarma emphasised that the Assamese people will have to move forward through "struggles."

illegal migration. "I feel that this verdict establishes 1971 as the cut-off date, and my reaction is mixed. There is both happiness and sorrow in it. Therefore, I don't want to label it a historic judgment; it is simply a blend of both emotions. The Assamese community has to move forward with struggles like this," Sarma said without elaborating further in his first reaction after the judgment was delivered by the apex court.

# Health experts urge iodine deficiency awareness ahead of World Iodine Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of the World Iodine Day on Sunday, health experts flagged that India, like many developing nations, faces a significant public health challenge in the form of 'hidden hunger,' especially among growing children caused by deficiencies in crucial micronutrients such as iodine.

Dr Vardhan was speaking at a recent conference organized by Nutrition International, WHO India, Resolve to Save Lives, and Iodine Global Network, aimed to address the challenge of reducing salt intake while maintaining sufficient iodine nutrition. Iodine is vital for the production of thyroid hormones, which regulate metabolism and are crucial for fetal and infant development.

children can result in lowered intelligence. For instance, she said, in pregnant women, iodine deficiency of this magnitude can cause major neurodevelopmental deficits and growth retardation in the fetus as well as miscarriage and stillbirth. Chronic, severe iodine deficiency in utero causes cretinism, a condition characterized by intellectual disability, deaf mutism, motor spasticity, stunted growth, delayed sexual maturation, and other physical and neurological abnormalities, added Senior Consultant Gynecologist, Laparoscopic Surgeon & Infertility Specialist.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## A path to democracy

Amid Bangladesh's political turmoil, the possibility of general elections in 2025 presents an opportunity for renewal

After a long wait, the possibility of general elections taking place in Bangladesh in 2025 is now on the horizon. Bangladesh's Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has said the next election could be held in 2025 after completing the pre-election preparations, including the formation of a new Election Commission. Amid the escalating crisis in Bangladesh, there is growing pressure for a new general election to restore democratic order and bring stability. The possibility of holding general elections in 2025 has become a central topic of discussion in political circles. Many see the election as a necessary step to establish a legitimate government that can address the country's economic woes, restore law and order, and guide Bangladesh towards a more stable future. However, there are significant hurdles to overcome before an election can be held. The interim government, currently tasked with maintaining order, must establish a conducive environment for free and fair elections. This involves addressing concerns about electoral fraud, ensuring the safety of voters and candidates, and reforming the Election Commission, which has been criticised for its partisanship in recent years. International pressure, especially from the United States, and the European Union, is likely to play a role in pushing for transparent and credible elections. The international community's involvement may be instrumental in mediating dialogue among political factions and overseeing electoral reforms.



While the potential for a general election in 2025 offers a glimmer of hope, it is by no means a guaranteed solution. The path to stability will require a series of complex and delicate steps, including effective power-sharing arrangements, accountability for past political abuses, and economic policies aimed at alleviating the financial burden on citizens. The emergence of populist rhetoric and extremist groups could also pose threats to a peaceful electoral environment. Moreover, with Sheikh Hasina in exile and her Awami League party in disarray, a sizable section of Bangladesh's political milieu is likely to be away from the election process. Under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, the country experienced substantial economic growth. However, her tenure was also marred by accusations of authoritarianism, suppression of dissent, and manipulation of democratic institutions. The deterioration of democratic norms and crackdowns on opposition parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), exacerbated political polarisation and unrest. As Bangladesh teeters on the edge of a political precipice, the possibility of holding general elections in 2025 brings a mixture of hope and apprehension. The nation's future will largely depend on how the interim government manages the political transition and whether it can pave the way for a truly democratic process. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether Bangladesh can emerge from this turmoil with renewed democratic vigour or if it will remain mired in chaos and instability.

other hand, is driven by his desire to woo for his domestic political gains a section of the Sikh diaspora who support Khalistan. Discretion in such a sensitive matter, therefore, has been thrown to the winds. The Trudeau government's sovereignty concerns over the Najjar killing, however, do not extend to alleged Chinese interference in Canadian federal elections both in 2019 and 2021. The eruption of the New Delhi-Ottawa diplomatic war was not unexpected, given the simmering tensions between the two for several years now over what the former believes is the Trudeau government's abject failure to rein in Khalistani separatists in Canada who pose a security risk to India. For New Delhi, what broke the camel's back this time around was Canada's contention that six Indian diplomats, including the high commissioner, were "persons of interest" in the ongoing probe into Nijjar's killing and its demand that their diplomatic immunity be revoked. Nijjar had been designated a terrorist by India for his separatist activities. New Delhi has repeatedly raised the issue of Khalistani elements having a free run in Canada in recent years only to have "freedom of expression" being thrown back at it by the Trudeau government. These elements have had floats depicting former PM Indira

### PICTALK



Visitors at the Virasat Mahotsav 2024, an art and heritage festival, in Dehradun

## India-Canada relations sink over Khalistan issue



PARUL CHANDRA

As both countries grapple with domestic politics and external pressures, the ties are now at its most fragile point, threatening trade, security and people-to-people connections

Two of the world's leading democracies, India and Canada, are currently engaged in a rather unseemly, explosive diplomatic row over Ottawa's refusal to rein in Khalistani elements thriving on Canadian soil. New Delhi believes these elements, all Canadian nationals, have been allowed unfettered freedom, imperilling India's security interests. With Ottawa paying no heed to New Delhi's concerns, a traditionally close relationship nurtured over a long period now lies torn into shreds.

The spat with Canada could also impinge on India's geopolitical equations with members of the powerful intelligence-sharing 'Fives Eyes' alliance. The Justin Trudeau-led government has approached the alliance and got the backing of the other four members – the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand – on its allegations linking the Indian government's "agents" to "criminal activities" in Canada, including the killing of Khalistani separatist Kuldeep Singh Nijjar in June last year. All these alliance partners have their eyes firmly set on the crucial Indo-Pacific. So does India. Surely, none would want the imbroglgio to adversely impact their geostrategic alignment to counter China's aggressive expansionism in the region. If Ottawa's charges on the Indian government's involvement do turn out to be correct, New Delhi would have an egg on its face.

While covert operations to carry out hit jobs in foreign lands to take out elements inimical to a country's interests are nothing new, being caught with proof of overt involvement can prove to be a major embarrassment. It's noteworthy that the US, unlike Canada, has been far more discreet in its approach while seeking India's cooperation in investigating a plot to kill Khalistani separatist leader and its national Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, who leads Sikhs for Justice. The US strategy is driven in no small measure by its desire to not cause any major rift in bilateral strategic ties with India, even though it continues to put pressure on New Delhi on the issue. Trudeau, on the



other hand, is driven by his desire to woo for his domestic political gains a section of the Sikh diaspora who support Khalistan. Discretion in such a sensitive matter, therefore, has been thrown to the winds. The Trudeau government's sovereignty concerns over the Najjar killing, however, do not extend to alleged Chinese interference in Canadian federal elections both in 2019 and 2021. The eruption of the New Delhi-Ottawa diplomatic war was not unexpected, given the simmering tensions between the two for several years now over what the former believes is the Trudeau government's abject failure to rein in Khalistani separatists in Canada who pose a security risk to India. For New Delhi, what broke the camel's back this time around was Canada's contention that six Indian diplomats, including the high commissioner, were "persons of interest" in the ongoing probe into Nijjar's killing and its demand that their diplomatic immunity be revoked. Nijjar had been designated a terrorist by India for his separatist activities. New Delhi has repeatedly raised the issue of Khalistani elements having a free run in Canada in recent years only to have "freedom of expression" being thrown back at it by the Trudeau government. These elements have had floats depicting former PM Indira

Gandhi's assassination in processions to mark the 40th anniversary of 'Operation Blue Star', and recently even published posters issuing death threats to senior Indian diplomats, stoking New Delhi's concerns. Trudeau's Liberal Party has thrived on support from the Sikh diaspora that exercises significant influence in some important parliamentary seats. A pro-Khalistan Canadian politician, Jagmeet Singh, who leads the New Democratic Party, has played a crucial role in enabling Trudeau's minority government to remain in power by signing a deal supporting it in no-confidence votes. Singh called off this deal last month but elections in Canada are slated to be held next year anyway if Trudeau's government can survive until then. New Delhi, in any case, will be happy to see the back of Trudeau. Now, with his government even threatening "sanctions" against India, it's fairly evident that Ottawa is willing to jeopardise even vital trade and economic ties with India. It halted negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in September last year as bilateral relations soured. Canada's own Indo-Pacific strategy had earlier recognised India as a "critical partner", seeking deeper trade and economic ties.



IT'S NOTEWORTHY THAT THE US, UNLIKE CANADA, HAS BEEN FAR MORE DISCREET IN ITS APPROACH WHILE SEEKING INDIA'S COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING A PLOT TO KILL KHALISTANI SEPARATIST LEADER AND ITS NATIONAL GURPATWANT SINGH PANNUN, WHO LEADS SIKHS FOR JUSTICE

Bilateral trade was pegged at \$9.36 billion in 2023. The turbulence in ties can have a deleterious impact on trade and economic links. What could also take a hit are people-to-people ties, especially with Canada being a favoured destination for Indian students for higher education. An estimated 4.27 lakh Indian students are studying in Canada, helping its educational institutes earn much-needed revenue. Canada is also home to a huge Indian diaspora of 1.8 million – Trudeau will only alienate himself from them while allowing Khalistani radicals to flourish. Trudeau would do well to remember that it was Khalistani separatist elements who carried out the bombing of AI Kanishka Flight 182 in June 1985, killing 329 persons of whom a majority were Canadian citizens of Indian origin. Allowing radical elements to thrive for the sake of political expediency has never done any nation good. As two mature democracies who have often cited this fact as one that underpins their bilateral ties, both India and Canada need to pull back from the diplomatic war they are engaged in. A sour relationship can only cause further damage in the long run.

(The writer is a senior New Delhi-based journalist who writes on foreign affairs; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### SECTION 6A STAYS VALID

Madam — The Supreme Court's judgement on the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act on Thursday not only put an end to concerns about an old issue reviving, but it also shed light on numerous factors that can help shape the current debate. In this regard, the ruling confirms the methodology established in the Assam Accord to address the issue of illegal immigrants in Assam. The Supreme Court's five-member constitutional bench ruled Section 6A of the Citizenship Act statutory, clearing the door for the implementation of the 1985 accord reached by the Rajiv Gandhi government and the All-Assam Students Union (AASU). According to this agreement, by adding Section 6A to the Citizenship Act, those who came from Bangladesh before March 25, 1971, would be eligible for citizenship. Previously, this day was January 1, 1966. After the challenge to the constitutionality of this section of the Citizenship Act is dismissed, those who arrived in Assam from Bangladesh before March 25, 1971, will be permitted to petition for citizenship, but those who arrived after that date will be identified and deported. This ruling provided solace to all individuals who had arrived from other places and were living in Assam, feeling stuck in uncertainty. The verdict made it clear whose citizenship is safe, who can obtain citizenship, and who must be identified as illegal migrants and returned properly. In this sense, there is no room for ambiguity. Politics driven by immediate interests can be more harmful in this situation. The decision may have been made in the context of Assam, but the issue of illegal immigration is significant in many other locations.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

#### NEW JUSTICE STATUE UNVEILED

Madam—In a symbolic shift, a new statue of Nyay ki Devi (Lady of Justice) at the Supreme Court (SC) replaces the traditional blindfold (serves as a reminder of

### Senior citizens get relief



The decision of the Group of Ministers to reduce GST on insurance policies (health insurance and life insurance) is certainly beneficial to many citizens who intend to have insurance cover for them or their families for meeting unexpected expenses of hospitalisation or even deaths. At the same time, the decision to recommend

a total waiver of GST on health insurance policies for senior citizens is definitely laudable. However, these recommendations will be put up in the GST Council meeting for a decision after October 30, which is too long a period. In fact, many of the health insurance policies involving senior citizens under group cover expire by 30th October itself, and they have to be renewed well in advance to continue the coverage. Therefore, the senior citizens, especially, are more concerned immediately and the waiver of GST as decided and recommended in the GOM meeting recently held, if implemented earlier, will certainly benefit the senior citizens who have to renew their policies by making premia payments.

K Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

the ideals of fairness and justice that legal systems aspire to uphold) and sword with open eyes and the Indian Constitution, signifying an evolving justice system in India. Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud aims to reflect impartial justice and modernise the judiciary, moving away from colonial legacies towards constitutional values. The note-worthy element of this design is the replacement of the sword with a copy of the Indian Constitution. Generally, the sword has been associated with violence and disciplinary action, whereas the Constitution is a symbol of rights, equality, and fairness. This change represents the shift towards more emphasis on core values in justice and highlights how a judiciary must act as a protector of constitutional rights rather than functioning as a law enforcer. From now onwards, justice will be served to the "right" persons. No longer will it be impartial nor will punishments be enforced. Yes, changing the attire to a saree is a welcome step. As time progresses, the positive effects of this change will

become more evident.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterje | Faridabad

#### GATISHAKTI BOOSTS CONNECTIVITY

Madam — PM Modi celebrates GatiShakti's success in streamlining India's infrastructure development for multimodal connectivity. PM Modi has praised the achievements of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity, which has significantly enhanced infrastructure efficiency over the past three years. Launched in October 2021, the initiative integrates various infrastructure schemes from different ministries and state governments, improving seamless movement of goods and addressing supply chain bottlenecks. The plan has identified numerous infrastructure gaps and aims to develop sustainable solutions, ultimately fostering entrepreneurship and innovation across India.

Jayanthi Subramanian | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The changing dynamics of Bihar politics

As Bihar prepares for the 2025 Assembly elections, Prashant Kishor launches his new party. The big question is, can it make a difference?

Prashant Kishor has entered Bihar politics with a clear message: his role is that of a guide, not a contender for power. "My work is like that of a potter who shapes the best with the right tools. We aim to bring forward the best people in society," he stated, dismissing speculations about his ambitions for the Chief Minister's post. He reiterated that his newly launched party, 'Jansuraj', will be run by its members, not him, and he would only contest elections if the party deemed it necessary.

Kishor's move has stirred the political waters in Bihar. His party's announcement to contest the upcoming Assembly elections has sparked debates on its potential impact on major alliances, the NDA, and the India Alliance. A former election strategist for both PM Narendra Modi and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Kishor has not aligned with the Congress or the RJD. Some political analysts even suggest that his presence might benefit the BJP by weakening the RJD's support base, an idea that



gained traction following the rally and Muslim unity meeting in Patna. Despite his history with the BJP, Kishor has not held back from criticising Nitish Kumar's governance. The Janata Dal (United) (JDU), however, remains firm on its stance, with leaders affirming that Nitish Kumar is still Bihar's true leader. In a recent meeting, JDU's acting national president Sanjay Jha dismissed any doubts about Kumar's relevance, pointing to the party's

resilience despite various narratives circulating before the elections. Ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections, Kishor has strategically targeted the Muslim and backward caste communities, which represent a significant portion of the electorate—17.7 per cent and 36.1 per cent, respectively. He has announced plans to field more candidates from these communities and has emphasised inclusivity by appointing a Dalit as the party's working president.



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

This move has been seen as a counter to JDU's long-standing Mahadalit outreach.

Kishor has been preparing the ground for his political venture for the past two years, conducting a 'padyatra' across Bihar and engaging with the public through discussions in villages and towns. Drawing on the philosophies of Gandhi and Tagore, he has sought to resonate with the masses, though his stance on lifting the liquor ban has invited criticism for contradicting Gandhian ideals. The launch of 'Jansuraj' represents Kishor's effort to offer a new political alternative in Bihar. However, significant questions remain: can he address Bihar's pressing issues such as unemployment and crime? Will his strategies translate into a viable solution for the state's enduring challenges? As Bihar gears up for the next election, the answers to these questions will determine Kishor's political fate. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

### THE ART OF SAYING NO

Setting boundaries allows employees to focus on high-value tasks and protects their well-being



SAKSHI SETHI

In the modern workplace, professionals are often expected to handle a variety of tasks and responsibilities, making it easy to become overwhelmed. While many employees adopt a yes-boss mentality to stay in good favour or advance their careers, the ability to say no can be just as important. Learning to decline certain requests, combined with the effective use of delegation, is the key to managing time, preserving mental well-being and ensuring tasks that are completed efficiently and effectively. Looking at today's fast-paced and highly competitive work environment, learning to say no can be one of the most valuable skills for any professional. While the workplace often rewards the individual with a can-do attitude but the ability to refuse certain tasks or requests is equally essential to maintain productivity, well-being and professional integrity. There is often an underlying fear of being seen as uncooperative, damaging relationships with colleagues, or missing out on future opportunities.

The result of this is an overloaded schedule, which can lead to decreased productivity, poor work quality and even burnout. It can negatively impact both the individual and the organisation, as over-stretched employees may struggle to meet deadlines or produce substandard work. The ability to refuse is not just about rejecting requests rather it's about setting boundaries that protect one's time and energy, ensuring that the most important tasks get the attention they deserve. Saying no to unnecessary or low-priority tasks allows professionals to focus on higher-value work, leading to better outcomes, a stronger contribution to the organisation and helps prevent individuals to maintain focus on their core responsibilities.



Despite its clear benefits, saying a no is often easier said than done. Many employees find it difficult to refuse tasks due to cultural or organisational pressures that equate being helpful with taking on as much work as possible. Some even fear that saying no could label them as difficult or unwilling to be a team player, leading to missed promotions or opportunities.

Moreover, individuals often grapple with personal barriers to saying no. Perfectionism, fear of conflict or a desire to please others can make it hard to set boundaries resulting in employees worrying that a simple refusal to additional tasks reflects their inabilities or lack of dedication towards the job. But in reality, saying no in the workplace brings several important benefits, both for the individual and the organisation.

Effective delegation can offer a constructive alternative when refusing a task outright is not an option for it allows work to be distributed across a team, which can increase overall productivity, help build confidence and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility within the team. It even helps concentrate on strategic tasks and high-priority responsibilities that require their attention and most importantly demonstrates trust in the abilities of individuals, which can improve team morale and encourage a more collaborative working environment.

While learning to say no and delegating effectively are two critical skills for success in the workplace. Saying no helps protect time and energy for the most important tasks, while delegation allows leaders to distribute work more effectively and empower others. By mastering the art of saying no and delegating, professionals can not only manage their workloads but also foster a more efficient and empowered team.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

# Indian immigrants to Canada bear brunt of diplomatic row



K S TOMAR

## The fallout threatens to disrupt visa processes, immigration pathways, and opportunities for Indian workers and students in Canada



The fallout of the current diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, particularly in the wake of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations and expulsions of diplomats by both countries, could have significant consequences for Indian citizens working, studying, or planning to immigrate to Canada. Trudeau's Liberal Party has been facing declining support, and his minority government has been kept afloat by the New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Jagmeet Singh, a prominent Sikh politician.

The NDP's support base includes a significant portion of Canada's Sikh population, and Trudeau may be attempting to retain their support by taking a tough stance against India, which is perceived by some Sikhs in Canada as being hostile to their interests. The deteriorating relations between the two countries may affect several key areas:

**Impact on Indian Workers in Canada:** Indian Workforce in Canada: Indians form a significant part of Canada's skilled workforce, especially in sectors like IT, healthcare, engineering and finance. Over the years, Canada has become a top destination for experienced professionals from India due to its immigration-friendly policies. Visa and Work Permit Issues: While the immediate impact on Indian workers in Canada has been limited, any prolonged diplomatic standoff could lead to delays in the processing of work permits, visa renewals and permanent residency (PR) applications. The processing times might increase, and stricter scrutiny could be imposed.

**Uncertainty for Future Migrants:** Potential immigrants or those awaiting work permits may face hurdles in terms of visa approvals. If relations continue to sour, Canada might impose tighter immigration controls on Indian workers, which could hamper the flow of professionals into the country.

**Impact on Indian Students in Canada:** There is large Indian Student Population in Canada as it has become a major destination for Indian students, with nearly 320,000 Indian students enrolled in Canadian universities as of 2023. The country's world-class education system, relatively easier immigration pathways



THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO MITIGATE THE FALLOUT IS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE. BOTH GOVERNMENTS MUST FIND COMMON GROUND AND WORK TOWARDS DE-ESCALATION. DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOULD PRIORITISE RESOLVING MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHILE PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF CITIZENS ON BOTH SIDES

post-graduation, and diverse work opportunities have made it attractive for Indian students.

**Visa Delays:** The current diplomatic tension may lead to delays in student visa approvals or increased scrutiny of applications. While there is no immediate indication that Indian students will face outright rejections, the uncertainty could cause stress and delays in admission procedures, particularly for new applicants. Post-Graduation Work Opportunities: Many Indian students stay in Canada after completing their studies under post-graduation work permits (PGWP) and eventually apply for permanent residency.

The growing tension could complicate this process, making it harder for students to transition smoothly from education to employment.

**Impact on Immigration Pathways:** Canada's Express Entry programme, which has been highly favourable for Indian professionals and students seeking permanent residency, might slow down or become more stringent if the diplomatic rift deepens.

There could be longer processing times, more rigorous background checks, and even potential policy changes affecting Indian applicants.

**Family Reunification:** Indian citizens who have family members in Canada and are in the process of family reunification (sponsorship programmes) could face delays in their applications due to the diplomatic standoff. **Trade and Bilateral Agreements Professional Mobility:** If diplomatic tensions continue, professional exchanges, joint ventures, and corporate partnerships involving Indian and Canadian companies might slow down. This could reduce job opportunities for Indian professionals working for Canadian companies in sectors like IT, telecommuni-

cations, and consulting. Impact on New Immigration Streams: The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which India and Canada had been discussing, could be put on hold.

This would affect initiatives meant to streamline immigration for Indian professionals and create pathways for smoother trade and employment relations.

**Solutions to Mitigate the Fallout Diplomatic Resolution:** The most effective way to mitigate the fallout is through diplomatic dialogue. Both governments must find common ground and work towards de-escalation. Diplomatic channels should prioritise resolving misunderstandings while protecting the interests of citizens on both sides.

**Temporary Shift to Alternative Countries:** While waiting for the situation to stabilise, students and professionals might consider alternative countries such as the UK, Australia, or Germany, which offer similar educational and work opportunities for Indian nationals.

**Vote Bank Politics and the Sikh Community's Role in Canada:** Canada has one of the largest Sikh populations outside of India, with an estimated 770,000 Sikhs, making up about 2 per cent of the total Canadian population.

Many of these Sikhs are concentrated in electoral districts in British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta. In some constituencies, Sikhs represent a significant voting bloc, which can influence election outcomes.

Upcoming Elections: With elections expected by 2025, Trudeau needs to consolidate his support among key communities. Given the current minority government status, he must rely on alliances, such as with the NDP, and maintain his standing in immigrant-rich constituencies, including those dominated by

Sikhs. His recent diplomatic actions appear designed to shore up this support by aligning himself with issues important to these groups.

The Sikh community has historically supported the Liberal Party, particularly under Trudeau. Many high-profile Sikh leaders, including ministers in his cabinet, are from this community.

