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

Late City Vol. 18 Issue 284
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEHRADUN, TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



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

Communal conflagration in Uttar Pradesh

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
LUCKNOW**

Tensions escalated in Bahraich district on Monday, as protests and violence erupted following a communal clash during a Durga idol immersion procession in the Mahasi area. The violence, which broke out on Sunday, led to the death of a 22-year-old man, Ram Gopal Mishra, who succumbed to a gunshot wound during the incident. The clash reportedly began over loud music being played from a Durga procession as it passed through the Mahrajganj area of Mansoor village. The altercation led to further violence, including incidents of stone-pelting and gunfire, which left around six people injured. As tensions mounted, a local hospital and several shops were set ablaze on Monday morning, prompting the local administration to suspend internet services in an effort to curb the spread of rumors and restore order. Vrinda Shukla, the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Bahraich, confirmed that over 30 persons have been detained in connection with the violence. Police have been deployed in the affected areas to maintain order and prevent further escalation. A case has been registered against a man named Salman, from whose house, gunshots are believed to have been fired during the clash.



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

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

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

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

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



Manic Monday for Air India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Opposition MPs boycott Waqf parliamentary committee meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

MHA hosts Meitei, Kuki, Naga MLAs meeting

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI**

Hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the direct supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Manipur's Meitei, Kuki, and Naga legislators will meet on Tuesday, in a bid to restore peace in the strife-torn state. According to officials, three Naga MLAs will attend the meeting, while the exact number of Meitei and Kuki legislators is not yet clear. This is the first meeting convened by the MHA, since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur last year. Among the Meitei representatives attending the talks are Thongam Biswajit, Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata, Thounaojam Basantakumar, Khongbantabam Ibomcha, Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Thokchom Radheshyam, and Tongbram Robinro. Representing the Kuki community are Letpao Haokip, Paoliennial Haokip, and Haokholet Kipgen. Naga leaders such as Awangbow Newmai, L. Dikho, and Ram Muivah will also be part of the discussions. The dialogue will be the first face-to-face meeting between Kuki and Meitei leaders, signalling what some political observers described as "the



FILE PHOTO

central government's intent to secure a peaceful resolution." Some of the Manipur MLAs have welcomed the Home Ministry's initiative to restore peace in the strife-torn state. Over 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence in Manipur since May 2023. "From the Naga side, three MLAs - Awangbow Newmai, L. Dikho and Ram Muivah - will be attending the meeting in New Delhi. Muivah is currently in the national capital over a personal issue," an official source said. All three MLAs are from the Naga People's Front (NPF), an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state. Several BJP legislators also left for the national capital on different flights from Imphal. "We have been asked to come to Delhi to discuss certain

things. I don't know the exact agenda now. We have been exploring all means for bringing peace," Water Resources Minister Awangbow Newmai told reporters at Imphal airport. NPF legislator L. Dikho said it is difficult to bring peace to Manipur unless all the communities and people are involved. The violence in Manipur began on May 3, 2023, when protests broke out against a Manipur High Court ruling that favoured granting the Meitei community access to land ownership in tribal areas, a benefit traditionally reserved for the state's minority tribes like the Kukis and Nagas. The ruling was seen as a threat to the land rights of the tribal communities, sparking ethnic clashes between the Meiteis and the Kukis.

SC tells govt to issue River Conservation Zone notification

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and other agencies on a plea against unauthorised constructions and encroachments on the riverbeds, floodplains and catchments of all rivers. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notices to the Environment Ministry, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Central Water Commission and the Central Pollution Control Board while seeking their replies within three weeks. The SC was hearing a plea filed by former IPS officer Dr Ashok Kumar Raghav seeking directions to demolish all unauthorised constructions and encroachments on the riverbeds, floodplains and catchments of all rivers, water courses and water channels, including the tributaries and restore the same to their original forms. The plea also sought directions to notify the 2015 draft of the River



Conservation Zone (RCZ) Regulation without any further delay and demarcation of the floodplains of all rivers, water courses and water channels within a time-bound period not exceeding three months. The draft River Regulation Zones (RRZ) notification proposes to establish River Conservation Zones (RCZs) to prevent encroachments on rivers and floodplains. Advocate Akash Vashishtha, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that increasing illegal and unauthorised constructions and encroachments on the floodplains and catchments of rivers and water courses have become the biggest cause of devastation across the country.



Gasp! Delhi AQI is already over 200

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the Air Quality Index (AQI) already crossed over 200 at several areas of the National Capital Region (NCR) for the second consecutive day, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Monday imposed restrictions, invoking the first stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to prevent further deterioration of air quality in entire Delhi and also in districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan that fall under the NCR. The ban will be in force from 8 am on Tuesday. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index stood at 234 (poor category) as of 4 pm on Monday. Following Dussehra, the AQI in Delhi entered the "poor" category on Sunday, recording a reading of 224. This marked the first instance of poor air quality since September 25, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The GRAP's Stage 1 has a 27-point action plan, which includes sprinkling water on roads, using anti-smog guns, and ensuring proper disposal of construction and demolition waste. It also imposes a ban on the use of coal and firewood in hotels, restaurants, and open eateries.



E-rickshaws, the Capital's ticking time bombs

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

BY **RAJESH KUMAR**

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

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



PHOTO: RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

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

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

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

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

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



Rs 26 crore released for works worth Rs 48 crore approved for disaster safety and redevelopment works in Kedar valley

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A sum of Rs 48.36 crore has been approved by the State government for safety and redevelopment works in the Kedar valley. These include 29 works of the Public Works Department and 12 projects of the Irrigation department. It will be recalled that heavy rains and resulting landslides had caused considerable destruction in the valley on July 31. Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama not only monitored and directed the rescue and relief operations at the time but has also been regularly monitoring the requirements and necessary works in the affected area since then. He also de-

puted the Garhwal commissioner and Disaster Management secretary to regularly monitor the situation and developments in the area.

Officials stated that under the leadership of the Rudrapur district magistrate Saurabh Gharwar, the PWD and Irrigation department are undertaking disaster mitigation and redevelopment works amidst difficult conditions in the area. The July 31 disaster had damaged the bridge path to Kedarnath at 29 spots while the motor road was also washed out. The Mandakini and Son rivers in spate had dam-

aged the embankment at various sites in the area. The officials informed that the local administration had sent a total of 41 proposals for safety and redevelopment works in various locations of the district. Following the chief minister's nod, 29 works under the PWD costing Rs 1,934.86 lakh and 12 works of the Irrigation department worth Rs 2,901.77 lakh have been approved by the State government. A sum of Rs 1,472.21 lakh was released to the PWD and Rs 1,197.21 lakh was released to the Irrigation department for these works on Monday.

CM approves budget for more development works in Kedarnath constituency

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the run up to the Kedarnath Vidhan Sabha bypoll slated to be held later this year, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has announced more development works for the region. Dhama approved the budget for development and asphaltisation of the 8.5 kilometre Guptkashi-Jakhdar-Thudi motor road in the Ukhimath block under the Kedarnath Assembly constituency in Rudrapur district.

The CM has approved a sum of Rs 4.71 crore for this work. In addition to this, the CM also approved a sum of Rs 3.68 crore for development and asphaltisation of the 4.5 kilometre stretch of the motor road from Gadhi to Dhartioliya in

Agastyamuni block of the constituency. It will be recalled that before this, the CM had announced work on the Kandai Jagtoli motor road in the Talla Nagpur valley. The work on this road has been started.

Since the demise of the Kedarnath MLA Shaila Rani Rawat earlier this year, chief minister Dhama had assured the people of the constituency that he will work as their MLA till the next MLA is elected. Acting on his promise, the CM has so far either announced or initiated works in the Kedarnath valley, Talla Nagpur, Kalimath valley and Madhyamaheshwar valley.

MCH removes 70 encroachments in Rodibelwala area

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Haridwar (MCH) removed about 70 encroachments in the Rodibelwala area on Monday. The encroachments were removed after authorities conducted a joint inspection of the slum settlement in the area on the orders of Haridwar municipal commissioner Varun Chaudhary, the assistant municipal commissioner Ravindra Kumar



Dayal said. He informed that about 70 encroachments were demolished using machines and the authorities confiscated the belongings found in the area. The operation was monitored by Dayal and also involved officials including chief sanitation inspectors Shrikant, Vikas Chaudhary, Rajendra Ghaghat, sanitation supervisors, the municipal anti-encroachment team, po-

lice officers and social workers. Dayal said that the corporation took this action after receiving complaints about the encroachment. The prompt response of the MCH aimed to clear illegal settlements and address encroachment concerns in the city, with continued efforts to ensure compliance with regulations, he added.

IN BRIEF

MDDA sends basement parking ultimatum to 350 complexes

DEHRADUN: Taking a serious note of the unauthorised parking escalating the already grim traffic logjam in Dehradun and neighbouring areas with designated parking spaces not being provided in commercial buildings, the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) sent ultimatum to about 350 housing and commercial complexes to immediately arrange basement parking. It also made it clear that sterner actions would follow if the owners of these complexes defy this order. The MDDA vice chairman Banshidhar Tiwari said that with all their warnings having fallen on deaf ear, they must now go for stringent actions. The MDDA decided to send an ultimatum to 350 identified complexes after a comprehensive survey involving Dehradun, Vikasnagar, Rishikesh and Doiwala was conducted. Sources said that Dehradun alone houses 250 of these identified complexes.

7-day Health Premier League kick-starts in Doon

DEHRADUN: With National Health Mission Uttarakhand continuing to adopt new methods to make the people aware about health, a cricket league christened as Uttarakhand Health Premier League was inaugurated by the State health minister Dhan Singh Rawat on Monday. Notably, the matches under this league are being played among eight teams representing government departments. The week-long league being organised in Maharana Pratap Sports College will end on October 20. To raise health awareness, NHM, Uttarakhand identified eight health-related themes which were given to eight teams. The eight departments are: NHM Uttarakhand, SIIDCUL, Income Tax Department, Food Department, UPCL, Postal Department, PWD and Health Department (CMO, Dehradun). Rawat in his address said that this was the first ever Health Premier League organised by the Health department.

Badrinath portals to close on Nov 17

JYOTIRMATH: On the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami, the Badrinath Dham's Rawal Amarnath Namboodiri announced that the portals of the shrine would be closed at 9:07 pm on November 17. He further announced that the rituals for winter closure would begin from November 13. On November 18, the palanquin with the deity in will reach Panukeshwar and the next day reach Jyotirmath where the Lord will stay at His winter abode Narasinh temple for six months.

Tehri MP directs officers to take electricity to every household

NEW TEHRI: The Tehri MP Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah while presiding over the district development coordination and monitoring committee meeting on Monday asked the departments concerned to ensure supply of piped water to every household in the district and electrification of those villages which still remain deprived of electricity. She expressed displeasure over the absence of the forest and telecommunication departments' officers at the meeting and warned of actions if they continued to skip such meetings. Also, she said that the required amount was given to the health department for filling the posts of technicians of ultrasound and X-ray machines. The Tehri district magistrate Mayur Dixit along with senior officials of several departments was present at the meeting.

BOI raises awareness during Vigilance Campaign

DEHRADUN: During the Vigilance Awareness Campaign being organised by Bank of India that commenced on September 15, a string of awareness activities is being hosted in the Dehradun zone and 38 branches across Uttarakhand. The campaign will end on November 15. Informing this on Monday, the zonal manager Vivek Tiwari said that as the precursor of the Vigilance Awareness Week, the rural and semi-urban branches under the zone had hosted 116 awareness gram sabhas during which the villages were briefed about various types of frauds and preventive measures. Besides, a capacity building workshop was organised for newly recruited officers by the Dehradun zonal office where senior officers took sessions on different aspects of banking.

Paresh Rawal meets CM, lauds film friendly policies

DEHRADUN: Noted actor Paresh Rawal met the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama at the latter's camp office on Monday and appreciated the State government's film friendly policies and the cooperative attitude of the people. Notably, the shooting of Anant Narayan Mahadevan—directed 'Past Tense' in which Rawal acted was done in Dehradun, Rishikesh and Mussoorie. Highlighting the abundance of shooting destinations in Uttarakhand, Dhama specially mentioned Adi Kailash, Chakrata and Mana. He also spoke of the single window system for film making bringing herds of producers and directors here.

Govt planning to close DAV, DBS and MKP colleges: Dhasmana

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The vice president of Uttarakhand Congress, Surya Kant Dhasmana has alleged that the State government is planning to close prominent aided educational institutes such as DAV PG College, DBS College and MKP College. Interacting with the media persons at the headquarters of the State Congress here on Monday, Dhasmana said that the government is deliberately creating a situation wherein these institutes are left with no option but to close down. He said that the BJP government has banned recruitment in these institutes from the year 2019, due to which a large number of posts in these colleges are vacant.