Thus, maintaining their support is crucial for the Liberal Party's prospects in the next election. **Khalistan Issue:** While not all Sikhs in Canada support the Khalistan movement, those who do have formed influential advocacy groups that have pushed the issue into Canadian politics. Trudeau's overtures to this section of the electorate have been interpreted as efforts to protect his vote base, especially as his government faces increasing political pressure ahead of future elections.

Experts say that Trudeau may also be positioning himself as a defender of Canadian sovereignty by alleging foreign interference, a move that could resonate with voters concerned about national security.

This fits with broader concerns in the West about foreign interference in domestic politics, even though India has categorically denied the allegations.

India-Canada ties are indeed at their lowest ebb following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusation that Indian agents were involved in the killing of Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil.

This extreme diplomatic move, which has severely strained relations between the two countries, is seen as a combination of vote bank politics and Trudeau's handling of domestic pressures, especially in light of upcoming elections.

(Writer is a strategic columnist; views are personal)

# India's strides towards the design and component ecosystem in telecom

## The telecom sector is evolving from a service-led growth model to a robust manufacturing ecosystem

The telecommunications sector in India has grown to become the world's second-largest, contributing around 6.5 per cent to the nation's GDP and emerging as a key economic growth engine. While we take pride in this impressive growth, there is something even more exciting - the rise of the telecom manufacturing ecosystem. India's growth as a telecom equipment manufacturing destination can be attributed to the 'Make-in-India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives launched by the Government in recent years. The Production Linked Incentives (PLI), launched in 2020, and its subsequent amendments in 2022 to facilitate design-led manu-



S P KOCHHAR

facturing at an additional incentive rate with an allocated sum of Rs 4,000 crores also provided a major boost to telecom manufacturing in India. As per the latest update by the Ministry of Communications, sales of telecom equipment have surpassed the Rs 50,000 crore milestone under the PLI scheme, with exports at about Rs 10,500 crore. During this

period, India exported mobile phones worth Rs 1.28 lakh crores and with 300 million units produced, it has emerged as the second-largest producer of mobile phones in the world.

On the telecom equipment front, India has become almost self-reliant in antennae, Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) and Customer Premises Equipment (CPE). As a result, India's status has turned from importing telecom equipment worth Rs 74,116.21 crore in FY 13-14 to exporting equipment worth over Rs 1.49 lakh crore in FY 23-24. Though we are still importing certain products, the gap between imports and exports has gone down significantly. Apart from fostering self-

reliance, indigenous manufacturing of telecom equipment also addresses the national security concerns associated with telecom imports.

Manufacturing has emerged as an important aspect of the telecom sector's contribution to the GDP through the creation of substantial employment opportunities across the value chain, from manufacturing to research and development.

So far, telecom manufacturing has created more than 17,800 direct jobs and several indirect jobs. The Indian telecom industry is likely to attract investments in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technologies; ensure efficiencies and create economies of scale, in turn, enhancing



exports and making India an integral part of the global value chain. Government's Push for 'Atmanirbhar' Under the government's 'Atmanirbhar Abhiyan', the Department of Telecom (DoT) aims to promote the ecosystem for research and development, transforming India into a glob-

al hub of technology development and telecom equipment manufacturing. The Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the Government's ambitions to set up telecommunication equipment manufacturing zones as the country expects more inflow of foreign direct investments (FDI). Prime Minister Narendra Modi too emphasised the need for "Design in India, Design for the World", calling for indigenous design capabilities and urging the citizens to create products that cater to both domestic and international markets.

The Government has further established several task forces to ensure the smooth functioning of the telecom ecosystem. These include initiatives for

creating a component ecosystem, developing telecom chips from design to production, training skilled workers and designers, aggregating the demand for manufacturing from different departments and allocating them to eligible manufacturers, and optimising the use of test beds for product testing and certification. Following the Government's decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in telecom, the sector has attracted USD 39 billion in FDI for manufacturing, further boosting the momentum and solidifying India's role as a global telecom manufacturing hub.

Thanks to these concerted efforts, India has been able to bring down the trade deficit in telecom from Rs 68,000 crores to Rs 4,000 crores, over the last

five years. Focus on design and creation of IP is crucial to fulfilling India's ambitions as a product nation as design elements add substantial value to products. To build a strong ecosystem for 5G, DoT has sanctioned 17 companies under design-led manufacturing within the PLI scheme.

Further, global telecom equipment manufacturers like Cisco and Nokia have set up their manufacturing units in India, fostering world-class manufacturing prowess. These efforts, among others, emerge as a testament to the country's indigenous engineering and entrepreneurial capabilities, as well as manufacturing prowess.

(The writer is Director General, COAI; views are personal)





# Kyiv launches more than 100 drones over Russia

## Missile strike in Ukraine injures 17

Russian air defences shot down more than 100 Ukrainian drones on Sunday over Russia's western regions, Moscow officials said, while 17 people were injured in the Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih in a ballistic missile attack.



Fire at a military airfield in the Lipetsk region. The comments couldn't be independently verified by the Associated Press. A similar attack at the end of September saw Russia's Ministry of Defense report the destruction of 125 drones across seven regions.

Such large-scale aerial attacks are still relatively rare over Russia since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The Russian Defence Ministry said 110 drones were destroyed in the overnight barrage against seven Russian regions. Many targeted Russia's border region of Kursk, where 43 drones were reportedly shot down. Social media footage appeared to show air defences at work over the city of Dzerzhinsk in the Nizhny Novgorod region, close to a factory producing explosives. Local Governor Gleb Nikitin wrote on social media Sunday that four firefighters were injured repelling a drone attack over the city's industrial zone, but did not give further details.

Ukraine's Kryvyi Rih, 17 people were injured after two Russian ballistic missiles hit the city late Saturday evening, officials said Sunday. The attack damaged homes and businesses, said local administration head Oleksandr Vilkul. Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 49 drones and two Iskander-M ballistic missiles in total overnight. It said 31 of the drones were shot down over 12

regions, including the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, while another 13 disappeared from radar - suggesting they were knocked out by electronic defences. In a statement on social media, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia had launched some 800 guided aerial bombs and more than 500 attack drones over Ukraine in the past week alone. "Every day, Russia strikes our cities and communities. It is deliberate terror from the enemy against our people," he said, renewing calls for continued air support from the country's allies. "United in defence, the world can stand against this targeted terror."

# Subianto takes oath as Indonesia Prez

Prabowo Subianto was inaugurated Sunday as the eighth president of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, completing his journey from an ex-general accused of rights abuses during the dark days of Indonesia's military dictatorship to the presidential palace.

The former defence minister, who turned 73 on Thursday, was cheered through the streets by thousands of waving supporters after taking his oath on the Quran in front of lawmakers and foreign dignitaries. Banners and billboards filled the streets of the capital, Jakarta, where tens of thousands gathered for festivities. Wearing a blue Betawi traditional cloth and a dark baseball cap, Subianto stood up in the sunroof of a white van and waved, occasionally shaking people's hands, as his motorcade struggled to pass through the thousands of supporters calling his name and chanting "Good luck Prabowo-Gibran," filling the road leading from the parliament building to the presidential palace. "I see a firm and patriotic figure in him," said Atalaric Eka Prayoga, 25. "That's a figure we need to lead Indonesia."

Another resident, Silky Putri, said he hopes Subianto "can build Indonesia to be more advanced and improve the current gloomy economic situation". Subianto was a longtime rival of the immensely popular President Joko Widodo, who ran against him for the presidency twice and refused to accept his defeat on both occasions, in 2014 and 2019. But Widodo appointed Subianto as defense chief after his reelection, paving the way for an alliance despite their rival political parties. During the campaign, Subianto ran as the popular outgoing president's heir, vowing to continue signature policies like the construction of a multibillion-dollar new capital city and limits on exporting raw materials intended to boost domestic industry. Backed by Widodo, Subianto swept to a landslide victory in February's direct presidential election on promises of policy continuity. Subianto was sworn in with his new vice president, 37-year-old Surakarta ex-Mayor Gibran Rakabuming Raka. He chose Raka, who is Widodo's son, as his running mate, with Widodo favouring Subianto over the candidate of his own former party. The former rivals became tacit allies, even though Indonesian presidents don't typically endorse candidates. But how he'll govern the biggest economy in Southeast Asia - where nearly 90% of Indonesia's 282 million people are Muslims - remains uncertain after a campaign in which he made few concrete promises besides continuity with the popular former president. After decades of dictatorship under President Suharto, Indonesia was convulsed by political, ethnic and religious unrest in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Since then, it has consolidated its democratic transition as the world's third-largest democracy, and is home to a rapidly expanding middle class. Subianto, who comes from one of the country's wealthiest families, is a sharp contrast to Widodo, the first Indonesian president to emerge from outside the political and military elite. Subianto was a special forces commander until he was expelled by the army in 1998 over accusations that he played a role in the kidnappings and torture of activists and other abuses. He never faced trial and went into self-imposed exile in Jordan in 1998, although several of his underlings were tried and convicted. Jordanian King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein was expected to attend Sunday's ceremony, but cancelled at the last minute because of escalating Middle East tensions, instead deciding to send Foreign Affairs Minister Nancy Nabroua as his special envoy. Subianto and Abdullah met in person in June for talks in Amman on humanitarian assistance to people affected by the war in Gaza. Subianto, who has never held elective office, will lead a massive, diverse archipelago nation whose economy has boomed amid strong global demand for its natural resources. But he'll have to contend with global economic distress and regional tensions in Asia, where territorial conflicts and the US-China rivalry loom large. Leaders and senior officials from more than 30 countries flew in to attend the ceremony, including Chinese Vice President Han Zheng and leaders of Southeast Asia countries.

# Bangladesh SC reinstates Supreme Judicial Council

PTI DHAKA

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday reinstated the Supreme Judicial Council with authority to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, while upholding its previous ruling that declared the 16th constitutional amendment, which transferred the power of removing judges to parliament, as "illegal".

"The order was passed by a six-member bench of the Supreme Court's apex Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed," Supreme Court lawyer Ruhul Kuddus told reporters after the apex court announced its judgement. Kuddus, who was present in the hearing, said the ruling reinforced the original constitutional provisions. The verdict also meant scrapping of the 16th constitutional amendment, passed during deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime, giving the task of impeaching judges to Parliament instead of the Supreme Judicial Council comprising apex court judges. The 16th Amendment was passed in January 2014, relieving the Supreme Judicial Council of its authority of removing judges for incompe-

## E-TENDER NOTICE

IIM Ranchi invites e-tender for eligible bidders for 'Providing Integrated Education Software Solution for Academic Programme Offices'. Last date for submission of the e-bids is 03:00 pm on 25.10.2024. No further extension will be given. For More details, please refer to our website [www.iimranchi.ac.in](http://www.iimranchi.ac.in)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Kamlesh Kaur, resident of H-1/25, Gali No. 27, Rajapur, New Delhi-110059 has disowned and debarred her son namely Abhishek from her movable and immovable properties with immediate effect due to his adamant nature and rebellious attitude. Any person dealing with him in any manner shall be doing so at their own risk, responsibility and consequence and my client's will not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. B S CHAUDHARY (Advocate) 14A, Shivalki Apartments, Plot # 32, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that Smt Menka Kohli D/o Shri Chandan Kanwal Kohli is the Owner of R/o - 4436 Katra Raj Jee Street Paharganj New Delhi 110055. And The Original Builder Buyer Agreement Dated 25/01/2007. Executed by M/S Rajesh Projects Pvt Ltd in favour of Mrs. Menka Kohli has been lost. If anyone found this Original Document and have any objection regarding this Document in respect of Unit No. B-301. Inform me one my given mob No. - 9911004142 Within 7 days. Yogesh Kumar (Advocate)