Dhasmana said that in DAV PG college 56 out of 186 posts are vacant while 49



posts out of 63 posts are vacant in the MKP College.

He said that in absence of faculty many departments in these prestigious colleges are on the verge of closure. Dhasmana said that many prominent personalities such as Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, former Prime Minister of Nepal, Lokendra Bahadur Chand, first CM of Uttarakhand, Nityanand Swami and others have stud-

ied in DAV college.

Dhasmana alleged that the State government is deliberately weakening these colleges to help the private colleges and universities. Giving an example, the Congress leader said that the fee in DAV college for the LLB course is less Rs 15,000 while one has to spend a sum of Rs four to six lakh to get this degree in a private university.

Operation Smile to resume today in Uttarakhand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a bid to trace missing people across Uttarakhand, the police will launch Operation Smile from October 15 for two months. This will mark the 14th iteration of the initiative since its inception in 2015. The campaign was conducted from May 1 to June 30 earlier this year during which 1,370 missing individuals were recovered. A total of 5,981 people have been traced up since its launch that include 2,951 children, 1,721 women and 1,309 men. The officiating director general of police Abhinav Kumar issued directions to restart the campaign on Monday. It will be overseen by superintendent of police (Crime) of police headquarters and nodal officer of the campaign Vishakha Ashok Bhadane. Beside this, respective assistant superintendents or deputy superintendents of police will serve as nodal officers in all districts. Districts such as Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital and Udhm Singh Nagar will each deploy five search teams while other districts will have one search team. Each team will consist of a sub inspector and four constables, with at least one female officer assigned to conduct interviews with recovered women and children. The officials said that search efforts will focus on locations where missing individuals are more likely to be found, such as shelter homes, women's shelters, old age homes, juvenile homes, factories, bus stations, railway stations, religious places, ashrams, and dharamshalas. Due procedures will be followed for the handover and rehabilitation of individuals upon recovery. Authorities will conduct interviews with children and women in accordance with established protocols and any information suggesting criminal activity will result in appropriate legal action, the officials added.

Securities and Exchange Board of India
SEBI Bhavan II, Plot No. 7, 'G' Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051
Tel. No. 91-22-26449000/40459000

Tender Notice No. SEBI/ISD/TPD1/CRAC/EOI/2024-25/01
Securities and Exchange Board of India invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed Solution Providers (Bidders) for procurement of integrated on-premise solution with commercial licenses and services in respects of SEBI's project- "Association Network on Graph Database"
The details of the advertisement are available on our website www.sebi.gov.in under section 'Tenders' and on Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp> under section 'Active Tenders'. The last date for submission of EOI is November 11, 2024 03:00 PM.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश
Haridwar Road Rishikesh, Distt-Dehradun, Pin-249201
Website : www.nagarnigamrshikesh.com, Email : nprishikesh@gmail.com
Ph :0135-2430015,1800313529

अल्पकालिक पुनर्निविदा (ई-निविदा) सूचना
नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत आई०एस०वी०टी० की पार्किंग हेतु इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी कम्पनी/फर्मों से अति अल्पकालिक पुनर्निविदा ई-निविदा दिनांक 15.10.2024 से 25.10.2024 सांय 3:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो तददिनांक को अपराह्न 3:30 बजे गठित निविदा समिति द्वारा कार्यालय नगर निगम ऋषिकेश में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी/शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड शासन की वेबसाईट <http://www.uktdenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक-16.10.2024 को 03:30 बजे से डाउनलोड तथा कार्यालय नगर निगम ऋषिकेश में देखी जा सकती है। टेंडिकल बिड क्वालीफाई करने वाले निविदादाताओं की ही फाइनलसियल बिड खोली जायेगी। इस सम्बन्ध में समस्त सूचनाएं/जानकारी उक्त पोर्टल/वेबसाईट के माध्यम से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

पत्रांक: 2643/कर०अनु०/2024-25
दिनांक: 14.10.2024

सहायक नगर आयुक्त,
नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

In my army record my mother name mistakenly recorded as GODAVERI THAPA whereas my mother correct name is GODAWARI THAPA as mentioned in other all documents. I Army No 6388944L Rank EX HAV Name VINOD KUMAR THAPA R/O C-103 BRIJ RESIDENCY BIMA VIHAR DHORAN KASH DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND.I have changed my mother correct name in my service record vide UK IN-UK50916666912515W Affidavit 14.10.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Husband Army Record my name mistakenly recorded as REHENA KAHTUN and DOB 20.07.1991 whereas my correct name is REHENA KHATUN and DOB 10.07.1988 as mentioned in other all documents. Army No. 15230228F, Rank NK, Name NASHIR UDDIN AHMED R/o KHUDIMARI PT.II, DHUBRI, ASSAM. I have changed my name in my husband service record vide Affidavit IN-UK50063524922519W dated 09.10.2024 before Court Dehradun.

I have changed my daughter's name from Angel Pundir to Aradhya Singh Pundir. In future she should be known as Aradhya Singh Pundir. Mr Vinod Pundir S/O Ramesh Pundir Resident-65 Akashdeep Colony near Shiv Mandir Chakrata Road Dehradun

मेरे पुत्र के आर्मी रिकॉर्ड के अनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम अमरजीत कौर दर्ज है, सही नाम अमरजीत कौर आधर नं. 425336708664 M/o आर्मी नं.15348811N हवलदार गुरप्रीत सिंह, गांव-मलूका, पोस्ट-मलूका, तह-फुल, जिला- बठिंडा, पंजाब -151206 है।

मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरी पुत्री का गलत नाम वंशिका दर्ज है, सही नाम वंशिका सकलानी आधर नं. 735670220257 D/o आर्मी नं. JC-333111W सूबेदार मेजर सुनील कुमार सकलानी, गांव-शुक्लापुर, पोस्ट-अंबीवाला, तह-देहरादून, जिला- देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड - 248007 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम जालम देवी दर्ज है, सही नाम जालम देई राणा आधर नं. 472611215133 M/o आर्मी नं. JC-344553P नायब सूबेदार केशर सिंह, गांव-अमित ग्राम गुमानेवाला, पोस्ट-अमित ग्राम गुमानेवाला, तह- ऋषिकेश, जिला- देहरादून -249204 है।

मेरे पति के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम श्रीदेवी दर्ज है, सही नाम के श्रीदेवी आधर नं. 686733933711 W/o आर्मी नं. 15567393H हवलदार जे ई (सिविल) के गुरु प्रसाद, प्लॉट नं.-14/19, लोहाया रोड, कलेशा नगर, आइ ई मिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग, छत्तीसगढ़-490026 है।

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Kailash Chandra, father of Bhargav Joshi, a student of Class 10 "A" at Summer Valley School, Dehradun, hereby inform that my name has been registered as Kailash Chandra Joshi in my son's board registration documents. However, in all other official documents, my name is recorded as Kailash Chandra. Therefore, I request that my name be corrected to Kailash Chandra in my son's board registration records. Kailash Chandra S/o Shrikishan Joshi, R/o Balaji Enclave, Near Hanuman Mandir, Balawala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

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Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654
E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted online through E-Procurement Technologies Limited on their online auction platform <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 18.10.2024 between 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM. Change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the E-Auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date on the auction platform and/or auction center with same terms and conditions. The unauctioned gold ornaments shall be auctioned on subsequent working days after displaying the details on auction platform and/or auction center. In case the auction at Branch level fails, the same will be re auctioned on 28.10.2024 without any further notice at district level at the specified district centre. If for any reason, the district level auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the district level auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

District Centre: TANAKPUR-CHAMPAWAT SOHO GL - GROUND FLOOR, 275, WARD NO. 11, NEAR HDFC BANK TANAKPUR, DIST. CHAMPAWAT-262309 (UK).

Branch Name: TANAKPUR-CHAMPAWAT SOHO GL, Taluka - TANAKPUR. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL28804032, GL30118544. The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regarding quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.

Date: 15.10.2024
Place: CHAMPAWAT

Sd/
AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

IIFL FINANCE
CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797
Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604
Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654
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District Centre: KOTDWARA-DEVI ROAD GL - IIFL FINANCE, AMBEY SHOPPING COMPLEX, FIRST FLOOR, DEVI ROAD, KOTDWARA-246149.

Branch Name: KOTDWARA-DEVI ROAD GL, Taluka - Kotdwar. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20948374, GL21232333, GL21233880, GL21398980, GL21779142, GL22034075, GL22063886, GL23264436, GL25633622, GL27807089, GL27832780, GL27842610, GL27859308, GL27870111, GL27870272, GL28240911, GL28210688, GL28222346, GL28332472, GL28352006, GL28414392, GL28430022, GL28515794, GL28594975, GL28680232, GL28805786, GL28816414, GL28830013, GL28830168, GL28870672, GL28933183, GL28959892, GL28977095, GL29037061, GL29059036, GL29073404, GL29090278, GL29096419, GL29169657, GL29262250, GL29275065, GL29529763, GL29544338, GL29628505, GL29679170, GL29681553, GL29779391, GL29792788, GL29940624, GL29956987, GL30105756, GL30108793, GL30205549, GL30220661, GL30233715, GL30352617, GL30359665, GL30496162, GL30640096, GL30657647, GL30749579, GL30908789, GL30956023, GL30964579, GL30994602, GL31011042, GL32349417, GL32401769, GL32600763, GL32714351, GL33008873, GL33364045, GL33582114.

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For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.

Date: 15.10.2024
Place: PAURI GARHWAL

Sd/
AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
IIFL FINANCE LIMITED



Train mishap averted in Khatima, heavy cable found on tracks

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A major railway accident was averted in Udhm Singh Nagar district after large fragments of a heavy cable were discovered on the railway tracks in Khatima that posed a grave threat to the Dehradun-Tanakpur Weekly Express. The alert locomotive pilot spotted the cable at about 3:15 AM on Monday and managed to halt the train before reaching it and prevented a potential derailment. The incident has put authorities on high alert, just two days after an LPG cylinder was discovered on a railway track in Roorkee on Saturday. Superintendent of police (City) Manoj Katyal told The Pioneer that the incident occurred in the Khatima region, where unidentified miscreants had placed large cable fragments on the railway tracks. "On Monday at about 3:15 AM, the Dehradun-Tanakpur Express en route to Tanakpur, was speeding along the tracks when the locomotive pilot spotted the suspicious cable fragments lying directly in the train's path. Acting promptly,



the pilot halted the train and informed railway officials, successfully preventing what could have been a disastrous accident," he said. He stated that an FIR has been registered in the matter and the civil police along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) has started the investigation. "A team including myself, RPF and GRP officials visited the site in the morning to conduct a thorough investigation. We are currently analysing CCTV footage from nearby loca-

tions of the site to identify the perpetrators," he said. The SP informed that such cables, which consist of multiple thick metal wires, are typically used in hydel projects rather than railways. "It is possible that some miscreants stole the cable and left it there after they observed the approaching train. Maybe they deliberately left it there hoping that the train will break them in multiple pieces which will make it easier to carry them or they probably just placed them there to do serious harm. We cannot say for sure

yet. The probe is ongoing," the SP added. This incident has raised concerns as similar acts of sabotage have been reported recently in Roorkee of Haridwar district and Rampur district in Uttar Pradesh. Katyal said that the local police are coordinating with their counterparts in these areas to aid the ongoing investigation. "We recognise the gravity of the situation and are leaving no stone unturned to ensure the culprits are apprehended soon," Katyal added.

Maintain standards of industrial and traditional products to compete at global level: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has said that high standards must be maintained in industrial and traditional products in the State to compete at national and international levels there. He attended a programme organised at the Himalayan Cultural Centre on the occasion of World Standards Day on Monday.

The CM said that standards are not just technical guidelines or benchmarks, but they

products not only at the national level but also at the global level. Our branding will be stronger.

The State government has set up an umbrella brand named 'House of Himalayas', which is an important step towards giving global recognition to our local products. "We want BIS to measure the standards of these products," he said. The CM added that the theme of this year's World Standards Day is SDG-9,



are the foundation of the nation's development and self-reliance. He averred that the standards set by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) play a very important role in the certification of our industries, trade and services.

He said that in recent years the ecosystem of standards has expanded widely, which now covers almost all sectors including agriculture, road transport, health and other services. Dhami said that standards of high quality, safety and efficiency should be implemented in all sectors to improve quality of life and to strengthen the economy.

which is related to industry, innovation and infrastructure.

Speaking at the occasion the cabinet minister Rekha Arya said that to achieve success in any field of life, it is necessary to set standards in life; similarly the BIS determines the standards of various goods and products in our country.

Commissioner food safety, Hari Chandra Semwal, Director General UCOST Durgesh Pant and others attended the programme.

Govt apathy, private syndicate bleeding Uttarakhand Transport Corporation: Chaudhary

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Transport Corporation (UTC) employees' joint federation has accused the management of the corporation of gross negligence and apathy due to which the syndicate of private operators is hurting the interests of the corporation. Addressing a Press conference here on Monday, the convener of the federation, Ashok Chaudhary said that counters have been allotted to the private buses at Kashmiri Gate and Anand Vihar in New Delhi alongside the UTC. He said that these operators are charging upto Rs 3,300 from one passenger on Delhi-Dehradun route.

He said that the government is planning to open more routes for the private operators which will result in steep decline in the income of the UTC and the government will lose revenue amounting to Rs 200 crore. At present about 20 welfare schemes of the government are being operated through the buses of the UTC.

Chaudhary said that the UTC was set up in 2003 and at that time it had 7,300 regular employees and 950 buses. The corporation now has about 2,000 regular, 300 contractual and 500 outsourced employees. The government has not regularised employees working for 15 to 18 years, due to

which the staff strength of the corporation has reduced drastically. Chaudhary further informed that the fleet of the corporation has only 800 buses now and out of them about 500 buses will soon be auctioned. In the past four years, the government has purchased only 130 small buses.

He said that after the end of relaxation given by the Delhi government in December this year, the corporation will have only 170 under contract CNG fuelled buses for its Delhi operations. Chaudhary demanded that the government should immediately purchase 500 new buses to save the UTC. Accusing the UTC management of being extravagant, Chaudhary said that furniture worth Rs 1.5 crore was purchased for the headquarters of corporation and a sum of Rs seven crore was spent on new construction in headquarters but the corporation has no budget to pay the gratuity of six months of retired employees and four per cent dearness allowance (DA) of the employees.

Chaudhary added that the corporation is earning about Rs 1.5 crore daily while its expenses are at Rs two crore per day and the UTC has failed to prepare a work plan to gain profit.

Chief secretary sets timeline for identification of dumping zones

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief secretary Radha Raturi has set up a deadline of one week to all the district magistrates for identifying dumping zones for proper disposal of debris generated during monsoon, landslides and highway construction activity.

The CS chaired a meeting of senior officers of Border Roads Organization (BRO) and National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHID-CL) on dumping zones at the State secretariat on Monday.

In the meeting the CS directed the DMs to identify revenue land on national highways on



a priority basis for dumping sites and identify forest land in case of non-availability of revenue land. On a stern note, Raturi said that the agencies should strictly follow the rule of disposal of debris only in the designated dumping zones and

warned that action will be initiated against agencies for violation of rules. The CS said that in case of saturation, possibilities for expanding the previously identified dumping zones should be studied. She also directed the DMs to prepare an

action plan for the use of the debris after it is deposited at the identified dumping sites. The CS said that green patches should be developed at the dumping sites and bamboo saplings should be planted there. She also directed the DMs to ensure effective coordination and joint inspection in the selection of sites for dumping at the district level by the agencies concerned, Revenue and Forest departments.

Secretary Pankaj Kumar Pandey and senior officers of PWD, BRO, NHIDCL and DMs of Rudrapur, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, and Tehri attended the meeting.

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- District Centre: HALDWANI-NAINITAL ROAD - 1ST FLOOR GURU GOVIND SINGH TOWER NAINITAL ROAD HALDWANI UTTARAKHAND-263139.
- Branch Name: BAZPUR-GL, Taluka - KASHIPUR.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21403012, GL21587555, GL21682795, GL21805655, GL21805951, GL21901197, GL21921896, GL22155642, GL22990402, GL23113367, GL23271838, GL23447836, GL23638056, GL24294392, GL24484565, GL25388668, GL25964378, GL27074584, GL27576211, GL27786711, GL27794463, GL27795620, GL27850913, GL28066120, GL28098681, GL28266476, GL28273568, GL28291017, GL28320787, GL28325996, GL28415138, GL28430251, GL28436249, GL28454805, GL28547834, GL28652778, GL28669074, GL28680440, GL28689419, GL28694171, GL28705635, GL28706237, GL28722205, GL28740372, GL28754196, GL28758905, GL28781608, GL28801220, GL28856381, GL28861250, GL28937083, GL29013739, GL29089735, GL29095912, GL29143084, GL29147398, GL29167896, GL29174275, GL29415463, GL29419999, GL29424463, GL29595981, GL30017501, GL30026909, GL30227641, GL30229265, GL30232244, GL30245665, GL30246044, GL30253229, GL30253261, GL30265502, GL30281361, GL30305094, GL30308292, GL30316136, GL30319788, GL30456757, GL30477220, GL30480803, GL30555810, GL30623245, GL30624204, GL30651855, GL30656546, GL30667302, GL30673032, GL30679465, GL30686209, GL30683608, GL30684118, GL30683706, GL30851783, GL31378850, GL32546428, GL32674521, GL32761530, GL33190018, GL34018181.
- Branch Name: GADARPUR-KASHIPUR ROAD, Taluka - KICHHA.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL216329686L21714950, GL21835426, GL22521470, GL24612007, GL25244222, GL27256684, GL27795862, GL28174176, GL28180737, GL28254663, GL28307451, GL28325429, GL28348428, GL28353997, GL28594761, GL28918526, GL29094724, GL29095387, GL29157350, GL29249664, GL29291105, GL29316021, GL29324713, GL29368254, GL29394832, GL29543589, GL29566028, GL29579250, GL29737490, GL29743496, GL30021928, GL30121690, GL30230361, GL30232461, GL30258847, GL30274242, GL30279332, GL30606556, GL30625921, GL30691056, GL30714281, GL30726321, GL32708726.
- Branch Name: HALDWANI-KATGHARIYA SOHO GL, Taluka - HALDWANI.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL27816733, GL28096201, GL30171405, GL30241622.
- Branch Name: HALDWANI-MANGAL PADAY GL, Taluka - HALDWANI.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21352996, GL21382985, GL21640239, GL21777143, GL21869762, GL21904093, GL22000906, GL22001959, GL22056302, GL22065091, GL22725177, GL23030178, GL23282276, GL25562612, GL25666634, GL25755436, GL25682110, GL27171930, GL27266185, GL27265620, GL27262042, GL27459110, GL27473404, GL27478575, GL27480704, GL27624828, GL27643889, GL27664709, GL27798456, GL27818101, GL27820482, GL27830601, GL27832875, GL27835101, GL27841312, GL27857041, GL27864532, GL27865435, GL27927057, GL27928559, GL28000581, GL28066167, GL28071791, GL28117882, GL28164688, GL28170397, GL28203893, GL28219453, GL28234651, GL28316272, GL28328353, GL28368494, GL28370426, GL28400736, GL28474444, GL28474515, GL28478922, GL28478953, GL28487818, GL28496211, GL28501206, GL28583214, GL28581060, GL28660191, GL28686275, GL28706995, GL28708640, GL28722658, GL28723414, GL28735185, GL28745514, GL28840197, GL28840409, GL28858397, GL28881912, GL28891617, GL28928055, GL28911891, GL28923065, GL28926203, GL28956772, GL28981427, GL29000589, GL29020804, GL29042271, GL29045523, GL29047959, GL29119201, GL29120648, GL29121547, GL29121464, GL29121585, GL29125850, GL29168250, GL29195718, GL29321699, GL29322061, GL29345217, GL29349791, GL29351400, GL29366252, GL29402153, GL29453131, GL29465543, GL29530903, GL29540059, GL29544618, GL29556139, GL29592527, GL29621266, GL29677486, GL29700078, GL29801262, GL29801995, GL29817183, GL29860846, GL29865450, GL29871102, GL29921478, GL29925328, GL29979402, GL30027085, GL30050029, GL30072817, GL30098732, GL30151306, GL30154692, GL30159805, GL30160521, GL30240765, GL30271680, GL30342896, GL30352504, GL30359653, GL30651204, GL30656344, GL30732466, GL30809735, GL30822084, GL30867247, GL31037190, GL31090411, GL32368902, GL32371642, GL32376501, GL32388861, GL34289938.
- Branch Name: HALDWANI-MUKHANI GL, Taluka - HALDWANI.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20893672, GL21587555, GL21794431, GL22068171, GL22097412, GL22125957, GL22725974, GL24264487, GL24460162, GL24658461, GL24829466, GL25502522, GL25612411, GL26805090, GL27406488, GL27425317, GL27462352, GL27471352, GL27482059, GL27642499, GL27642206, GL27793716, GL28029734, GL28051026, GL28057114, GL28066120, GL28075661, GL28085569, GL28167443, GL28177430, GL28367680, GL28396972, GL28391973, GL28403320, GL28450940, GL28455437, GL28469225, GL28080989, GL28680162, GL28707784, GL28723015, GL28747526, GL28960297, GL28971183, GL29089844, GL29095662, GL29110835, GL29126216, GL29149452, GL29168083, GL29209921, GL29227007, GL29243889, GL29248613, GL29249915, GL29309143, GL29323145, GL29327553, GL29335775, GL29347917, GL29352034, GL29373361, GL29414676, GL29424252, GL29536874, GL29540003, GL29602789, GL29608840, GL29610258, GL29779553, GL29801267, GL30070115, GL30132212, GL30133450, GL30333081, GL30344827, GL30356913, GL30430605, GL30449068, GL30529660, GL30571321, GL30577553, GL30595611, GL30623662, GL30644002, GL30649757, GL30658279, GL30747498, GL30766594, GL30815846, GL30819875, GL30841214, GL30868006, GL30911678, GL30958305, GL30965035, GL31133357, GL31144231, GL31443031, GL31448454, GL31738781, GL31893318, GL31900101, GL32165239, GL32168196, GL32463922, GL32645260, GL30100119, GL33385114, GL33422162, GL34165525, GL34207135.
- Branch Name: HALDWANI-NAINITAL ROAD, Taluka - HALDWANI.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21107064, GL21379704, GL21382986, GL21387374, GL21404809, GL21603588, GL21845178, GL21880201, GL21909739, GL21922809, GL21934055, GL21975908, GL22013135, GL22183473, GL22202871, GL22520235, GL27388616, GL27412504, GL27460626, GL27848102, GL27805897, GL27831413, GL28040674, GL28054569, GL28104205, GL28116168, GL28283696, GL28317291, GL28363573, GL28468883, GL28487824, GL28490317, GL28511016, GL28520889, GL28578805, GL28654441, GL28740480, GL28758938, GL28805071, GL28910848, GL28925952, GL29010472, GL29055285, GL29071448, GL29121165, GL29125103, GL29127347, GL29139964, GL29295214, GL29444808, GL29560305, GL29598976, GL30021466, GL30073962, GL30309318, GL30316558, GL30730638, GL30754876, GL30758543, GL30791309, GL30797312, GL30892714, GL30899814, GL30941295, GL30946687, GL30941230, GL31032310, GL31043761, GL32460158, GL32574979, GL32821917, GL32924045, GL33987863, GL34181845.
- Branch Name: JASPUR-KASHIPUR ROAD GL, Taluka - JASPUR.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL22156360, GL22245703, GL28010591, GL28035282, GL28051449, GL28229332, GL28243028, GL28335762, GL28353980, GL28422619, GL28423140, GL28445020, GL28563532, GL28583295, GL28680604, GL29012934, GL29125313, GL29188530, GL29193976, GL29576856, GL30044006, GL30054423, GL30095750, GL30110224, GL30744953, GL30758941, GL30792775, GL30798287, GL30847120, GL30828488, GL30888136, GL30896796, GL30938174, GL30949757, GL30958522, GL30965035, GL30979696, GL30984185, GL30995517, GL31011397, GL32403130, GL32481813.
- Branch Name: KASHIPUR-NH 74 GL, Taluka - KASHIPUR.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20177585, GL21056756, GL21637428, GL21775860, GL21779998, GL22193894, GL22227665, GL22263271, GL22390234, GL23195672, GL24361268, GL24367651, GL25392431, GL27199762, GL27401379, GL27405389, GL27425092, GL27434996, GL27472698, GL27776221, GL27940454, GL27959483, GL28259577, GL28295609, GL28350232, GL28351418, GL28448052, GL28488899, GL28548899, GL28640032, GL28665602, GL28610708, GL28648478, GL28652153, GL28669279, GL28685758, GL28745742, GL28757046, GL28923075, GL28988695, GL29042613, GL29045704, GL29065124, GL29069439, GL29071039, GL29086129, GL29099222, GL29142658, GL29149394, GL29155333, GL29171846, GL29175127, GL29175677, GL29289563, GL29314746, GL29329884, GL29374235, GL29399701, GL29407703, GL29424884, GL29459899, GL29464125, GL29465220, GL29473000, GL29474097, GL29514664, GL29584325, GL29699195, GL29706552, GL30024583, GL30248355, GL30253633, GL30255657, GL30261702, GL30285079, GL30312565, GL30391246, GL30400621, GL30476867, GL30593512, GL30594368, GL30836135, GL30847989, GL30848161, GL30851565, GL30866376, GL30934213, GL30934823, GL30996867, GL31001176, GL31043188, GL31043343, GL31130399, GL32048366.
- Branch Name: KHATIMA-TANAKPUR ROAD GL, Taluka - KHATIMA.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL26992324, GL27001961, GL27076406, GL27154325, GL27162718, GL27176143, GL27806445, GL27813390, GL28165635, GL28182284, GL29156525, GL29176041, GL30764744.
- Branch Name: KICHHA-UDHAMSINGHNAGAR GL, Taluka - KICHHA.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL26939406, GL26945188, GL27942257, GL27962014, GL29657405, GL29805808, GL29818505, GL30690150, GL30713908, GL31888733.
- Branch Name: LALKUAN-RAILWAY STATION ROAD SOHO GL, Taluka - LALKUAN.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL30415989.
- Branch Name: RAMNAGAR NAINITAL-RAMNAGAR GL, Taluka - BHIKIA SAIN.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21271070, GL26157370, GL26171146, GL26435327, GL26454179, GL26635365, GL26641943, GL26876236, GL27073437, GL27175246, GL27623094, GL27643449, GL27653592, GL27671315, GL27801576, GL27803739, GL27815562, GL27830049, GL27926262, GL27930743, GL27967538, GL28001413, GL28047947, GL28050383, GL28174836, GL28181109, GL28256931, GL28274727, GL28371172, GL28547551, GL28608142, GL28608786, GL28609150, GL28649477, GL28676470, GL28678258, GL28740480, GL28758938, GL28776674, GL28936139, GL28938533, GL28970090, GL29064855, GL29070923, GL29085399, GL29098991, GL29157670, GL29164899, GL29170969, GL29175084, GL29176385, GL29220640, GL29226967, GL29275270, GL29284783, GL29368064, GL29438626, GL29446827, GL29533052, GL29534757, GL29545031, GL29545387, GL29608196, GL29701363, GL29703775, GL29807962, GL29819021, GL29919119, GL29928295, GL29996877, GL30006229, GL30046272, GL30059251, GL30179926, GL30184852, GL30206547, GL30247350, GL30469296, GL30472767, GL30475745, GL30477100, GL30478547, GL30489111, GL30502780, GL30512471, GL30517868, GL30609880, GL30626874, GL30665980, GL30887039, GL30896254, GL30913859.
- Branch Name: RUDRAPUR UK-NAINITAL ROAD GL, Taluka - KICHHA.**
Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21812917, GL22238449, GL23399909, GL24227985, GL25279101, GL25375590, GL26358693, GL26637334, GL27937820, GL27951987, GL27979391, GL27989799, GL28074530, GL28083519, GL28334232, GL28568743, GL28768702, GL28786115, GL28787155, GL28923204, GL29054703, GL290551423, GL29059707, GL29071108, GL29071551, GL29141481, GL29162205, GL29166738, GL29234440, GL29413674, GL29423953, GL29487311, GL29498550, GL29700731, GL29896088, GL29994290, GL29995802, GL29996079, GL30005702, GL30006071, GL30224388, GL30234478, GL30291112, GL30547439, GL305938075, GL30978087,