## Punjab & Sind Bank

Bank invites offers, under two bid system for premises measuring carpet area 1300 Sq. Ft. to 1500 Sq. Ft. on ground floor, on lease for a minimum period of 15 Years (Fifteen Years) for branch office SR ALIGARH along with onsite ATM at ALIGARH. For more details, visit our website: [www.punjabandsindbank.co.in](http://www.punjabandsindbank.co.in) ZONAL MANAGER

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Anil Kumar Wilson S/o Peter Wilson & Mrs. Neelima Wilson W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Wilson, both R/O - Flat No. 201, First Floor RJS, Plot No. 83 A & 84 A, Gali No. 37, J Block, Raja Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, has severed all their relations and has disowned their son Mr. Gideon Akash Wilson, from their all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be responsible for any act of their son Mr. Gideon Akash Wilson & his wife Mrs. Rebecka Wilson, if anyone do so then he/she will do so at his/her own risk. GAURAV SADANA (Advocate) Enrl. No. D/6524/2021

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

## LOST & FOUND

I, Dinesh Kumar R/o B-74/104 Brahmputra Enclave Siddharth Vihar Sector-10 Ghaziabad, UP declare that On dated 17/10/2024 time 7:15 pm H-318, B Pratap Vihar Ghaziabad My first Registry (Sale Deed) and other documents got lost somewhere, which after searching haven't found it yet, please inform me when you do. Mo. 9015709950 PD(865)C

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Laiti Ravne is claiming to be the owner of Property bearing No. 90, area measuring 30 sq. yds. out of Mustafi No. 41, Killa No. 13, situated in the revenue estate of Village Handlanj, Now colony known as Nangli extension West no. 2, Nangli, Delhi-110041; vide Gift Deed dated 06.11.2023. Document No. 2023/6/17/717 executed by Mrs. Shabnam. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to mortgage the said property to our client. If anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/litigation, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 110 Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28, legal@knaadlegal.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Nishi & Mr. Arshad Aggarwal are claiming to be the owner of Property bearing No. R-114, area measuring 110 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, situated in the revenue estate of Village Bandpura, Delhi state Delhi, area known as Colony Rishon, Vani Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, vide G.P.A. No. 475, dated 24/04/2023, executed by (1) Mrs. Seema Bhatnagar (2) Ms. Narmada Bhatnagar (3) Ms. Vaani Bhatnagar (4) Mr. Sanjay. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property. If anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/litigation, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 110 Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28, legal@knaadlegal.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of PAYAL GUPTA to the public that she is claiming to be the owner of roof rights, area measuring 98 sq. yds., i.e. 81.93 sq. mtrs., out of Kharsa No. 117, Part of Property No. 20, situated in the area of Village Chandrawali, in the abadi of Moti Ram Road, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032; purchased the same from Mrs. MAMTA SHUKLA on the basis of Sale Deed dated 15.04.2021 bearing document no.2631, Book No.01, Volume no.3636, on pages 51-61, dated 15.04.2021 and in the presence of M/s. MAMTA SHUKLA, the financial assistance from SMFG India Credit Co., Ltd. (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/objection/interest/mortgage over the said property, may inform the undersigned on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present. DRM(V), Alipurduar Junction, NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

## TBCSR WORKS IN ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. 96/W-21/2P.DJ. Dated: 17-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No.: 43-AP-1-2024; Name of Work: New Coochbehar-Chaughtara (UP & DN)-TBCSR-1141 Nos. Tender Value: ₹ 32,49,081,818.50/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 46,8,100/-; Date & time of Closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 08-11-2024. For details please visit in the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). DRM(V), Alipurduar Junction, NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

## NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Certificate(s) for the undermentioned securities (bearing Equity Certificate Nos. 90915, 246576, 364728, 458162, 1254562, and Distinctive Nos. 440682/7 To 4406266, 142923661 To 142923910, 578460658 To 578460757, 619796770 To 619796869, 1391236535 To 1391236684, under the folio No. 09642668 of Larsen & Toubro Ltd. standing in the name(s) of Bhagwati Shankar Misra and Shanti Mishra & Equity Certificate Nos. 9747, 192311, 320851, 425079, 1324503 and Distinctive Nos. 450301 To 450325, 14034555 To 140344579, 574364013 To 574364062, 616933180 To 616933229, 1391230550 To 1391230624 under the folio No. 03706117 of Larsen & Toubro Ltd. standing in the name(s) of Bhagwati Shankar Misra and Shubra Misra has/have been lost or mislaid and the undersigned has applied to the Company to issue duplicate Certificate(s) for the said shares. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares should write to our Registrar, KFin Technologies Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Hyderabad-500032 within one month from this date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate Certificate(s). Date: 15.10.2024 S/- Shubha Raj Misra A-11A, Second Floor, Green Park Main, Green Park Market, South Delhi, Delhi-110016

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Haider Ali Ansari and his wife Nazra Akbari both R/o A-107, Gali No.9, Om Nagar Meethapur Extn., Badarpur, PO: Badarpur District: South Delhi Delhi-110044 have disowned their son Mohd Dilshad from their all moveable-immovable properties and severed all relations with him due to his disobedience. My clients shall not be responsible for his any act. A.K. MISHRA (Advocate) Chamber No. 260, Lawyer's Block, Saket Courts Complex, New Delhi-110017.

## LOST & FOUND

I, Mohd. Hashim, S/o Late Mohd Shauf Usmani, R/o 1544, First Floor, Kucha Dakkhani Rai, Pataudi House, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 informs that I have lost my original documents (Allotment Letter & Possession Letter) of property situated at Flat No.4C/3022, Sector 4, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201012. L.A.R. No. 2212892/2024 of FIR Date 18.10.2024. If anyone found please contact at the above address.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to that our client Mr. Manish Pahua purchased/acquired Entire GP Portion without roof right, part of Property Municipal No. 274, D/O No. 351, land measuring 126 Sq. Yards, Kharsa No. 548431/184 at Old Peshawar Nagar village Dherpur, Nirankari Colony, Delhi-09 from Madan Lal & Jagdish Raj by virtue of Gift Deed dated 23.11.2019 registered as Doc. No. 1730 SI-A-Delhi, represented himself to be owner of above said property and have further represented that the said property is free from all sort of encumbrances (registered or unregistered) sale, Gift, Mortgage, charge, lien, claim, discharge, Original Land Sale Deed dated 19.09.1988 (Doc. No. 4918) is not available with my client, hence it is not deposited in any bank/NBFC for any secured exposure against either building not taken any loan in future capturing customer portion and our client intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person's having any objection regarding ownership and or creating mortgage of the said property (are hereby request) to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 03 days at below address. NCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocates, A-98, Sector-9, New Vihar, Ghazabad, (U.P.) - 201009. Mo. : 9999271152/9999262427

## SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING WORKS

Tender Notice No. NGCD-WF-LUB-09-24-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: E-Tender No. NGCD-WF-LUB-09-24-25. Name of work: Supply, installation and commissioning of wheel flange lubrication system in HHP locos of DLS New Guwahati as per RDSO specification No. MPD.3900.06 [Rev.00], February 2011. Tender Value: ₹ 21,75,18,844/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 25,58,000/-; Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15:00 hrs. of 08-11-2024 & opening at 15:30 hrs. of 08-11-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Sr. DME/D New Guwahati

## PURCHASE AND STORE SECTION

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA New Delhi - 110025

## AUCTION NOTICE

The Auction of unserviceable / broken items of Iron, Plastic and Wooden like, desert coolers, steel chairs etc. & other scraps will be held on 25.10.2024 at 4:00 PM at "AS IS WHERE IS" basis at the above site. For more details, log on to Jamia Website: <http://jmi.nic.in> Assistant Registrar (Purchase & Store Section)

## SUPPLY & INSTALLATION, MODIFICATION WORKS

Tender Notice No. : M-TSK-2024-16. Dated: 17-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Name of Work : Supply and Installation of WSP revised wiring with modified junction boxes along with connectors as per RDSO drg. no.CG-19005 and drg. no. 18246 in coaches of Tinsukia Division. Tender Value: ₹ 37,25,184/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 3,36,300/-; Last date & time for submission of tender at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 07-11-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Sr. DME, Tinsukia, NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to all concerned that LATE SHARDA PRASAD DUBEY S/O LATE RAMLAKHAN DUBEY R/O VILLAGE PURA DUBEY POST AHIRWALA DIST. AZAMGARH (U.P.) was the owner of (50% shareholder) Residential Plot No D-57, Sector-30, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. LATE SHARDA PRASAD DUBEY has expired on 22.04.2021 he had executed a registered WILL of the above noted plot (50% shareholder) in favour of UTKARSH DWIVEDI S/O SHRI ANIL KUMAR DUBEY R/O D-57, SECTOR-30, NOIDA & HARSH DWIVEDI S/O SHRI ANIL KUMAR DUBEY R/O D-57, SECTOR-30, NOIDA vide WILL dated 26.05.2015 duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar II Lucknow Vide Book No 3 Volume No 380 on pages 245 To 252 Registration Number 260 dated 26.05.2015. Now the ownership of the above plot, as stated above, is going to be transferred through the above WILL in favour of UTKARSH DWIVEDI & HARSH DWIVEDI. If anyone has/has any objection HE/SHE may file his/her objection along with the sufficient credible proof in the Residential Plot Department of Noida Authority Sector-6 Noida within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. (UTKARSH DWIVEDI) (HARSH DWIVEDI)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In respect to Property bearing No.7 Sector-6-P, Huda Near Gas Agency Hansi Haryana NOTICE is hereby given to all the concerned that our client, Punjab National Bank Having its office at Mid Corporate Center 9/90 F Block Canalbank Place New Delhi 110001 (hereinafter called the "said Bank"), have received application for mortgage facilities from Mr. Gurmeet Singh, Mr. Vinod Singh, Mr. Satbir Singh (hereinafter called the "said Applicants") against the security of the property no. 7, sector-6-P, Huda Near Gas Agency Hansi Haryana (hereinafter called the "said premises"), owned by said applicants. The said Applicants have presented to our clients that the previous owner of the said premises has lost and/or misplaced original deed Chain (conveyance deed) having document no. 4568 executed by Huda in favour of Smt. Santosh Agarwal on 19.02.2010 & sale deed having document no. 4569 executed by Smt. Santosh Agarwal in favour of Sh. Kapoor Singh S/O Sh. Bhim Singh on 19.02.2010) pertaining to the said premises and therefore the Applicants are not in a position to submit the same to the said Bank. The said Applicants have further represented to our clients that the said premises is free from all encumbrances and said applicants having free, clear and marketable title over the said premises. Any person having any claim or interest to or any interest in the said premises and/or in the original title deeds/documents in respect of the said premises by way of sale, mortgage, assignment, charge, trust, lien, possession, gift, inheritance, maintenance, tenancy, lease, easement or otherwise whatsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing to the said bank within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, otherwise our clients shall presume that the said premises is free from all encumbrances and the claim, if any, received thereafter will be considered as waived. New Delhi dated 19th day of Oct., 2024. Udham Singh Yadav & Associates Advocates Enrl.No. D/4294/2014

## PROVISION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK

Tender Notice No. RT4-EL-RNY-TRD-01-24-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: At Rangia Division: Provision of OHE modification work for proposed RUB/LHS at RM/42, RM/176, RM/177 & RM/251 Tender Value: ₹ 1,82,95,772.20/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 24,1,500/-; Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15:00 hrs. of 07-11-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Sr. DEE, Rangiya, NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Ms. Faranum Hussain had acquired Built-up Property bearing Plot No. 88, area 31.5 sq. yards, Kharsa No. 1010, situated at village Razzapur Khurd, Delhi State Delhi and the Colony known as Mohan Garden, in Block R-III, A-2 Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi vide G.P.A. dt. 15.03.2021 along with AT&S Will executed by Mr. Yadhu Nandan Pandey, Now Mr. Yadhu Nandan Pandey is the undisputed owner of the said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance whatsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her claim or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) A No. 26/101, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi-110024

## Tender Notice (ISR/TDEM/2024/001 & ISR/SCRM/2024/001)

INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH Knowledge Corridor, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India 382426 [www.isr.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.isr.gujarat.gov.in) Phone: 079-66739009

Online global tenders are invited from reputed OEM/Indian suppliers for the supply of

- 1) Time Domain Electromagnetic (TDEM) with accessories.
- 2) Single Channel Resistivity Meters with accessories.