Virasat Art and Heritage Festival to commence today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN Dehradun is set to host the popular Virasat Art and Heritage Festival 2024, scheduled to take place from October 15 to 29 at the Ambedkar Stadium in the city.



that the 15-day festival will feature a variety of programmes catering to diverse interests. Attendees can look forward to heritage meditation sessions and performances by young artists from schools and colleges across Dehradun.

a heritage quiz, a photography competition and insightful talks on music and literature by renowned experts. He said that the showcase of folk and classical art forms from across the country will be one of the highlights of the festival.

The main attraction of the festival will be a grand instrumental music programme featuring an array of musical

genres, including Ghazal, Sufi, Carnatic music and both Hindustani and Carnatic classical music, Singh said. The programme director Lokesh Ohri also said that the festival this year will be a cultural feast for art enthusiasts and the general public alike, making it a must visit event for those looking to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of Indian heritage.

Landslide on under construction Helang-Marwadi bypass causes panic

PNS ■ JYOTIRMATH

Labourers had to run to save themselves when road cutting for the under construction Helang-Marwadi bypass resulted in heavy landslide. One machine of the executing agency was damaged by the landslide though there the people working at the site were reported to be safe.



It should be noted that the six-kilometre Helang-Marwadi bypass is currently under construction.

The construction of this bypass was started in 2022 after the Centre gave its approval for the project. This bypass is slated to be completed in 2025. It is pertinent to mention here that this project has been controversial

since the beginning. The construction of the Helang-Marwadi bypass has been in process since 1988-89. It was stalled earlier following the objections raised by a considerable segment of the local residents. The work was

resumed after the latest approval granted by the Central government. The latest landslide has caused considerable anxiety among the workers and the local residents.

Corbett's beloved Gomati breathes her last

PNS ■ RAMNAGAR

Gomati, a much appreciated Gand well trained elephant of the Corbett national park breathed her last on Monday. She had played a role in the successful rescue of a number of tigers in the Corbett landscape. The staff of the national park paid tributes to the cow elephant before disposing of the body.

October 4 in the Dhikala area of the national park. She was brought to the elephant centre in Kalagarh range. Senior veterinary officer Dr Dushyant Sharma was supervising her treatment. She died due to age related issues on Monday. Corbett deputy director Rahul Mishra, Dr Sharma and others paid tributes to the pachyderm before the disposal of her body.

MHA allows construction of parking at Metropole complex

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Ministry of Home Affairs has granted permission for the construction of a surface parking facility in the Metropole hotel compound in Nainital city. This hotel was built by the British in 1880 and owned subsequently at the time of the country's independence by the then Raja of Mahmudabad. The hotel complex was declared enemy property in the 1960s after its owner migrated to Pakistan after partition.

People shift from making sweets at home to market products during festive season

Social status and convenience affect consumer choice

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a shift away from traditional homemade sweets, people are increasingly opting for market-bought treats during the festive season. Many local residents have opined that various factors such as social status, convenience and energy efficiency have influenced this shift.

younger generation now prefers to purchase sweets from the market to showcase their status and for convenience, rather than following the traditional method, the 62-year-old Arora added.

Another local resident, Smriti Rana, shared that her mother used to emphasise the importance of making preparations at home to enhance the significance of the celebration, as opposed to buying items from the market. She noted that due to busy schedules, the traditional practice has dwindled and convenience often takes



Notably, this trend has led to a surge in the demand for sweets and other food items during the festive season, prompting sweet shop owners to opt for cheaper and possibly adulterated ingredients that could pose health risks to the public. Senior citizen Satish Arora said that in the past, during his youth, his family members used to prepare sweets and other items with a personal touch ahead of festivals like Diwali and weddings. Making things at home not only added an emotional aspect to the celebrations but also ensured their hygiene. However, over time, the

precedence over the sentimental value of homemade items.

Many local residents have similarly mentioned the same reason for the shift away from homemade sweets to purchasing them from the market nowadays.

Sweet shop proprietor Jai Bhannu stated that the demand for sweets increases significantly during festivals. Presently, people prefer the convenience of buying sweets from the market rather than attempting to make them at home.

IIFL FINANCE advertisement with logo and contact details.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF E-AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount...

District Centre: HARIDWAR-JWALAPUR KRISHNA GARDEN GL - IIFL FINANCE LTD. KRISHNA GARDEN, GROUND FLOOR, OPPOSITE RAILWAY POLICE CHOWKI, JWALAPUR, RAILWAY ROAD, HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND 249407.

Branch Name: HARIDWAR-JWALAPUR KRISHNA GARDEN GL, Taluka - HARIDWAR. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL20098693, GL21331777, GL21793932, GL21848892, GL21853962, GL21928512, GL22042633, GL22096829, GL22211067, GL22214571, GL22231648, GL22265115, GL22372277, GL23450575, GL25895004, GL25933752, GL27117543, GL27117975, GL27145002, GL27399244, GL27405943, GL27424256, GL27425156, GL27604937, GL27612089, GL27736197, GL27740036, GL27747841, GL27748839, GL27942320, GL27961954, GL27983484, GL27991710, GL28019108, GL28134088, GL28176630, GL28257729, GL28370232, GL28520318, GL28539488, GL28548617, GL28554380, GL28564840, GL28628977, GL28678213, GL28712624, GL28716708, GL28771500, GL28787577, GL28808182, GL28874719, GL28884959, GL28890569, GL28898887, GL28932737, GL28948929, GL28951577, GL28956122, GL28976063, GL28997452, GL29000230, GL29027736, GL29047855, GL29058262, GL29059100, GL29073192, GL29073982, GL29100460, GL29110841, GL29113537, GL29128135, GL29129335, GL29140738, GL29148628, GL29164073, GL29170797, GL29194293, GL29496905, GL29507721, GL29522990, GL2953201, GL30002944, GL30066763, GL30068581, GL30302124, GL30319188, GL30583722, GL30594958, GL30780582, GL30798343, GL30869294, GL30878694, GL30892775, GL30898345, GL31028512, GL31038263, GL31039581, GL31040431, GL311131003, GL31176267, GL32071430, GL32358469, GL32378372, GL32400610.

Branch Name: HARIDWAR-RANIPUR CHOWK GL, Taluka - HARIDWAR. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL22065202, GL24946377, GL25399089, GL25495846, GL25516788, GL25538545, GL25641530, GL25677434, GL25706780, GL25816195, GL25872376, GL26004929, GL26320604, GL27257991, GL27438202, GL27489955, GL27762656, GL28224666, GL28537413, GL29159280, GL29176888.

Branch Name: ROORKEE-GANESHPUR GL, Taluka - ROORKEE. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL21359436, GL21556929, GL21703836, GL21782601, GL21880700, GL22035674, GL22483214, GL23817743, GL23992476, GL24195176, GL24219768, GL24250445, GL24291216, GL24420520, GL24532080, GL24595700, GL24617955, GL24630958, GL24702281, GL24738708, GL24774973, GL24826627, GL24863886, GL24988000, GL25067850, GL25093962, GL25122405, GL25132481, GL25163696, GL25229279, GL25315397, GL25363213, GL25365371, GL25404052, GL25405082, GL25405489, GL25494827, GL25543594, GL25631258, GL25655952, GL25782468, GL25854484, GL25957792, GL26001531, GL26440555, GL26452947, GL26525680, GL26538703, GL2690412, GL27195299, GL27343026, GL27454387, GL27487452, GL27556457, GL27609811, GL27662266, GL27711847, GL27754806, GL27773407, GL27802349, GL27809635, GL28038422, GL28104678, GL28116392, GL28142392, GL28148872, GL28200680, GL28240500, GL28242083, GL282826641, GL2830641, GL28314070, GL28383524, GL28391357, GL28403014, GL28404390, GL28451385, GL28489539, GL28491650, GL28600560, GL28602773, GL28623667, GL28636157, GL28640845, GL28655211, GL28677896, GL28702623, GL28702879, GL28713444, GL28725530, GL28726509, GL28734682, GL28780924, GL28782477, GL28851775, GL28860472, GL28957387, GL28968717, GL28970325, GL29058153, GL29062256, GL29073153, GL29074336, GL29123765, GL29163299, GL29168219, GL29492074, GL29496361, GL29496439, GL29496713, GL29513094, GL29525085, GL29553295, GL29567625, GL29607940, GL29619770, GL29635771, GL29644134, GL29659197, GL29724289, GL29805280, GL29818377, GL29826255, GL29843403, GL29922164, GL29925668, GL29989603, GL30067719, GL30070221, GL30077197, GL30097645, GL30110246, GL30150569, GL30159570, GL30198768, GL30209514, GL30231454, GL30344492, GL30354964, GL30359904, GL30456745, GL30461247, GL30462915, GL30473502, GL30480769, GL30480811, GL30571000, GL30620775, GL30625915, GL30648023, GL30653479, GL30655000, GL30655114, GL30665704, GL30670879, GL30682786, GL30683764, GL30729191, GL30743344, GL30751029, GL30754868, GL30758116, GL30758540, GL30760812, GL30765840, GL30789279, GL30796336, GL30837539, GL30842519, GL30845250, GL30848991, GL30849976, GL30851849, GL30859240, GL30920871, GL30921466, GL30922359, GL30923760, GL30981199, GL30983641, GL30984414, GL30984935, GL31005345, GL31010574, GL31011966, GL31025654, GL31041420, GL31044974, GL31062504, GL31165663, GL31192861, GL32234624, GL32455895, GL32565171, GL32949046.

Branch Name: ROORKEE-RAMNAGAR GL, Taluka - ROORKEE. Gold Loan A/C No.: GL22719767, GL27224291, GL27252573, GL27416237, GL27423689, GL27604294, GL27612222, GL27750940, GL27775597, GL27894876, GL28095589, GL28117982, GL28266964, GL28270953, GL28307493, GL28317728, GL28324485, GL28325375, GL28384319, GL28513603, GL28523960, GL28879783, GL28890563, GL28897690, GL29061195, GL29237128, GL29252959, GL29444256, GL29520475, GL29530929, GL29544572, GL29584150, GL29596551, GL30226332, GL30551928, GL30702526, GL30713557, GL30790043, GL30796674, GL30876882, GL30897457, GL30995648, GL309964681, GL30997236, GL30987452, GL31035587, GL31044128, GL33447784.

The E-Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regarding quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. The E-Auction process and the sale (if any) pursuant to such E-Auction shall be subject to terms and conditions as IIFL may at its sole discretion deem fit to impose. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s), pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.

IIFL FINANCE advertisement with QR code and signature.

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement with logo and contact details.

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Table with columns: Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s), Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date, Property address.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 15-10-2024 Place: Uttarakhand Sd/ (Authorised Officer) Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

IIFL FINANCE advertisement with logo and contact details.

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BJP to contest nine seats in UP by-elections, efforts underway to placate Nishad Party

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

After deciding to field candidates in nine of the ten upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is now working to resolve tensions with its ally, the Nishad Party, which has staked a claim to two seats. The BJP has allocated one seat to the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), but the Nishad Party remains unsatisfied with the BJP's current proposal, leading to internal friction within the ruling alliance.

In an effort to resolve the issue, BJP state president Bhopendra Chaudhary, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, have been tasked with negotiating with Nishad Party President Sanjay Nishad. The dispute revolves around the Katheri and Majhawan constituencies, which Sanjay

Nishad claims should be allocated to his party, as they were in the 2022 assembly elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed the three BJP leaders to engage in discussions with Sanjay Nishad in hopes of reaching a compromise. However, sources suggest that the BJP is inclined to offer only one seat to the Nishad Party, and that too with the condition that the candidate would contest under the BJP symbol. This proposal has reportedly not been well-received by Sanjay Nishad, who has yet to agree to the offer.

The BJP finalized its strategy for the by-elections in a high-level meeting held in Delhi on Sunday. The party has decided to contest nine of the ten assembly seats, with the Meerapur seat being reserved for its ally, the RLD. Meerapur, historically an RLD stronghold, has been given back to the party for the by-elections, further compli-



Sanjay Nishad (right) is seen with other party leaders during a meeting. An official announcement of BJP's candidates is expected soon, and the dates for the by-elections are likely to be declared within a few days. Sources indicate that the central leadership, after thorough discussions with the BJP Core Committee, finalized the list of candidates based on a panel

submitted earlier. Sanjay Nishad, however, remains firm in his demand for both the Katheri and Majhawan seats. He has underscored the importance of "Alliance Dharma" (alliance principles), questioning why the Nishad Party's claims have not been honored, especially since these constituencies were allocated to his party in the 2022 elections. Nishad drew a parallel to the Meerapur seat being reserved for the RLD, emphasizing that similar consideration should be extended to his party. "Alliance Dharma should be followed," Nishad remarked. He argued that just as Meerapur was allocated to the RLD due to their past victory, the Katheri and Majhawan seats should likewise be given to the Nishad Party, maintaining consistency with previous arrangements. Upcoming by-elections and political implications

The upcoming by-elections will be held in the constituencies of Karhal, Milkpur, Katheri, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan, and Sisama. Out of these ten seats, five are currently held by the Samajwadi Party (SP), while the RLD and Nishad Party each hold one seat. The remaining three seats are under the control of the BJP. For the BJP, these by-elections are seen as a significant opportunity to consolidate its position in the state ahead of the general elections in 2024. At the same time, it faces challenges in maintaining its alliance dynamics, particularly with the Nishad Party. Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party, led by Akhilesh Yadav, has forged an alliance with the Congress for the by-elections. The SP plans to field candidates in six seats, with speculation suggesting that it may allocate two seats to Congress as part of

the agreement. This alliance is viewed as a critical counterbalance to the BJP-led coalition. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has also finalized its list of candidates for most constituencies, adding another layer of complexity to the political landscape. With multiple parties vying for control of key constituencies, the by-elections are shaping up to be a litmus test for the broader political landscape in Uttar Pradesh. The by-elections are being closely watched as they are expected to set the tone for upcoming political battles in the state. For the BJP, the challenge lies not only in securing the maximum number of seats but also in managing alliance partners like the Nishad Party. For the SP-Congress alliance, the by-elections represent an opportunity to regain lost ground and present a united front against the ruling coalition.

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J and K BJP to elect LoP soon

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After failing to realize its dream of anointing a Dogra Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janta Party has launched a preliminary exercise to zero in on the name of the leader of the opposition who can live up to the expectations of the masses in the region and can also give tough time to the ruling benches. As of now, several names are doing the rounds but the final selection is awaited.

The BJP Parliamentary Board has appointed Union Minister, Prahlad Joshi and BJP national general secretary, Incharge J and K and Ladakh UTs, Tarun Chugh as Central Observers for Jammu and Kashmir to monitor the appointment of the Leader of the Legislature Party. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which swept the polls in the Jammu plains winning 29 seats, is second in terms of seats won as well as the number of first-time MLAs. The saffron party has 15 first-



Prahlad Joshi (left) and Tarun Chugh (right) are seen with other party leaders during a meeting. One name in the race for

time MLAs, accounting for more than half of its tally. J&K unit BJP chief Ravinder Raina felicitated the newly-elected party MLAs here on Monday and said the leader of the opposition will soon be selected after holding meetings with party leaders under the command of central observers. One name in the race for

Leader of Opposition is that of State General Secretary Sunil Kumar Sharma, who won from Padar Nagseni. He has become MLA for the second consecutive time. He was also a minister in the previous government after winning the Kishtwar seat. He enjoys the confidence of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and worked close-

ly with him during the month-long campaigning in the region. Another name, Devendra Singh Rana, is also being considered as the leader of the opposition. Rana has become MLA from Nagrota for the second time. He is the younger brother of Union Minister and MP from Udhampur, Dr. Jitendra Singh. He joined the BJP in October 2021. While remaining in the National Conference, he served as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's political advisor. He is very articulate and can give the ruling benches a tough time with support from the saffron party brigade. The name of Dr. Devendra Kumar Maniyal, who won from Ramgarh (SC) seat, is also being discussed for the post of the opposition leader. He won the 2014 assembly elections from Samba (SC) and was the Health Minister. Dr. Maniyal is currently holding the post of State General Secretary in the party. The party leadership is also discussing the name of Dr. Narendra Singh, the national secretary of BJP, for the post of the leader of the opposition. Narinder Singh became MLA for the first time in 2024 from RS Pura-Jammu South Assembly seat. He is also the face of PoK displaced people. He also has political experience at the national level.

Baba Siddique murder accused facing nine criminal cases: Cops

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Monday said Mohammad Yasin Akhtar, one of the suspects in the killing of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique in Mumbai, is facing nine heinous criminal cases, including for murder and attempt to murder. Akhtar (21) is a resident of Shankar village in Jalandhar's district, police said. A police official in Jalandhar said nine cases are registered against Akhtar alias Jessi alias Sikandar at different police stations. He is facing serious charges, such as murder, attempt to murder and dacoity, Nakodar Deputy Superintendent of Police Sukhpal Singh said. He added that Akhtar is facing two criminal cases in Haryana's Kaithal as well. Akhtar was arrested in a criminal case in June 2022. He had not visited his village after he



came out of jail in June 2024, police said. Akhtar is suspected to have links with gangster Vikram Brar. His father Mohammad Jamil Akhtar, who was engaged in the work of laying marble and tiles, and brother were not found in the village and their house was found locked. Akhtar's mother and sister have passed away. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique

(66) was waylaid by three persons at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area, just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office, and shot at on Saturday night. The Mumbai Police has arrested two of the alleged assailants -- Haryana resident Gurmail Bajjit Singh and Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap -- while the third one is on the run.

Maha Yuti Government waives toll tax on light vehicles at five Mumbai entry points

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major sop doled out to people living in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the BJP-led MahaYuti government on Monday announced complete waiver of toll tax for light motor vehicles (LMVs) at all the five Mumbai Entry Points (MEPs) with effect from Tuesday. The decision to waive the toll tax completely at the Dahisar, Mulund, Thane, Airoli and Vashi MEPs, was taken on Monday at a special State Cabinet meeting presided over by chief minister Eknath Shinde and attended by deputy chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar and other ministers.



vehicle users at five entry points of Mumbai. Inordinate delays at toll booths and poor condition of roads even after paying toll were some of the important grievances of these regular users. There would not be any financial burden on the vehicle users. "Given that all vehicle owners have paid one time Motor Vehicle Tax, there is no declaration of Total capital Outlay prior to issuance of toll notification and given the location of toll booths, the toll collection at five entry points was mala fide, arbitrary, capricious, illegal and violative of article 14 read with article 19(1)d of the Constitution of India especially as regards vehicle owners in Thane; and ultra vires of Sec. 20 of Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Tax Act and articles 265 of the Constitution of India," Wategaonkar said. Welcoming the decision, MNS chief Raj Thackeray said: "We demanded that all roads should be toll-free. We were criticized for vandalizing the toll plazas, but extreme steps were necessary to draw the government's attention. At least, now the Mumbaiers shall be free of paying tolls and we are happy that our agitations were successful."

Announcing his government's decision to waive the toll tax on LMVs, chief minister Eknath Shinde said: "Our government's decision is historic and people-friendly. This move will save commuters' time, and reduce pollution and traffic." Given that people living in MMR -- who drive down to the country's commercial capital every day for their work -- have long been demanding the total waiver of toll tax, the decision has become a big relief to people using lighter vehicles like cars, jeeps, vans, and small trucks. Currently, the toll tax levied on motorists by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is Rs 45 per single trip. The ruling BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP celebrated the state government's decision to waive toll tax for LMVs by distributing sweets among the people. In a related development, RTI activist Pravin Wategaonkar -- who has long been crusading for discontinuation of the levy toll tax at five entry points of Mumbai and Bombay -- welcomed the decision and said: "The decision has become a big relief to the

... the Government said that they are taking steps towards resolving issues ... but there was no concrete proposal ... there was no show of intent ... nothing in writing was given to us ... only they said 'we are doing ... we are looking into it' ... the Health Secretary whose resignation the junior doctors have been asking for and who should have been present in the meeting was not present and we were told that he is absent ... this is the most insensitive Government that we have ever seen," the doctors emerging out of the meeting said. The meeting was held in the backdrop of the junior doctors' indefinite fast entering its tenth day on Monday with four doctors already having been shifted to hospital with their parameters falling drastically, sources said. "What illegality is there in the doctors' demands ... they are asking for justice for their lady colleague who was raped

Doctors' meet with Government fails as fast-into-death enters 10th day

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A crucial high-level meeting between the Bengal State administration led by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and a delegation of different doctors' organizations, including Indian Medical Association (IMA) failed to produce desired results "for want of any concrete initiative from the government's side," the representatives of the doctors associations said. The meeting was hosted to end the present gridlock emerging out of the indefinite fast resorted to by a group of junior doctors demanding justice for the Kolkata doctor rape and murder victim and resolution of many other issues including the alleged "mafia and syndicate raj" in medical institutions. "We came out hopeless as there was no positive intent shown by the Government," said the IMA representatives

and murdered on August 9 inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital ... They are asking for a foolproof system including centralized real system with real time monitoring, enhanced security network, end of mafia and syndicate raj, timely students' union elections so as to keep the corrupt authorities in check ... these can all be done The doctors are The IMA reportedly gave in writing to the Government about the existence of a "mafia



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Medical Council which is the breeding ground of medical mafias" generating hundreds of crores, sources said. The doctors also demanded the "publication of a proforma from the Government wherein a mass resignation could be made legally tenable," the IMA representatives said adding, the State Government had earlier said that it was not taking the matter of mass resignation of the doctors seriously as there was no procedure for such mass resignations as "resignations are individual affairs." Referring to the meeting the Chief Secretary however said that the Government would deliberate over things at appropriate level. "In the meeting we told the doctors that we have noted their issues and concerns and would intimate them at appropriate time .. we also told them that the main concern is the deteriorating health of the junior doctors ...

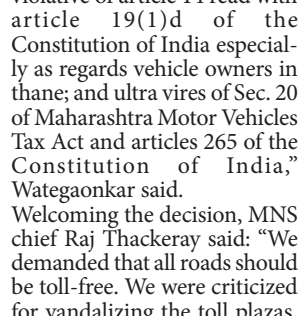
we requested them to see to it that the fast should end immediately because the Government is concerned about the doctors," the Chief Secretary said. Meanwhile a delegation of the junior doctors backed by members of civil society on Monday marched to Raj Bhavan to see Governor C.V. Ananda Bose so as to draw his attention towards the alleged "inadequacy of the charge sheet submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation" in the RGKM-CH case. "We have seen that only one person has been named in the charge sheet whereas several other persons have been arrested on charges of tampering of evidence ... we want to know why their names were left out from the charge sheet," doctors asked. An eleven-member delegation was deliberating with the Governor when reports last came in.