Bidders may quote for any one or more tender. The e-tender may be downloaded from <https://tender.nprocre.com> or [www.isr.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.isr.gujarat.gov.in). The last date for submitting the tender form with offer is 13-11-2024. Tender will be opened on the 14-11-2024 at an n-procure.

Sd/-  
INF/1340/2024-25 Director General

## E-AUCTION CATALOGUE FOR SLR'S & VP LEASING OVER RANGIYA DIVISION

E-auction is invited for SLR'S & VP Leasing over Rangiya Division. Auction Catalogue No.: SLR-Leasing-047. Category: Parcel - SLR (Single Compartment); Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee. Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): At 11:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024.

SL No.	Lot No.	Days	Description
AA/1	15967-SLR-F1-RNY-LEDO-22-2	312	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/2	05861-SLR-F1-RNY-DKGN-22-3	730	RNY-DKGN Pass Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/3	05862-SLR-F1-DKGN-RNY-22-2	730	DKGN-RNY Pass Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/4	05894-SLR-F2-RPAN-RNY-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/5	15818-SLR-F1-NHNL-SKHV-22-1	730	Donyi Polo Exp (NHNL-SKHV) Parcel Space in FLWLRRM-1 Coach
AA/6	15818-SLR-F1-DKGN-GHY-22-3	730	DKGN-GHY Intercity Exp Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/7	22411-SLR-F1-NHNL-ANVT-22-2	209	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/8	15927-SLR-F2-RNY-NTSK-22-2	418	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/9	15816-SLR-F2-DKGN-GHY-22-3	730	DKGN-GHY Intercity Exp Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/10	05862-SLR-F2-DKGN-RNY-22-2	730	DKGN-RNY Pass Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/11	15895-SLR-F2-RNY-MZS-22-3	730	RNY-MZS Exp Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/12	15813-SLR-F1-DKGN-MZS-22-3	730	DKGN-MZS Exp parcel space in Rear-1 SLR coach
AA/13	05801-SLR-F1-NBQ-GHY-23-1	730	Manas Rhino Passenger Special Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/14	05894-SLR-F1-RPAN-RNY-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/15	05893-SLR-F1-RNY-RPAN-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/16	15895-SLR-R1-RNY-MZS-22-3	730	RNY-MZS Exp Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/17	15813-SLR-F2-DKGN-MZS-22-2	730	DKGN-MZS Exp parcel space in Front-2 SLR coach
AA/18	05861-SLR-F2-RNY-DKGN-22-3	730	RNY-DKGN Pass Parcel Space in Front-2 SLR Coach
AA/19	05801-SLR-R1-NBQ-GHY-23-1	730	Manas Rhino Exp. Parcel -SLR
AA/20	05893-SLR-F2-RNY-RPAN-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/21	05862-SLR-F1-DKGN-RNY-22-2	730	DKGN-RNY Pass Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/22	05801-SLR-F2-NBQ-GHY-23-1	730	Manas Rhino Exp. Parcel -SLR
AA/23	05894-SLR-R1-RPAN-RNY-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/24	05893-SLR-F1-RNY-RPAN-23-1	730	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/25	15611-SLR-F2-RNY-SCL-24-1	626	Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/26	15895-SLR-F1-RNY-MZS-22-3	730	RNY-MZS Exp Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/27	15813-SLR-F1-DKGN-MZS-22-3	730	DKGN-MZS Exp parcel space in Front-1 SLR coach
AA/28	15908-SLR-F1-NHNL-TSK-22-2	521	NHNL-TSK IC Exp. FLWLRRM-1 Parcel Space in SLR Coach
AA/29	15816-SLR-R1-DKGN-GHY-22-3	730	DKGN-GHY Intercity Exp Parcel Space in Rear-1 SLR Coach
AA/30	05861-SLR-F1-RNY-DKGN-22-2	730	RNY-DKGN Pass Parcel Space in Front-1 SLR Coach
AA/31	15967-SLR-F2-RNY-LEDO-22-2	312	Parcel Space in SLR Coach

Lot end date & time: At 16:30 hrs. on 30-10-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Note: Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for more details.

## Auction Catalogue No.: VP-Leasing-10

SL No.	Lot No.	Days	Description
AA/1	15611-15612-VP-1-RNY-SCL-24-1 (Parcel-VP)	626	Parcel Space in Parcel Van (Rate Unit:Per Round Trip (Two Way))

# CNG price may go up on input supply cut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has slashed by up to 20 per cent the supplies of cheaper domestically produced natural gas to city retailers -- a move that may result in Rs 4-6 per kg hike in the price of CNG sold to automobiles, unless excise duty on the fuel is cut, sources said.

Natural gas pumped from below the ground and from under the seabed from sites ranging from the Arabian Sea to Bay of Bengal within India is the raw material that is turned into CNG for sale to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households. Production from legacy fields, whose price is regulated by the government and which are used to feed city gas retailers, has been falling by up to 5 per cent annually due to natural decline that has set in. This has led to supply cuts to city gas retailers, four sources in know of the matter said.

While the input gas for piped cooking gas that households get is protected, the government has cut supply of raw material for CNG. Gas from legacy fields used to meet 90 per cent of the demand for CNG in May 2023 and has progressively fallen. The supply was cut to just 50.75 per cent of the CNG demand beginning October 16 from 67.74 per cent last month, they said.

City gas retailers are forced to buy imported and costlier liquefied natural gas (LNG) to make up for the shortfall, which will lead to a hike in CNG prices that varies from Rs 4-6/kg.

The gas from legacy fields is priced at USD 6.50 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) as against imported LNG that costs USD 11-12



per mmBtu. For now, the retailers have not raised CNG rates as they are engaged with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to find a solution, sources said.

One of the options is for the government to cut excise duty on CNG. Currently, the central government levies a 14 per cent excise duty on CNG, which translates into Rs 14-15 per kg. If this is cut, the retailers will not have to pass on the increased cost to consumers, they said.

CNG price hike is also a political issue since Maharashtra goes to the polls next month and elections are also due in Delhi soon. Delhi and Mumbai are among the biggest CNG markets in the country.

Sources said the gas supplies to city gas retailers had to be cut after the government decided to restore fuel to ONGC-promoted OpaL, petrochemical plant in Dahej, Gujarat.

The plant was originally allocated 4.12 million

standard cubic meters per day of domestically produced natural gas. However, the allocation for various reasons was cut to 1.95 mmscmd during Covid was halved.

Lack of promised domestic gas was the main reason for OpaL running into losses, sources said, adding that the government has now approved a package to revive the unit. This package includes promoter Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) infusing additional Rs 10,501 crore as equity and the unit being made available domestically produced natural gas.

The Union Cabinet approved the allocation of 3.44 mmscmd of domestic gas -- mostly coming from new wells of ONGC. This led to lesser gas being available for city gas retailers.

Girish Kadam, Senior Vice President & Group Head - Corporate Ratings, Icrta Ltd, said, "The APM gas allocation has been reduced for the CGD sector by 20 per cent of

the current domestic gas consumption by the sector. The reduction in APM allocation will have to be replaced by more expensive HPHT gas or (imported) LNG, which will push the overall gas costs for the sector."

To maintain contribution margins at existing levels, CNG prices will have to be increased about Rs 5-5.5 per kg. Indraprastha Gas Ltd, which retails CNG in the national capital, and Mumbai-based Mahanagar Gas Ltd in regulatory filings stated that supplies of domestically produced gas, which was available at a capped rate half of the imported price, has been cut.

"The company gets domestic gas allocation for meeting the requirement of CNG sales volumes at the pricing fixed by the government (presently at USD 6.5 per million British thermal unit). Based on communication received by the company from GAIL

(India) Ltd (the nodal agency for domestic gas allocation), this is to inform that there has been a major reduction in domestic gas allocation to the company effective from October 16, 2024," IGL said in a filing.

The revised domestic gas allocation to IGL is about 21 per cent less than previous allocation, "which will have an adverse impact on profitability of the company", it said, adding that it is in discussions with key stakeholders to minimise the impact. Separately, MGL said as per Policy Guideline dated August 10, 2022, issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, domestically produced Administrative Price Mechanisms (APM) natural gas is to be allocated to city gas distribution (CGD) companies for priority segments, specifically domestic piped natural gas and CNG (transport).

The policy states that the supply of domestic gas to CGD entities will be made only up to the quantity available and allocated to GAIL (India) limited for these segments.

"...The company is exploring options of sourcing gas through domestically produced high pressure high temperature (HPHT) gas, new well/well intervention gas (NWG) from ONGC and benchmark-linked long-term gas contracts, so as to continue to provide gas to its customers with price stability," MGL added.

Adani Total Gas Ltd -- the other significant city gas retailer -- in its filing said the APM priced domestic gas allocation to the company has been reduced by about 16 per cent, effective October 16, 2024, compared to the earlier allocation.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's biotechnology sector is witnessing remarkable growth, with the country's bioeconomy now valued at USD 150 billion but there is still significant untapped potential in innovation and product development, which could further elevate India's global standing in the sector, Dr Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director of the government's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), said.

BIRAC is a not-for-profit public sector enterprise set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the government that supports and promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and research in the sector. In an interview with PTI, Kumar highlighted India's significant contributions to global healthcare, with 40 per cent of the world's generic medicines being supplied by Indian companies.

"We have enormous potential and capability, but when it comes to the value of our bioeconomy, we are ranked 14th globally. This is because much of the value stems from patented, innovative products -- an area where India still needs to improve," Kumar said.

"So that emphasis effort from the government and BIRAC side is to actually promote that which is why we will now be promoting innovations... That is why the biotech industry is concentrating on promoting new innovations and promoting and nurturing them," he said.

To address this gap, BIRAC is emphasising innovation and nurturing startups through various programmes designed to convert academic



research into marketable products.

"Our goal is to promote academic conversion into enterprise. Through initiatives like the Promoting Academic Conversion to Enterprise (PACE), we're helping scientists move their research out of labs and into the market," he said. Since its formation in 2012, BIRAC has played a critical role in creating a biotech innovation ecosystem, he said.

Kumar shared that the number of biotech startups in India has grown exponentially from about 300 to over 8,000, with significant government support driving this expansion. Additionally, the bioeconomy has surged from USD 35 billion to USD 150 billion in just a decade. A key achievement of BIRAC, Kumar said, has been the creation of bio-incubation centres across India, providing crucial infrastructure for startups to develop proof-of-concept products.

"Startups often face challenges in finding laboratory space. Our bio-incubation centres offer 'plug and play' laboratories, which have made it easier for startups to carry out their research and development," he added.

However, despite these advancements, India still lags in research and development (R&D) spending, investing

just 0.8 per cent of its GDP in R&D compared to developed nations like the US and China, which spend over 2 per cent.

Kumar stressed that increasing private-sector investment in R&D is essential for India to realise its potential as a global biotech leader. "We are working on programmes that encourage industries to invest in R&D alongside government funding. For instance, our Biotech Industry Partnership Program requires co-funding from industry players," he said.

Kumar also acknowledged regulatory challenges faced by biotech startups but emphasised that BIRAC is working to alleviate these issues through regulatory advocacy and policy initiatives. "Many startups face difficulties due to a lack of understanding of regulatory processes. We have created a Regulatory and Policy Advocacy Cell to guide startups and engage with regulatory bodies to ease these challenges," he noted.