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Uddhav undergoes angioplasty procedure at Lilavati hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

Less than a week after he was diagnosed with three blockages in his coronary arteries, Shiv Sena's executive president Uddhav Thackeray underwent an angioplasty at the Lilavati Hospital here on Friday. Four days after they conducted an angiography on him, a team of cardiologists, led by Dr Samuel Mathew, carried out an angioplasty on Uddhav and removed three major blockages in his arteries. The medical procedure lasted for nearly two hours. "The procedure was successful. He is doing well. His heart is functioning normally. We will be discharging him on Sunday," Dr Mathew told media persons. Replying to a question, Dr Mathew said: "He is fully conscious. Immediately after the procedure, he spoke to



Balasaheb (on phone)". Apart from Uddhav's wife Rashmi and son Aditya, his estranged cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, wife Sharmila and mother Kunda were also present at the hospital when the Sena leader underwent angioplasty. Raj's presence at the hospital should be seen in the light of the fact that despite his strained relations with his cousin for six and a half years, he had suspended his visit to Aligbau midway and rushed

to Lilavati Hospital on the afternoon of July 16, on hearing that Uddhav was undergoing angiography that afternoon. Later that evening, Raj had sprung another surprise by driving Uddhav back to his Bandra residence, after the latter was discharged from the hospital. Raj's touching gesture had unleashed speculation about the possibility of reconciliation between the two estranged Thackeray cousins. The angiography had revealed that Uddhav had three major blockages in his coronary arteries. Though the doctors had advised Uddhav to undergo by-pass surgery, the Sena leader opted for angioplasty as an alternative to remove the artery blockages. Apart from making anxious enquiries about his cousin's health since then, Raj visited "Matoshri" on Thursday night and met Uddhav, ahead of his angioplasty.



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Implemented robust action plan this festive season: Railways

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA/ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The Northern Railway Zone on Monday said it has implemented a robust action plan this festive season to provide passengers with a comfortable journey and accommodate the surge in demand with 2,950 special trains. The zone said it has achieved about 172 per cent jump in the number of festival-special trains running from October 1 to 30, compared to last year. Speaking about the arrangements, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer, Northern Railway, said, "Out of 2,950 trains, around 83 per cent festival specials will cater to the passengers of east-bound states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Assam, among others." "The towns or cities such as Barauni, Samastipur, Saharsa, Varanasi, Ayodhya,

ing period a total number of 1,082 specials were arranged by Northern Railway, hence this year, there will be an increase of approximately 172 per cent in comparison to last year," it added in the release issued today. According to Upadhyay, the Northern Railway would also run unreserved special trains to clear the extra rush in case of need on a real-time basis. "A total of 52 extra coaches are being added to various trains, making 2,740 trips and accommodating over 2.06 lakh passengers during the festive period," the railway press release said. According to Upadhyay, other amenities taken by Northern Railway amid the festive rush include increased deployment of ticket checking staff and RPF personnel to manage crowds on foot-over bridges, entry and exit points, platforms, booking offices, and other areas.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Speeding up 'GatiShakti'

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

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



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

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

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

PICTALK



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

Ratan Naval Tata: A gem of a person



BHOPINDER SINGH

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RSS CALLS FOR HINDU UNITY

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

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

Vinod Johri | Delhi

TRAIN CRASH SPARKS PANIC

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

Md Siraj appointed as DSP



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

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

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

M Pradyu | Kannur

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

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

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

BABA SIDDIQUE ASSASSINATED

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

MR Jayanthi | Trichy

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Navigating the complex path of integrity

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

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



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

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



SANJAY CHANDRA

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

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



FIRST COLUMN

THE CHANGING FACE OF RAM LEELA

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



VINOD TAKIAWALA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Why RBI should not look at food inflation



UTTAM GUPTA

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



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

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

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

for unrestrained lending at low interest rates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



CHAITANYA K PRASAD

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

3 share Nobel prize in economics

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel memorial prize in economics was awarded Monday to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for research that explains why societies with poor rule of law and exploitative institutions do not generate sustainable growth. The three economists "have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity," the Nobel committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said at the announcement in Stockholm. Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Robinson conducts his research at the University of Chicago. "Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges. The laureates have demonstrated the impor-

portance of societal institutions for achieving this," Jakob Svensson, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said. He said their research has provided "a much deeper understanding of the root causes of why countries fail or succeed." Reached by the academy in Athens, Greece, where he is due to speak at a conference, the Turkish-born Acemoglu, 57, said he was surprised and shocked by the award. "You never expect something like this," he said. Acemoglu said the research honoured by the prize underscores the value of democratic institutions. "I think broadly speaking the work that we have done favours democracy," he said in a telephone call with the Nobel committee and reporters in Stockholm. But he added that "democracy is not

a panacea. Introducing democracy is very hard. When you introduce elections, that sometimes creates conflict." Asked about how economic growth in countries like China fits into the theories, Acemoglu said that "my perspective is generally that these authoritarian regimes, for a variety of reasons, are going to have a harder time ... in achieving ... long-term sustainable innovation outcomes." Acemoglu and Robinson wrote the 2012 bestseller "Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty," which argued that man-made problems were responsible for keeping countries poor. In their work, the winners looked, for instance, at the city of Nogales, which straddles the US-Mexico border. Despite sharing the same geography, climate, many of the same ancestors and a common culture, life is very dif-

ferent on either side of the border. In Nogales, Arizona, to the north, residents are relatively well-off and live long lives; most children graduate from high school. To the south, in Mexico's Nogales, Sonora, "residents here are in general considerably poorer. ... Organised crime makes starting and running companies risky. Corrupt politicians are difficult to remove, even if the chances of this have improved since Mexico democratised, just over 20 years ago," the Nobel committee wrote. The difference, the economists found, is a US system that protects property rights and gives citizens a say in their government. Acemoglu expressed worry Monday that democratic institutions in the United States and Europe were losing support from the population. "Democracies particularly underper-

form when the population thinks they underdeliver," he said. "This is a time when democracies are going through a rough patch. ... It is, in some sense, quite crucial that they reclaim the high ground of better governance." The economics prize is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The central bank established it in 1968 as a memorial to Nobel, the 19th-century Swedish businessman and chemist who invented dynamite and established the five Nobel Prizes. Though Nobel purists stress that the economics prize is technically not a Nobel Prize, it is always presented together with the others on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896. Nobel honours were announced last week in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace.

Armed man held at checkpoint near Trump's rally in Southern California

AP ■ LOS ANGELES



A Nevada man with a shotgun, loaded handgun, ammunition and several fake passports in his vehicle was arrested at a security checkpoint outside Donald Trump's rally Saturday night in the Southern California desert, authorities said. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bail. The suspect, a 49-year-old resident of Las Vegas, was driving an unregistered black SUV with a "homemade" license plate that was stopped by deputies assigned to the rally in Coachella, east of Los Angeles, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said at a news conference Sunday afternoon. The driver claimed to be a journalist but it was unclear if he had the proper credentials. Deputies noticed the interior of the vehicle was "in disarray" and a search uncovered the weapons and ammo, along with multiple passports and driver licenses with different names, Bianco said. The man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a loaded firearm and possession of a high-capacity magazine, the department said in a statement. "This incident did not impact the safety of former President Trump or attendees of the event," the Saturday statement said. Trump had not yet arrived at the rally at the time of the arrest, the sheriff said Sunday. The suspect is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 2, 2025, according to online records. Bianco declined to speculate about the suspect's motives or frame of mind. "We know we prevented something bad from happening, and it was irrelevant what that bad was going to be," Bianco said. The man made it past an outer security boundary and

was stopped at an inner perimeter patrolled by the sheriff's department, Bianco said. Another security checkpoint closer to the rally site was operated by the Secret Service. "The US Secret Service assesses that the incident did not impact protective operations and former President Trump was not in any danger," the US Attorney's Office said in a statement Sunday. "While no federal arrest has been made at this time, the investigation is ongoing." Media members, as well as VIP ticket holders, were routed through a number of intersections manned by state and local law enforcement officers before arriving at a large, grassy area where drivers were asked to open hoods and trunks, and each vehicle was searched by a K-9 officer. Other general ticket holders were directed to a site roughly 3 miles away from the rally, where they were boarded onto buses and driven to the site. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the arrest. Security is very tight at Trump rallies following two recent assassination attempts. Last month, a man was indicted on an attempted assassination charge after authorities said he stalked out the former president for 12 hours and wrote of his desire to kill him. The Florida arrest came two months after Trump was shot and wounded in the ear in an assassination attempt during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

EU condemns attacks on peacekeepers in Lebanon

AP ■ BEIRUT

The European Union on Monday condemned attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon and rejected Israeli allegations that the UN was keeping them there to obstruct military operations against Hezbollah. Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions since Israel began a ground campaign against the Hezbollah militant group, with most blamed on Israeli forces. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that "their work is very important. It's completely unacceptable attacking United Nations troops." Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions, with most blamed on Israeli forces. Speaking in Luxembourg before chairing talks between EU foreign ministers, Borrell underlined that the UN Security Council decides whether UNIFIL should be moved, "so stop blaming Secretary Guterres." Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, whose country is one of Europe's strongest backers of Israel, said the attacks are "simply unacceptable" and that UNIFIL will not be leaving. "No, they will not withdraw. Yes, they will continue to fulfil the mandate. And yes, we demand on each and every party to respect this mandate and respect the security and safety of our blue helmets," he told reporters.

fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90 per cent of its population of 2.3 million people. It's been more than a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead. The European Union condemned attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon and rejected allegations that UN Secretary-General António Guterres is responsible for obstructing the Israeli army. Sixteen EU countries are contributing to the UNIFIL peacekeeping force. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that "their work is very

important. It's completely unacceptable attacking United Nations troops." Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions, with most blamed on Israeli forces. Speaking in Luxembourg before chairing talks between EU foreign ministers, Borrell underlined that the UN Security Council decides whether UNIFIL should be moved, "so stop blaming Secretary Guterres." Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, whose country is one of Europe's strongest backers of Israel, said the attacks are "simply unacceptable" and that UNIFIL will not be leaving. "No, they will not withdraw. Yes, they will continue to fulfil the mandate. And yes, we demand on each and every party to respect this mandate and respect the security and safety of our blue helmets," he told reporters.

4 killed in Hezbollah drone attack on Israeli army base

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA ATRIP)

A Hezbollah drone attack on an army base in central Israel killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others Sunday, the military said, in the deadliest strike by the militant group since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks ago. The Lebanon-based Hezbollah called the attack near Binyamina city retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that killed 22 people. It later said it targeted Israel's elite Golani brigade, launching dozens of missiles to occupy Israeli air defense systems during the assault by "squadrons" of drones. Israel's national rescue service said the attack wounded 61. With Israel's advanced air defense systems, it's rare for so many people to be hurt by drones or missiles. Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily in the year since

the war in Gaza began, and fighting has escalated. Inside Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 20 people including children at a school Sunday night, according to two local hospitals. The school in Nuseirat was sheltering some of the many Palestinians displaced by the war. Meanwhile, explosions hit early Monday outside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. People were carried into the hospital. Hezbollah's deadly strike in Israel came the same day that the United States announced it would send a new air-defense system to Israel to help bolster protection against missiles, along with troops needed to operate it. An Israeli army spokesperson declined to provide a timeline. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — both Iran-backed militant groups — and is expected to strike Iran in retaliation for a missile

attack earlier this month. Iran has said it will respond to any Israeli attack. **Bodies rot in the streets in northern Gaza:** Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets in Gaza almost daily. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas and other armed groups because they operate in densely populated areas. In northern Gaza, Israeli air and ground forces have been attacking Jabaliya, where the military says militants have regrouped. Over the past year, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to the built-up refugee camp, which dates to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, and other areas. Israel has ordered the full evacuation of northern Gaza, including Gaza City. An estimated 400,000 people remain in the north after a mass evacuation ordered in the war's opening weeks.

Seoul says North Korea prepares to destroy inter-Korean roads

AP ■ SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

South Korea said Monday it has detected signs that North Korea is preparing to destroy the northern parts of inter-Korean roads no longer in use, as the rivals are embroiled in soaring tensions over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its territory. Destroying the roads would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's push to cut off ties with South Korea and formally cement it as his country's principal enemy. South Korea's military said Monday that it was observing various activities in North Korea that appeared to be preparations for demolishing the roads, such as installing screens. "They have installed screens on the road and are working behind those screens, preparing to blow up the roads," Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a briefing. He said the demolitions could be carried out as early as Monday.

Lee said that the South Korean military believes that the North could also attempt to launch a space rocket, which is viewed by the UN as a banned test of long-range missile technology. Lee said North Korea may conduct unspecified "small provocations" to ramp up pressure on Seoul. It's not clear how much parts of the roads North Korea would destroy. The development comes as North Korea has recently accused South Korea of launching drones to drop propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang three times this month and threatened to respond with force if it happened again. In a statement Sunday, the North's Defense Ministry said that the military had issued a preliminary operation order to artillery and other army units near the border with South Korea to "get fully ready to open fire." The spokesperson said that the entire South Korean territory "might turn into piles of ashes" following the North's powerful

attack. North Korea often releases war-like rhetoric when animosities with its rivals increase. Experts say it's highly unlikely for North Korea to launch full-scale, pre-emptive attacks as it militarily is outmatched by the combined US and South Korean forces. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned it would sternly punish North Korea if the safety of its citizens is threatened. Last week, North Korea said it will permanently block its border with South Korea and build front-line defense structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and US forces. South Korean officials said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers, planting mines and reinforcing roads on its side of the border since earlier this year in a likely attempt to boost its front-line security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea.

China holds military exercises drills around Taiwan to 'warn against separatists'

AP ■ TAIPEI

China held large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands Monday, deploying an aircraft carrier along with warplanes, in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait. China's Defence Ministry said the drills were a response to the Taiwanese president's refusal to concede to Beijing's demands that self-ruled Taiwan acknowledge itself as a part of the People's Republic of China under the rule of the Communist Party. The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, during which Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te said in a speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment." "Our military will definitely deal with the threat from

China appropriately" said Joseph Wu, secretary-general of Taiwan's security council at a forum in Taipei. "Threatening other countries with force violates the basic spirit of the United Nations Charter to resolve disputes through peaceful means." The Presidential Office of Taiwan called on China to "cease military provocations that undermine regional peace and stability and stop threatening Taiwan's democracy and freedom." A map aired on China's state broadcaster CCTV showed six large blocks encircling Taiwan indicating where the military drills are being held, along with circles drawn around Taiwan's outlying islands. China's Defense Ministry has not said how long the drills will last. China deployed its Liaoning aircraft carrier for the drills, and CCTV showed a J-15 fighter jet taking off from the decks of the carrier, though

the exact location of the carrier is unclear. The PLA's Eastern Theater Command spokesperson Navy Senior Captain Li Xi said the navy, army air force, missile corps were all mobilized for the drills, as it was an integrated operation. "This is a major warning to those who back Taiwan independence and a signifier of our determination to safeguard our national sovereignty," Li said in a statement on the service's public media channel. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it had deployed its warships to designated spots in the ocean where they'd carry out surveillance and stand at ready. It also deployed its mobile missile and radar groups on land to track the vessels at sea. As of Monday morning, they had tracked 25 Chinese warplanes and seven warships and four Chinese government ships, though it did not specify what types of ships they were.

China held similar large-scale exercises after Lai was inaugurated in May. Lai continues the eight-year rule of the Democratic Progressive Party that rejects China's demand that it recognize Taiwan as a part of China. Also on Monday, China's Taiwan Affairs Office announced it was sanctioning two Taiwanese individuals, Puma Shen and Robert Tsao, for their work in promoting Taiwan independence. Shen is the co-founder of the Kuma Academy, a nonprofit that trains civilians on wartime readiness. Tsao donated \$32.8 million to fund the academy's training courses. Shen and Tsao are forbidden to travel to China, including Hong Kong. China also held massive military exercises around Taiwan and simulated a blockade in 2022, after a visit to the island by Nancy Pelosi, who was then speaker of the US House. China routinely states that Taiwan independence is a

"dead end" and that annexation by Beijing is a historical inevitability. China's military has increased its encircling of Taiwan's skies and waters in the past few years, holding joint drills with its warships and fighter jets on a near-daily basis near the island. On the streets of Taipei, the capital, residents were undeterred. "I don't worry, I don't panic either, it doesn't have any impact to me," Chang Chia-ru said. Another Taipei resident, Jeff Huang, said: "Taiwan is very stable now, and I am used to China's military exercises. I have been threatened by this kind of threats since I was a child, and I am used to it." Taiwan was a Japanese colony before being unified with China at the end of World War II. It split away in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the island as Mao Zedong's Communists defeated them in a civil war and took power.

Chinese premier arrives in Pak for SCO meet

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Monday arrived for a four-day visit during which he will attend the SCO summit and hold bilateral meetings with his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and discuss issues of mutual interests, including the strategic CPEC. This is the first visit by any Chinese premier to Pakistan in 11 years and comes on the back of recent attacks on Chinese nationals working on infrastructure projects in Pakistan. Prime Minister Sharif received Li along with cabinet ministers at the Nur Khan airbase at Rawalpindi near here. Li and other foreign leaders will attend the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sharif later took to social media to welcome visiting Chinese premier by saying he was delight-

ed to welcome Li to Islamabad. "Looking forward to a historic & productive visit by my brother that will further strengthen and deepen our friendship," he said in a message on X. "We will review progress on existing initiatives, especially CPEC and also explore new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation. Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is a cornerstone of regional stability & prosperity." Earlier there were speculations about Li's participation in the wake of the killing of two Chinese workers in a suicide attack in Karachi and the ongoing agitation by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for the release of its jailed leader and former premier Imran Khan. State-run the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported ahead of Li's visit that he would be meeting Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the SCO summit during his October 14 to 17 visit.

Sharif and Li will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations, including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the USD 60 billion CPEC. The two sides will also discuss regional and global developments. Premier Li will also call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders. Li is accompanied by ministers and senior officials, including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency. Pakistan's Foreign Office termed the Chinese leader's visit as "an expression of the importance attached by Pakistan and China to their All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership." Earlier last week, Sharif assured the Chinese of personally overseeing the investigation into the

Karachi attack, for which the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility. Later, on Friday, China said it had dispatched an inter-agency working group to Pakistan to review the security of scores of Chinese personnel working on the CPEC projects. Elaborate security measures are in place as Pakistan on Monday was gearing up to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit starting Tuesday here in Islamabad. Foreign delegations have started to reach Pakistan to attend the mega international event being held under the shadow of increased terror attacks across the country and the continued protests by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party threatening to disrupt the law and order situation. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and prime ministers of China and Russia among others are attending the two-day 23rd SCO Council of Heads of

Government (CHG) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) here to discuss the ongoing cooperation in economy, trade and environment. The CHG meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organisation. The leaders will adopt important organisational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organisation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his capacity as the current Chair of the CHG, will preside over the upcoming CHG meeting. According to the Foreign Office, the SCO member States will be represented by the Prime Ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran apart from Jaishankar.



China's Premier Li Qiang (left) walks Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (second left) upon his arrival at an airbase in Rawalpindi, Pakistan on Monday. AP/PTI

UK sanctions Iranian military leaders, space agency over israel attack

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Monday announced a new round of sanctions targeting senior Iranian military figures and organisations for their alleged role in attempting to destabilise West Asia.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said that the latest package comes in response to Iran's attack against Israel on October 1 and targets senior figures who facilitate such behaviour in the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, Iran's Air Force and the IRGC Intelligence Organisation.

The sanctions will also designate Farzanegan Propulsion Systems Design Bureau (FPSDB), which designs and manufactures parts that can be used in cruise missiles, as well

as the Iranian Space Agency, which develops technologies that have applications in ballistic missile development.

"Despite repeated warnings, the dangerous actions of Iran and its proxies are driving further escalation in the Middle East," said Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

"Following its ballistic missile attack on Israel, we are holding Iran to account and exposing those who facilitated these acts. Alongside allies and partners, we will continue to take necessary measures to challenge Iran's unacceptable threats and press for de-escalation across the region," he said.

Lammy also discussed Iran's actions with partners at the European Union (EU) Foreign Affairs Council, where he pushed for de-escalation across

the region during talks on Monday.

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

Propulsion Systems Design Bureau (FPSDB).

The FCDO said the UK already has over 400 sanctions imposed on Iran, including designations against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in its entirety and many of those responsible for the recent attack on Israel.

Monday's announcement follows warnings from the UK and international partners calling on Iran to cease its dangerous and escalatory activity across the Middle East. It also follows the G7 joint statement condemning Iran's missile attack on Israel and outlined the necessary steps being taken in response.

The FCDO added: "The UK will continue to work with international partners to hold Iran to account for its escalatory behaviour in the Middle East and its attempts to undermine global security.

"The UK is clear that a wider regional conflict must be avoided at all costs and is committed to working with partners to secure a ceasefire on all sides."

Polish gov't decision to suspend asylum law triggers concern

AP ■ WARSAW

Human rights and civil society groups voiced concerns Monday after Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced a plan to temporarily suspend the right to asylum because of its alleged abuse by eastern neighbours Belarus and Russia.

Poland has struggled since 2021 with migration pressures on its border with Belarus — which is also part of the European Union's external border.

Successive Polish governments have accused Belarus and Russia of organising the mass transfer of migrants from the Middle East and Africa to the border to destabilise the West. They view it as part of a hybrid war that they accuse Moscow of waging against the West as it continues its nearly three-year full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Some migrants have applied for asylum in Poland, but before the requests are processed, they travel across the EU's border-free travel zone to reach Germany or other countries in

Western Europe. Germany, where security fears are rising after a spate of extremist attacks, has recently responded by expanding border controls at all of its borders to fight irregular migration.

Tusk called Germany's move "unacceptable".

Tusk announced his plan to temporarily suspend the right for migrants to seek asylum at a convention of his Civic Coalition on Saturday. It will be part of a strategy that will be presented to a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

In an open letter to Tusk published on Monday, dozens of non-governmental organisations urged him to respect the right to asylum guaranteed by international conventions which Poland signed, including the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and Poland's own constitution.

The groups said that fundamental rights and freedoms must be respected.

"It is thanks to them that thou-

sands of Polish women and men found shelter abroad in the difficult times of communist totalitarianism, and we have become one of the greatest beneficiaries of these rights," the letter said. "We live in difficult and uncertain times of war conflicts breaking out all over the world, and we ourselves exist on the outskirts of war, but this doesn't exempt us from humanity and from observing the law."

It was signed by Amnesty International and 45 other organisations that represent a range of humanitarian, legal and civic causes.

Tusk defended his decision to temporarily suspend asylum rights. He argued that Finland also suspended accepting asylum applications after facing migration pressure on its border with Russia.

"The right to asylum is used instrumentally in this war and has nothing to do with human rights. Border control and the territorial security of Poland is and will be our priority. Our decisions and actions will be

absolutely subordinate to this," Tusk said on X on Sunday.

A spokesperson for the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, acknowledged the challenge posed by Belarus, but also criticised Tusk's approach.

"It is important and imperative that the union is protecting the external borders, and in particular from Russia and Belarus, both countries that have put in the past three years, a lot of pressure on the external borders," European Commission spokesperson Anitta Hipper said during a briefing Monday.

"This is something that is undermining the security of the EU member states and of the union as a whole."

But she also underlined that EU member countries are legally obliged to allow people to apply for international protection. Hipper noted that the European Commission intends to "work on ensuring that the member states have the necessary tools to respond to these types of hybrid attacks."

Russia captures southern Ukraine village in push before winters

AP ■ KYIV

Russia said Monday it has captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 1,000-kilometre front line, including in eastern areas which currently are the main focus of Moscow's military effort before winter arrives.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago it struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia's Krasnodar region where some 400 drones reportedly were being kept.

In Moscow, the Defence Ministry said Russian troops took Levadne in the Zaporizhzhia region. Levadne was seized by the Russians

early during the war but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023.

Ukraine's troops are straining to hold back Russia's military might, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, and don't have the manpower or weaponry to launch their own offensive.

Though Russia's gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is slowly adding up as the Ukrainians are pushed backward.

Ukraine says it needs more Western help to have a chance of holding back Russia's invasion. Russia illegally annexed four regions of Ukraine, including Zaporizhzhia, in September 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from all four regions as the main condition for a prospective peace deal, a

demand Ukraine and the West have rejected.

The Ukrainian General Staff last week reported a direct hit on the Shahed drone warehouse inside Russia.

"The destruction of the Shahed drone storage base will significantly reduce the ability of Russian occupiers to terrorise peaceful residents of Ukrainian cities and villages," it said at the time.

Ukrainian officials are keen to show the West they are not giving up the fight against their much bigger neighbour. An incursion into Russia's Kursk border region has put Ukrainian troops on Russian soil for more than two months. Ukraine has also deployed sophisticated new long-range drones to strike targets inside Russia, including airfields, oil refineries and ammunition depots.

3 hurt in Dhaka clashes

PTI ■ DHAKA

At least three people were injured in a clash that broke out between police and Hindu community going to immerse idols following the conclusion of Durga Puja in an Old Dhaka locality, a media report said on Monday.