Kumar said he is optimistic about India's biotech future. The government's commitment to increasing R&D investment through initiatives like the National Research Foundation and its efforts to align regulatory frameworks with global standards will be key drivers of future growth.

## Mansukh Mandaviya to launch eShram-One Stop Solution

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya will launch 'eShram-One Stop Solution' for unorganised workers on Monday, the labour ministry said in a statement.

Eshram-One Stop Solution will act as a mediator to ensure that unorganised workers have easy access to a variety of government schemes/programmes, it stated.

This initiative will help unorganised workers become aware of the schemes designed for them, it said. According to the statement, in keeping with the vision of the recent Budget Announcement on developing eShram as a one-stop-solution for unorganised labour sector to have access to various social sector schemes, Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports will launch the 'eShram-One Stop Solution' on October 21.

Eshram-One Stop Solution

aims to integrate information of beneficiaries of all social security and welfare schemes meant for unorganised workers in an effective manner through a single platform.

Eshram as a one-stop-solution will help facilitate identification and implementation of the social security & welfare schemes for the unorganised worker and to help saturation of the schemes in the fast and effective manner.

Consequently, 12 schemes of different central ministries/departments have already been integrated/ mapped with the eShram.

Since the launch of the e-Shram on August 26, 2021, over 30 crore unorganised workers have been enrolled and it has demonstrated widespread appeal among the unorganised labour. This achievement underscores the social impact of the initiative and the government's commitment to support the nation's unorganised workers, it said.

## India's solar imports may hit \$30 Billion by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 may push solar equipment import bill to about USD 30 billion per year and increase dependence on Chinese goods, think tank GTRI said in a report on Sunday.

It said developing a self-reliant solar manufacturing industry in India will require significant investment to create an integrated supply chain, especially in areas like polysilicon and wafer production.

Without this, India may continue to face high import costs and struggle to meet its renewable energy goals.

India installed 15 GW of solar capacity in 2023-24, raising the total to 90.8 GW by September, compared to just 2.8 GW in 2014, it said.

To meet the government's target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, India needs to significantly ramp up installations to 65-70 GW each year, with over 80 per cent of this target expected to come from solar power, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).

"This target seems ambitious,

particularly given India's reliance on imports, which could push solar import to USD 30 billion annually," it said.

In 2023-24, India imported USD 7 billion worth of solar equipment, with China supplying 62.6 per cent.

China controls 97 per cent of global polysilicon production and 80 per cent of solar module manufacturing, making it difficult for India or any country to compete due to lower prices from China.

GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said while initiatives like the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost local manufacturing, impact is limited as it relies on large scale use of imported inputs.

The report said India's solar manufacturing industry is in early stages, with most projects relying on imported ready-to-use modules.

During the last fiscal year, ready-to-use solar modules' imports reached USD 4.4 billion. The country also imported solar cells worth USD 1.9 billion and USD 1 billion worth of other essential parts such as inverters, and cables, junction boxes, transformers, and other electrical components needed for solar installations.



"Local production is import-dependent and mainly focuses on the final two stages. 90 per cent of solar manufacturing in India involves assembling solar modules from imported cells with 15 per cent local value addition," it said.

It added that few Indian companies manufacture commercial scale solar cells from imported polysilicon or wafers that add 30-40 per cent value locally and no one produces solar cells from scratch-using silica sands. "To cut down on imports, India needs to produce solar cells starting from silica refining, which involves costly and energy-intensive polysilicon production and requires advanced technology," Srivastava said.

He added that cheap imports disrupt local pricing and the country has to also locally produce aluminum frames, glass, and other materials, which will require strong R&D efforts and government support.

According to the report, China is India's largest supplier, providing USD 3.89 billion worth of solar cells and modules, which accounts for 62.6 per cent of total imports. It is followed by Vietnam (USD 1.02 billion -- 16.5 per cent), Malaysia (USD 549.8 million -- 8.9 per cent, and Thailand (USD 248.8 million -- 4 per cent).

To reduce dependency on Chinese imports, India imposed a 40 per cent customs duty on solar modules and a 25 per cent

duty on solar cells. However, imports from Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand are exempt from these tariffs under the India-ASEAN free trade agreement (FTA), provided they add at least 35 per cent value to the imported inputs used in their export products.

The think tank has suggested seven steps to boost domestic manufacturing and cut imports and that includes pushing investments in upstream solar production, from raw materials like silica sand to finished solar panels, reducing dependency on imported wafers, polysilicon, and cells.

There is also an urgent need to focus on building local production capacity for aluminum frames, glass, and other critical materials used in solar panel manufacturing. It asked to expand the scope of initiatives like the PLI scheme to cover early-stage solar manufacturing and provide targeted subsidies to attract private investment; and create a skilled workforce capable of managing large-scale solar installations and manufacturing processes.

"India should partner with the US, the EU, and Japan to establish large-scale solar manufacturing facilities,

fostering an independent and resilient solar industry," Srivastava said, adding that the country's current import duties on solar modules and cells should be reassessed to ensure they promote local manufacturing without raising costs for consumers. Further he said the global shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, led by the US, EU, Japan, and India, hinges heavily on solar power, which makes up 50-80 per cent of the renewable energy mix in most countries.

China now dominates over 80 per cent of global solar production and exports, controlling 97 per cent of the world's polysilicon supply. In 2023, China exported 227 GW of solar modules worth USD 39.5 billion and 38 GW of solar cells worth USD 4.2 billion, it said.

Producing solar panels involves six stages, from mining silica sand to assembling the final panel. Most countries import fully assembled solar modules, preferring this route over building domestic capacity. Due to this dependence, it said the US, the EU, India, and Japan can consider establishing global-scale solar cell manufacturing facilities, starting from scratch.

## Automobile exports from India rise 14 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile exports from India in the first six months of the current fiscal year rose 14 per cent year-on-year, led by gains in shipments of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers.

According to Siam data, the overall exports in the April-September period stood at 25,28,248 units, up 14 per cent as compared with 22,11,457 units in the year-ago period.

"Key markets like Latin America and Africa, which had slowed down for various reasons, have bounced back. This has been the main reason for exports coming back," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Shailesh Chandra said. He was replying to a query on the reasons for the bouncing back of vehicle exports in the April-September period. Various African nations and



other regions faced challenges due to devaluation of currencies. This impacted the vehicle shipments as the nations focused on import of essential items. Automobile exports declined 5.5 per cent in FY24 due to the monetary crisis in various overseas markets.

Overall exports stood at 45,00,492 units in the last fiscal year as compared with

47,61,299 units in FY23.

Total passenger vehicle shipments rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 3,76,679 units in the first half of the current fiscal year as against 3,36,754 units in the September quarter of FY24. The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki led the vertical with shipments of 1,47,063 units, an increase of 12 per cent over 1,31,546

units in the year-ago period. Hyundai Motor India exported 84,900 units, a drop of 1 per cent, as against 86,105 units in April-September period of the previous fiscal year.

Two-wheeler exports rose 16 per cent year-on-year to 19,59,145 units in the April-September period this fiscal year as compared with 16,85,907 units in the year-ago period.

While HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, and the State Bank of India were the gainers, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) suffered a combined erosion of Rs 76,622.05 crore from their market valuation.

ICICI Bank added Rs 28,495.14 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 8,90,191.38 crore. The valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 23,579.11 crore to Rs 12,82,848.30 crore. State Bank of India's market

## Mcap of most valued firms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Four of the top-10 most-valued firms together added Rs 81,151.31 crore in market valuation last week, with ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank emerging as the biggest gainers. Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 156.61 points, or 0.19 per cent.

While HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, and the State Bank of India were the gainers, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) suffered a combined erosion of Rs 76,622.05 crore from their market valuation.

ICICI Bank added Rs 28,495.14 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 8,90,191.38 crore. The valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 23,579.11 crore to Rs 12,82,848.30 crore. State Bank of India's market

valuation climbed Rs 17,804.61 crore to Rs 7,31,773.56 crore and that of Bharti Airtel went up Rs 11,272.45 crore to Rs 9,71,707.61 crore. On the other hand, the market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys slumped Rs 23,314.31 crore to Rs 7,80,126.10 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries declined Rs 16,645.39 crore to Rs 18,38,721.14 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever tumbled Rs 15,248.85 crore to Rs 6,38,066.75 crore and that of TCS diminished by Rs 10,402.01 crore to Rs 14,91,321.40 crore. LIC's valuation went lower by Rs 8,760.12 crore to Rs 5,91,418.91 crore. The mcap of ITC dipped Rs 2,251.37 crore to Rs 6,08,682.29 crore.

Reliance Industries continued to remain the most-valued domestic firm.

## IN BRIEF

**KHALSA COLLEGE & SHAHZADA NAND COLLEGE WON CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES**

**AMRITSAR:** 'A' Zone Zonal Youth Festival of Amritsar district colleges affiliated to the Guru Nanak Dev University concluded in Dasmesh Auditorium of the University. In 'A' Division Khalsa College, Amritsar bagged the first position, Guru Nanak Dev University secured the second position.



**BHAIRABI - SAIRANG RAILWAY PROJECT PROGRESSING TOWARDS COMPLETION**

**MALIGAON:** Indian Railways is significantly contributing towards transforming North-eastern states by executing several new railway line projects. The Bhairabi-Sairang New Line Railway Project to connect the capital of the North-eastern state of Mizoram to the rest of the country is one such project which is at an advance stage of completion.

**FINANZA 2024 CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD INVESTOR WEEK**

**AMRITSAR:** The Dinero Finance Club of University Business School of Guru Nanak Dev University organised FINANZA 2024, an inter-department Finance Fest in association with Career Launcher and Black Swan Stock Market Academy.





# THE REVELATIONS OF THE LIVING PLANET REPORT 2024

With population as a threat in Asia including India and the Pacific, recorded 60% average decline in wildlife writes ABHI SINGHAL

World Wide Fund's 15th biennial edition of the 'The Living Planet Report 2024' (LPR) reveals that there has been a catastrophic 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish) populations over just 50 years (1970-2020). The Living Planet Report (LPR) is a study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet. There has been a strong decline seen, with the highest in the freshwater populations (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and marine (56%) populations. Declines in wildlife populations can act as an early warning indicator of increasing extinction risk and the potential loss of healthy ecosystems. When ecosystems are damaged, they can become more vulnerable to tipping points - being pushed beyond a critical threshold resulting in substantial and potentially irreversible change. There have been



...India is home to the largest population of wild tigers globally and the All-India Tiger Estimation 2022 recorded a minimum of 3,682 tigers, a significant increase from the 2,967 estimated in 2018

India i.e. the white-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Indian vulture (*Gyps indicus*), and slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*) between 1992 and 2002. The research tells that despite a decline in many wildlife populations in India, some populations have stabilised and shown recovery, largely due to proactive government initiatives, effective habitat management, and robust scientific monitoring, combined with community engagement and public support. It found that India is home to the largest population of wild tigers globally and the All-India Tiger Estimation 2022 recorded a minimum of 3,682 tigers, a significant increase from the 2,967 estimated in 2018. On being asked if with such circumstances, we still have a chance of conserving the endangered wildlife species, the LPR panel said that it depends a lot on the species and the status of the species. They have seen it with some species like with the rhinos, tigers and if the action comes on the right time, at the right scale, and if the species itself is a species which can biologically recover, then we will see that change. The efforts need to be increased, and also some bit of scientific monitoring of this population. Long term monitoring is required, because currently, most of the monitoring that is happening there, they're voluntary or NGO actions.



six global potential tipping points, such as the dieback of the Amazon rainforest and the mass die-off of coral reefs, could create shockwaves far beyond the immediate area impacting food security and livelihoods. Commenting on the effect of adverse climate, Kirsten Schuijt, Director General of WWF International said, "The linked crisis of nature loss and climate change are pushing wildlife and ecosystems beyond their limits, with dangerous global tipping points threatening to damage Earth's life-support systems and destabilize societies. The catastrophic consequences of losing some of our most precious ecosystems, like the Amazon rainforest and coral reefs, would be felt by people and nature around the world." The report also shows the alarming decline of the three vulture species in



## DIABETIC RETINOPATHY: A SERIOUSLY OVERLOOKED DISEASE

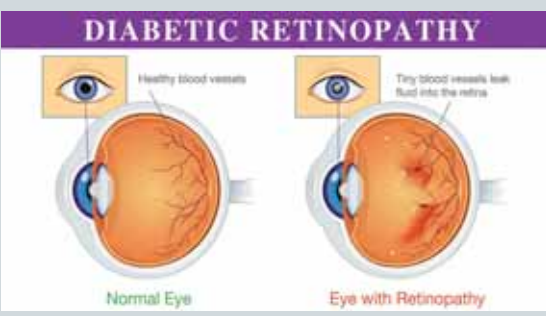
Early screening can prevent vision loss in diabetic patients, says ABHI SINGHAL

There are over 101 million people affected with diabetes in India and the number is expected to grow to 225 million by 2030. Studies also predict that one in five adults will be diagnosed with diabetes in their working age in coming years. This has resulted in the simultaneous and sharp rise in the prevalence of diabetes-related preventable vision loss. Diabetes-related elevated blood sugar is the cause of diabetic retinopathy. Over time, high blood sugar levels can harm your retina, which is the portion of your eye that senses light and uses the optic nerve (located in the back of the eye) to transmit signals to your brain. All over the body, blood vessels are harmed by diabetes. One might notice changes in their vision, like trouble reading or seeing faraway objects as a symptom. In the later stage blood vessels in the retina begin to leak into the vitreous, the gel-like fluid that fills your eye, as the disease progresses.



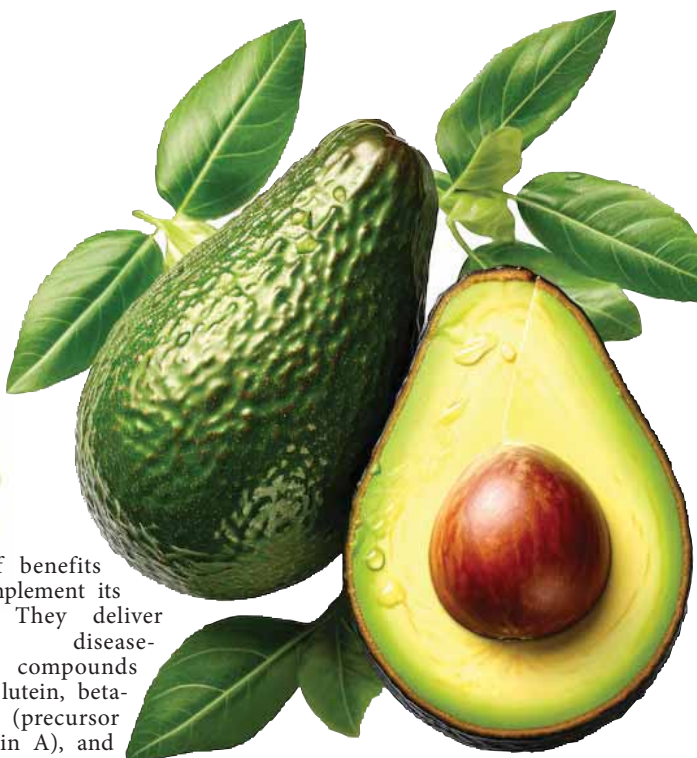
initial eye examination recommended 5 years following diagnosis of type 1 diabetes mellitus. Type 2 diabetes mellitus should be recommended for initial eye examination at the time of diagnosis of type 2 diabetes mellitus. The patients with pregnancy with diabetes mellitus the eye examination prior to conception and early during 1st trimester is recommended and follow-up should be individualised based on severity and recent changes in retinopathy. "It is important to realise that earlier, diabetes was considered a disease of the elite, but it is no longer like that. It is equally affecting all stratas of the society. We are having an equal prevalence of diabetes, both in rural and urban settings of our country," said Dr. Manisha Agarwal, General Secretary, Vitreoretinal Society of India. A diabetologist plays an important role in timely screening for diabetic retinopathy and referring to an ophthalmologist for its management. With the increasing prevalence of diabetes and the associated risk of diabetic retinopathy, early screening and timely interventions for the same are crucial. It's essential for individuals with diabetes to schedule regular eye exams and for healthcare providers to follow the VRSI and RSSDI guidelines. Together, we can prevent vision loss and improve the quality of life for millions of people in India.

To combat this issue the Vitreoretinal Society of India (VRSI) and Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI) have collaborated to formulate first-of-its-kind Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Guidelines. These guidelines from VRSI and RSSDI will help every physician and diabetologists in India to educate their patients regarding diabetic retinopathy. The Diabetic retinopathy screening guidelines for physicians in India: position statement by the Vitreoretinal Society of India (VRSI) and the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI). The Type 1 diabetes mellitus should be given



## WHY AVOCADOS

# Everything you need to know!



BY KAVITA DEVGAN

With the search for healthy foods picking up pace, it is no surprise that we are looking ever more intently at what we are eating. That search has taken us far and wide - and one of the emerging options is something that is quite flavourful as well! Some Indians are familiar with the trendy avocado toast and its nutty deliciousness, but the benefits of the avocado go well beyond.

There is no doubt about the fact that avocados are delicious. But how much do we know about this fruit? Avocado (*Persea americana*) a native of South America, also known as alligator pear or avocado pear, is actually a large berry with a rather oily exterior containing a single large stone. Domesticated and harvested locally in Latin America for thousands of years, it comes in a number of variants that range in size, colour, and texture. The trees are native to the tropics, and are today cultivated across continents. What has led to the popularity of the fruit is its soft buttery texture combined with their unusual alluring taste. However, it also packs

AVOCADOS ARE ALSO A SOURCE OF 'GOOD FATS', AND ITS REGULAR CONSUMPTION IS LINKED TO LOWER LEVELS OF BAD (LDL) CHOLESTEROL. IT ALSO CONTAINS A LOT OF FIBRE, WHICH IS GOOD FOR DIGESTIVE HEALTH. AVOCADOS ALSO CONTAIN MINERALS SUCH CALCIUM, MAGNESIUM, AND SODIUM, ALL ESSENTIAL FOR THE HUMAN BODY'S HEALTH

a lot of benefits that complement its flavour. They deliver multiple disease-fighting compounds such as lutein, beta-carotene (precursor to vitamin A), and vitamin E. Results have shown that 1 serving of avocado has 114 calories, and is a rich source of several B vitamins (such as pantothenic acid) and vitamin K, with moderate contents of vitamin C, vitamin E, and potassium. Avocados are also a source of 'good fats', and its regular consumption is linked to lower levels of bad (LDL) cholesterol. It also contains a lot of fibre, which is good for digestive health. Avocados also contain minerals such calcium, magnesium, and sodium, all essential for the human body's health. It is also packed with antioxidants. The human heart needs special attention, and avocados are fortunately a fabulous heart-friendly fruit. They are loaded with health-promoting MUFA

(Monounsaturated fatty acids) that are great for our heart, and potassium, a mineral that helps regulate blood pressure, and even the elusive folate, which again is a wonderful heart health nutrient. Nutrient-rich avocado oil has a multitude of uses for salads or cooking and is also being used increasingly in cosmetics and soap products. The most common way to have it however remains as a nutritious addition to a meal. So next time instead of just eyeing this perfect blend of taste and health on other people's Instagram feeds, or at the supermarket, get them home and cook with them. Go on and make the most of avocado's health.

The author is a leading dietitian and holistic health consultant.



Natasha Moor in collaboration with Nykaa at her masterclass in New Delhi.

# New Zealand win by Eight wickets for first Test win in India in 36 years

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**

New Zealand survived a hostile Jasprit Bumrah spell to foil India's attempt to add a final-day twist to an absorbing series-opener, slaying the cricketing giants at home by eight wickets and ending a 36-year long wait to taste Test success in the country, here Sunday.

This is Kiwis' first Test win on the Indian soil after the John Wright-led outfit towelled India by 136 runs at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, way back in 1988.

Even hunting a modest 107 on the fifth day against a world-class attack could be nerve, and New Zealand did that after some initial scares.

Will Young (48 not out) and Rachin Ravindra (39 not out) fuelled their chase with a 75-run stand for the third wicket, handholding their side a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. However, the Indians will not be an entirely despondent lot despite the defeat as they showed admirable spunk to



claw back from the depths of getting bowled out for 46 in the first innings.

They will need to build on it and pretty quickly too as the second Test at Pune starts on October 24.

The Rohit Sharma-marshalled side will also have to think deeply about retaining Sarfaraz Khan, who made a 150 in the second dig, as Shubman Gill is poised to return after recovering from a stiff neck.

The other point they will moot long is whether to go back to the three-pacer strategy or continue three spinners, a move which backfired here spectacularly, in Pune.

New Zealand victory did not come without its share of drama once the day's play started at 10.15am, a wet outfield pushing back the proceedings by an hour.

Bumrah (2/29), operating from the dressing room end, found appreciable movement and Tom Latham fell in the first over of the day itself for his overnight naught. Latham was behind the ball to cover the in-dipper but it swung back further to thud on to his pads as umpire Michael Gough raised his finger after vociferous appeal from the bowler and the crowd.

The New Zealand captain reviewed the decision more in hope than in conviction and the DRS confirmed his worst fears as well, and he had to walk back.

India might just have felt the absence of a third pacer as both Bumrah and Siraj found movement and carry to trouble the Kiwi batters under a largely overcast skies. Kuldeep Yadav, who gave away 26 runs in three overs, had replaced Akash Deep in the eleven for this Test after India went with a three-pronged pace attack against Bangladesh recently. Devon Conway, the other

overnight batter, was shaky throughout his stay and would consider himself fortunate to have found a last-minute edge on a Bumrah skidder that otherwise would have trapped him plumb in front.

But as luck would have it, the ball beat the gully fielder and raced to the fence.

However, the left-hander eventually reached the road's end when Bumrah, operating from around the stumps, caught him right in front of the wicket with another one that skidded and swung back into him.

The on-field umpire did not relent but the DRS upheld India's appeal to send Conway (17) back.

New Zealand were 35 for two at that point, and one would say the match in balance as a couple of more strikes could have left the cat among the pigeons.

But Young and Ravindra, the first-innings centurion, found some solidity to resist the Indian charge.

Once the sun came out for a while, the ball-movement was much more predictable and the Kiwi batters used favourable conditions to rack in a few boundaries to ease the pressure.

Ravindra Jadeja, who started with a no-ball, too did not make much of an impression, conceding 14 runs in his first two overs.

There was not much on the Chinna-swamy pitch for him to exploit either as the 22-yard track did not disintegrate on the final day, courtesy rain and cooler climes here.

With the margin getting reduced alongside each run, the New Zealand batters became more daring and brought out their shots from the shelf, such as a clean hoist over mid-wicket for a six off left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep.

The defining moment came when Will Young turned Jadeja for two to collect the winning runs as Kiwis dressing room turned into a hub of celebration.

## India U17 squad picked for Asian Cup Qualifiers

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

India U17 men's national team head coach Ishaq Ahmed, on Sunday, named a 23-member squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers to be held in Thailand from October 23-27.

India are placed in Group D, where they will meet Brunei Darussalam (October 23), Turkmenistan (October 25) and hosts Thailand (October 27).

There are 10 groups in the qualification phase, from which the group winners and five best second-placed teams will join hosts Saudi Arabia at the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025.

India's 23-member squad for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers:

**Goalkeepers:** Aheibam Suraj Singh, Rohit, Nandan Roy.  
**Defenders:** Karish Soram, Mohamed Kaif, Chingtham Renin Singh, Brahmacharimayum Sumit Sharma, Thougamba Usham Singh, Yaipharemba Chingakhom, Jodric Abranches.

**Midfielders:** Abdul Salha Sheergo, Ahongshangbam Samson, Kh Azlaan Shah, Levis Zangminlun, Mahmud Sami, Manbhakapur Malngiang, Md Arbash, Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh, Vishal Yadav, Ngamgouhou Mate.

**Forwards:** Bharat Lairenjam, Prem Hansdak, Hemeichung Lunkim.

**Head coach:** Ishaq Ahmed; **Assistant coach:** Ramachandran Govindaraju Mileswamy; **Goalkeeper coach:** Zakeer Hussain Mohammed Strength and conditioning coach: Chelston Pinto.

## That day belonged to Nadeem: Neeraj on Paris Olympics javelin final

**PTI ■ LUCKNOW**

Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra says nothing went wrong in his silver-winning performance in the Paris Olympics final earlier this year and Pakistani Arshad Nadeem emerged champion as the "day belonged to him".

Chopra became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to win two successive Olympic medals by clinching a silver with a throw of 89.45m on August 8, but the day belonged to Nadeem, who destroyed the field with a new Olympic record effort of 92.97m for his country's maiden individual gold at the showpiece.

"Nothing was wrong, everything was right. The throw was also good. Getting a silver (medal) in the Olympics is also not a small thing. There was disappointment. But, I feel that the competition was very good, and it was tough," Chopra told PTI in an interview.

"The gold medal is won by the person to whom the day belongs to. That day was (Arshad) Nadeem's day," Chopra was in Lucknow on Saturday to inaugurate Under Armour's larger, new format brand house store at the Phoenix Palassio Mall. He brushed aside any notion of India-Pakistan rivalry in javelin throw competition replacing the same seen in cricket and hockey.

"In javelin, there are no two teams (playing against each other), but there are 12 athletes from different countries, who are competing with each other. I have been competing with Nadeem since 2016, and it is for the first time that he has won," said the 26-year-old athlete from Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat district. "He (Nadeem) is a nice

person, speaks in a good manner, gives respect, so (I) feel good."

Chopra said it was a sudden moment when he picked up the javelin for the first time in his life when he was boy. "It (taking up javelin throw) was a sudden moment. I did not know anything about it. When I went to the ground, at that time, it was decided," said Chopra, who had picked up the javelin for the first time in 2011.

Asked what is required the most by a javelin thrower --- strength, stamina, mental endurance ---, he said, "It is the combination of all these things, and one thing will not work. And, with all these things combined, the person who will have the best technique will perform good."

Chopra, who had visited Lucknow earlier as well, said, "I had come to Lucknow earlier in 2012 to play, and after Tokyo Olympics, when I was asked to come by the Chief Minister. This is my third visit (to Lucknow). "There is a lot of difference (between the earlier Lucknow and the current Lucknow). At that time, I was quite young, and do not remember things much.

"At that time, I had come by train. Now, a good airport has been built. Good mall has been built. And, it is for the first time that I am able to see the city so much by travelling. I felt very nice," he said.

Chopra also had tea at a famous outlet ('Sharma ke Chaa') in Lucknow's Lalbagh area, and took selfies with people.

Giving a piece of advice to the youth, Chopra said, "To the youth, I would say that they should not assume in the starting itself that they would be bagging medals. They should exercise patience, because sports consume a lot of your time.

"Your body needs time to grow, your muscles become strong in a good manner. Have patience, and work on your techniques."

## Juyal's unbeaten century, Rinku's fiery 89 keep UP in game vs Haryana

**PTI ■ LUCKNOW**

Young skipper Aryan Juyal continued his fine form to slam an unbeaten century, while Rinku Singh smashed a brisk fifty as Uttar Pradesh reached 267/6 in reply to Haryana's 453 in their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Saturday.

Rinku hit 89 off 110 balls with 10 fours and three sixes, scoring 25 off 20 balls against Yuzvendra Chahal, who went wicket-less in 11 overs for 57 runs.

Juyal, who missed a century by eight runs in their last match against Bengal, got to his fourth first class hundred and was unbeaten on 118

from 196 balls (13x4, 1x6) as UP cut their deficit to 186 runs on the third day. On a forgettable day for Chahal, Aman Kumar, Harshal Patel and Jayant Yadav bagged two wickets apiece for Haryana.

Earlier, Chahal added 10 runs to his overnight total before Haryana's innings ended at 453 with Shivam Sharma dismissing the India leg-spinner to return figures of 4/95.

At Mullanpur, opener Jaskaranvir Singh Paul shone with an unbeaten 117 on debut, leading Punjab to a commanding position against Madhya Pradesh. Building on their 70-run first

## Djokovic tops Nadal before Sinner beats Alcaraz for title at the Six Kings Slam exhibition

**AP ■ RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)**

Jannik Sinner beat Carlos Alcaraz 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3 for the championship in the Six Kings Slam exhibition Saturday after Novak Djokovic topped Rafael Nadal 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the third-place match.

While Sinner and Alcaraz probably have plenty of future matchups in store, Djokovic and Nadal may have been playing for the final time in one of tennis' great rivalries.

Djokovic won the match between rivals who have combined for 46 Grand Slam singles titles. Nadal, who won 22 Slam titles, is planning to retire after playing for Spain next month in the Davis Cup. They shared a warm embrace

win. "Until now, every match was very, very good, but we will always hope this rivalry will last as long as possible," Sinner said.

Alcaraz beat the Italian on Oct. 2 to win the China Open in Beijing, along with semifinals victories at the French Open and Indian Wells. The Spaniard has a 6-4 lead in their head-to-head on Tour. "I will try to do my best every day ... To hopefully make this rivalry better and better over the years," Alcaraz said.

Alcaraz defeated Nadal and Sinner topped Djokovic in the previous round of the exhibition event that awards money but not ATP ranking points in Saudi Arabia's latest foray into tennis.

## Arsenal stunned by Bournemouth and Garnacho sparks Man United comeback

**AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)**

Arsenal blew the chance to go top of the English Premier League after a shock 2-0 loss to Bournemouth on Saturday.

In one of the biggest upsets of the burgeoning season, 10-man Arsenal lost for the time. Mikel Arteta's team finished runner-up in the last two years and could have leapfrogged Liverpool and defending champion City in second place with a win at Bournemouth.

But Arsenal's chances were hit after William Saliba was sent off in the first half at Vitality Stadium. Bournemouth took full advantage with Ryan Christie scoring in the 70th minute and Justin Kluivert converting a penalty nine minutes later.

Third-placed Arsenal is a point behind Liverpool and level with City, having played a game more than its rivals, who are both in action on Sunday. Meanwhile, Manchester United picked up only its third league win by beating Brentford 2-1.

Fourth-placed Aston Villa tightened up the top of the

standings by moving to within a point of Liverpool and level with Arsenal after beating Fulham 3-1. Brighton was three points off the pace after winning at Newcastle 1-0. Tottenham scored three times in eight minutes in a 4-1 win over West Ham.

Garnacho stunnerAlejandro Garnacho scored from a brilliant volley as United fought back to beat Brentford. The Argentina international fired home from a tight angle

when connecting with Marcus Rashford's cross just after halftime.

It sparked a comeback that saw Rasmus Hojlund hit the winner and ease the pressure on manager Erik ten Hag. "In this team you see its togetherness and there is a fighting spirit," Ten Hag said. "And today we add some determination to score goals and that is what we needed." United was reeling from its worst season start in the Premier League era heading into Saturday's game and it looked like being another disappointing day for Ten Hag, who was angered when Ethan Pinnock opened the scoring for Brentford in contentious circumstances in first-half added time.

United defender Matthijs de Ligt was ordered off for medical attention on his bleeding head from a collision. It left the home team down a man as Brentford prepared to

take a corner and Pinnock headed over the line in the fifth minute of added time.

United responded quickly after the break thanks to Garnacho's goal in the 47th.

Hojlund flicked past Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken for the winner in the 62nd. "We don't score enough, we are not clinical enough. But today we scored two brilliant goals," Ten Hag said. "It's only one win, but it can help us."

Villa risesVilla was up to fourth after coming back from going a goal down at Craven Cottage when Raul Jimenez fired Fulham in front in the fifth minute.

Morgan Rogers quickly leveled four minutes later and Ollie Watkins made it 2-1 in the 59th. An Issa Diop own goal in the 69th completed the scoring.

S o u t h a m p t o n collapsesLeading 2-0 after 28 minutes at St Mary's Stadium, last-placed Southampton looked on course for its first league win.

Leicester had other ideas. Second-half goals from Facundo Buonanotte, Jamie Vardy from the penalty spot, and Jordan Ayew secured an unlikely comeback that left Southampton rooted to the bottom of the table and moved Leicester six points clear of the relegation zone.

Also, Everton won at Ipswich 2-0 to move five points above the relegation zone.

Brighton flying highBrighton's impressive start under coach Fabian Hurrzeler continued with the win at Newcastle. Hurrzeler, born in Texas, has made his presence felt in England's top flight following his appointment in the offseason.

Hurrzeler is also working wonders with Danny Welbeck, who scored in the 35th at St James' Park, his fifth goal of the season.

Spurs comebackTottenham trailed to Mohammed Kudus' 18th-minute goal at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but powered back with a brilliant second-half performance.

Dejan Kulusevski leveled in the 36th and after the break the home team took control. Yves Bissouma struck in the 52nd and Alphonse Areola scored an own goal three minutes later. Son Heung-min added a fourth on the hour mark.

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**INVITATION OF BIDS**

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**E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.08 of 2024-25**  
No. 6187 (Estt) Bhubaneswar Dated the 14th October 2024

The Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.V, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in Single cover system for Civil works as detailed in the table given below.

Sl. No	Name of the work	Estimated cost put	EMD/Bid Security	Cost of Bid Document	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
1	Construction of Paddy Procurement Centre at Kantabada, Bhubaneswar for the year 2024-25 in the District of Khordha	Rs. 28.07 Lakhs	Rs. 29,000.00	Rs. 6,000.00	"B" & "C"	03 (Three) Calendar Months
2	Construction of Paddy Procurement Centre at Kashipur, Bhubaneswar for the year 2024-25 in the District of Khordha	Rs. 21.50 Lakhs	Rs. 22,000.00	Rs. 6,000.00	"B" & "C"	03 (One) Calendar Months

**Terms & Conditions**

- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal / online: - From 11:00 AM of 23.10.2024 to 5.00 P.M of 05.11.2024
- Last Date of online submission of bid document in the portal / online: - 5.30 P.M of 05.11.2024
- Date of Opening: - 11.30 AM of 06.11.2024.
- Name and address of officer inviting Bid: - Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No. V, Bhubaneswar.
- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://tendersoisa.gov.in>
- EMD to be accompanied with bid security i.e. 1% of the estimated cost as specified in column 4 and pledged in favour of the Superintending Engineer, Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division-V, Bhubaneswar in online mode.
- Bids documents must be purchased on online mode as mentioned against the work in the table under Col.5.
- The exemption will be allowed for EMD as per OPWD Code.
- The tender should be mandatorily accompanied with the attested Scan copies of the valid registration certificate, GST certificate, PAN card and other requisite documents as per DTCLN.
- The other details can be seen from the DTCLN in <https://tendersoisa.gov.in>

CIPR-34178/11/004/2425  
Superintending Engineer  
Bhubaneswar (R&B) Division No.V, Bhubaneswar