The three people, including a police officer, were injured when miscreants threw bricks from the rooftop of Nur Super Market in Patuatuli area of Old Dhaka on the procession heading to immerse idols in the Buriganga river late Sunday night, The Daily Star newspaper said quoting an eyewitness.

Following the attack, members of the Hindu community tried

to enter the market but faced resistance from the police. Kotwali police station Officer-in-Charge Md Enamul Hasan told the newspaper, "The locals attempted to enter the market. For the sake of the market's security, we resisted them from entering, which eventually led to the clash".

The officer further said that unable to control the situation, he informed the army and they arrived and dispersed the crowd. "The situation is now largely under control," he added.

entering, which eventually led to the clash".

The officer further said that unable to control the situation, he informed the army and they arrived and dispersed the crowd. "The situation is now largely under control," he added.

Rains claim 3 lives in Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Three people have lost their lives and over 1,25,000 marooned after Sri Lanka witnessed extreme weather conditions in 12 districts prompting authorities to close all schools in the capital region on Monday after heavy-rain triggered rains.

President Anura Dissanayake has directed allocation of an additional Rs 50 million to provide relief to the affected people even as Sri Lankan Navy and army troops have been deployed for flood relief and rescue work, including to provide food and other essentials to the affected people.

The island nation has been pummeled with heavy rainfall since October 8, however, some districts received rainfall over 100 mm over last two days along with high winds leading to flash floods and inundation in several areas.

Forecast issued at 12 noon on Monday warned of further rainfall of over 100 mm to lash many areas across the nation over next 24 hours.

As on Monday morning, over 32,000 families have been affected, and over 1,25,000 marooned, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said, adding, thousands have been evacuated and placed in over 80 temporary shelters.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the owner of Plot bearing No. 70, AREA MEASURING 59 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 23262, SITUATED AT NETAJI PARK, AREA MAJUJA LONI, PARAGANA LONI, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD U.P., by virtue of Regd. Gp. ATS and Will dated 08.04.2013, executed by Mrs. Fajjina, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/lien in the said property, or any other objection in respect of the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocates, S-2 Associates (Law Firm) Regd. Office: FF-1, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaidya Asha, Indraprastha (Ghaziabad) U.P., E-mail: sgaosattorneys@gmail.com, Ph: 91117154, 0114461390

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Dilsad Ali s/o Shaokat Ali R/o E-85, 11nd Floor, South Anarkali, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 also having shop Jahanni Boutique at S-23, G/F, South Anarkali, Krishna Nagar, Near Anarkali Gurudwara, Delhi-110051 has severed relations and debarred his son Nadeem from his movable immovable properties due to his misconduct. My client will not be responsible for his any acts.

GIRISH SHARMA (Advocate) G-73, Lawyers Chamber, Karkardooma Courts, Shaldara, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the owner of Plot bearing No. 103, area measuring 44 Sq. Yards, out of Khassra No. 5116, situated in the area of Village Hastal, Delhi State, Delhi. (Formerly known as Ashiana Village, Vikas Nagar, New Delhi-110015) (Formerly known as SHFL), having acquired the same vide Gift Deed dated 98/02/24. Doc. No. 2024/2511/21813 executed by her husband Behar Singh Rana alias Behar Singh Rana. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, deposit, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower, Sec-4, Vashihi, GZ., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Property Bearing Plot No. 18, MC No. 245, area measuring 203 sq. yds. ie 169.728 sq. mtrs, situated in Colony namely Laxmi Vihar, Malwada, Village Jatwada, Kadian, Pargana Loni, Tehsil, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P., Hereinafter referred to as "said property". Reference Public Notice appeared in Col 1, page 9, (English Edition) and Col 1, page 2 (Hindi Edition) of New Delhi Edition of Pioneer dated 11.10.24. published by us on behalf of our clientless, Mrs Renu Gop, regarding the aforesaid property. Eronously, the Notice period has been mentioned as 15 days. The Notice period may be read as 07 days from the date of publication of the Notice i.e., 11.07.24 instead of 15 days. Inconvenience is regretted.

SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE FOR M/S INTELECTIVE LAW OFFICES, A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of RAHUL SACHDEVA AND SEEMA SACHDEVA who is purchasing the Residential Unit No. M-905, on 9th Floor, having carpet area measuring 1275 Sq. Ft., in the residential Project known as "Ashiana Anmol", at village Dhulela Sector-33, Urban Estate Gurgaon, Haryana, from MS. POOJA who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Conveyance Deed dated 28.06.2024 which is duly registered vide Document No.3885, at Sub-Registrar-Sohna, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from IDBI Bank Limited. That original Acknowledgment Letter issued by Ms. Ashiana Housing Limited in favour of Mr. Manish Malhotra & Mrs. Jimsy Malhotra and respective Unit No. M-905, on 9th Floor, having carpet area measuring 1275 Sq. Ft., (enclosed in the Annexure) is being put in the public domain available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/lien/interest in the said property is free from all types of Encumbrances, lien etc. by way of sale, mortgage, etc. may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all types of Encumbrances, lien etc. by way of sale, mortgage, etc.

SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE) Office No. 107, First Floor, M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 Mob. +91-9811912277

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE) Office No. 107, First Floor, M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 Mob. +91-9811912277

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि, मेरा मुकदमा श्री महेश सिंह पुत्र स्वामी श्री मेवा राम, निवासी मकान नं. F-29, हरजन बस्ती, कोडली, पृथी दिल्ली-110096 में अपने पुत्र हिमांशु सिंह व उनकी पत्नी दीक्षा मय कच्छा (श्रीका) को उनके द्वारा व दुरुवहार के कारण अपनी सम्पूर्ण जन-अचन संपत्ति से केवलकर कर समस्त सम्बन्ध विच्छेद / खत्म कर दिए हैं। मेरे मुकदमा व उसके परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों का भविष्य में उनके कोई लेना-देना / सम्बन्ध नहीं है। यदि कोई व्यक्ति उनके साथ दिवस, व्यवहार रखता है तो अपनी जिम्मेदारी पर रहे। इसके लिए मेरे मुकदमा व उसके परिवार को कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।

अशोक चन्द मेहरा (एडवोकेट)

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client **SHRI NARENDER SINGH S/o-** Late Sh. Raghubir Singh, R/o - D2A/66 B, D Block, LIG Flats, Janak Puri, West Delhi, Delhi - 110058, has severed all his relations and have disowned his son Sh. Nitin Singh, from his all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be responsible for any act of his Son Sh. Nitin Singh, if anyone do so then he/she will do so at his/her own risk.

GAURAV SADANA Advocate Enrl No. D/6524/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of DEEPAK KUMAR who is owner of the Plot No. 67 and New Plot No. C-303, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Khassra No. 270, Situated at Village Brahampur @ Bhopura in the abadi of Harsh Vihar, Phase II, Pargana Loni, Tehsil District Ghaziabad, UP; purchased the same from Mr. Kamlesh, vide Sale Deed dated 10.06.2024 bearing Document No. 7486, Book No. 1, Volume No. 21806, on pages 128-152, dated 10.06.2024, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from SMFG India Credit Co. (Formerly known as Fullerton Credit Services Co. Ltd.), to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/lien/interest in the said property is free from all types of Encumbrances, lien etc. by way of sale, mortgage, etc. may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all types of Encumbrances, lien etc. by way of sale, mortgage, etc.

Lucem Legal LLP Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049 Contact # 011-40046316

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Rakesh Kumar is the GPA Holder of Property bearing no. 1359 X/13, area measuring 55 sq yards, i.e. 15' x 33'9" situated at Gobind Puri, Kalkaji, New Delhi. He is in possession through G.P. ATS & Will dated 16.02.1996 executed by Late Manohar Singh in favour of Mr. Rakesh Kumar in respect of Said Property.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforesaid Property to Mohd. Faizal Subsequentely, Mohd. Faizal is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7 days by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301. Landline: +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Vishal Dwivedi (Advocate) For Diwan and Company LLP H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 Mobile No. 9813939999

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

ACHIN SHARMA (ADVOCATE) Regd No. DS425/2021 G-2/210 & 210A, Tulsī Tower, Alkananda Main Shopping Complex, New Delhi-110 019

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Ms Safety Doors LLP/ Mohit Kapoor/ Sahil Goel/ Shamma Kapoor/ Shalini Kapoor/ 731605000042/ 731655000001	Address-1: House No./ Plot No. 7 (Third Floor With Roof Rights), Block-1, Pocket-11, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi- 110089, Address-2: House No./ Plot No. 6(Third Floor With Roof Rights), Block-1, Pocket-11, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi- 110089./ October 09, 2024	February 23,2024 Rs. 57,60,512.00/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: October 15, 2024
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Yogesh Kumar Sharma/ Parul Dhawan/ LBDEL00002089897/ LBDEL000005509429	Unit No. Carnation-02, Block- Carnation, Eldec Residence Greens, Plot No-12, Pocket-B, Sector-P1, Greater Noida./ October 9, 2024	November 15, 2021 Rs. 30,60,384/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sharad Mohan Chaudhey/ Mohini/ LBDEL00002069400/ LBDEL00002069401	Unit No. D-1102, 10th Floor, Situated at Neel Padm- 1, Plot No.4, Sector-04, Vaishali, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201001./ October 10, 2024	May 31, 2024 Rs. 20,07,572/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Vishwanath Purohit/ Bhawana Purohit/ LBDEL00002325463	Flat No. B7-G003, Ground Floor, Tower B 7, Gardena Aims Goyal, Gh-01, Sector 46 Noida, G.B Nagar, Noida./ October 9, 2024	January 18, 2022 Rs. 11,80,439/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Mukesh Jalathuria/ Geeta Rani/ LBDEL00001409962/ LBDEL00001435575	House No-105, Second Floor, Pkt-12, Sec-20, Rohini Delhi./ October 9, 2024	December 04, 2019 Rs. 25,09,031/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Vikash Kumar/ Yadav/ Santosh Kumar Sharma/ LBDEL00002381624	Dda Lig Flat No. 46, Floor 1st, Sector-G-2 Pocket-2, Block-D6, Narela, Delhi- 110040/ October 9, 2024	May 07, 2022 Rs. 12,12,629/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: October 15, 2024
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

A) Fresh- Tender Work:-

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

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

B) Re- Tender Work:-

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

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

Dy. General Manager (Civil) NOIDA

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

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

Dy. General Manager (Civil) NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स पुष्प स्टील्स एड्स माईनिंग (प्रा.) लिमिटेड, ग्राम - हाहावाड़ी, तहसील - दुर्गकोदल, जिला उत्तर बस्तर कोकरे स्थित फ

RBI calls for cheaper, faster remittances

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



time gross settlement (RTGS) to settle transactions in major trade currencies such as dollar, Euro and Pound can be explored through bilateral or multilateral arrangements. India and a few other economies have already commenced efforts to expand linkage of cross-border fast payment systems both in the bilateral and multilateral modes, he said. These include Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Instant Payment Systems (IPSS) of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and

Thailand) and India. Under bilateral arrangements, cross-border payment linkages have already been established by India with Singapore, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Nepal, etc. The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is another area which has the potential to facilitate efficient cross-border payments, he added. On November 1, 2022, the RBI started the wholesale pilot of CBDC for settlement in government bonds. A month later, the pilot of the retail CBDC kicked off. Going forward, he said, harmonisation of standards and interoperability would be important for CBDCs for cross-border payments and

to overcome the serious financial stability concerns associated with cryptocurrencies. "A key challenge could be the fact that countries may prefer to design their own systems as per their domestic considerations. I feel we can overcome this challenge by developing a plug-and-play system that allows replicability of India's experience while also maintaining the sovereignty of respective countries," he said. Talking about the risk of digitisation, the RBI Governor said, in the modern world with deep social media presence and vast access to online banking with money transfer

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

Banks have to remain alert in the social media space and also strengthen their liquidity buffers, he said. The RBI Governor also raised concerns over misuse of Artificial Intelligence in the banking space saying it could lead to more cyber attacks and data breaches.

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

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

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

Blockchain leaders discuss future opportunities

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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

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

The accelerated institutional



adoption of blockchain technology was a key focus area. John Fan, Venture Partner, Inception Capital, USA, Marcel Kasumovich, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Coinbase Asset Management, Oliver von Wolff, Founder & CEO, Helion Edge, UAE and According to Mansoor Madhavji, Partner, Blockchain Founders Fund, UAE, "the UAE is rapidly becoming a global hub for blockchain innovation, with key industry players and potential founders converging here, especially during major conferences."

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

illiquid assets such as real estate and commodities, making them accessible to a broader audience, he said. "Today, crypto is not just an asset class, it is a growing community. Geographically, we see regions like Southeast Asia, Middle East and Africa becoming key players in driving innovation and creating new crypto markets," Williams said. Meanwhile, Blowfish Studios, a fully-owned subsidiary of Animoca Brands, showcased their AAA open-world space adventure with integrated blockchain technology as well as a new cooperative game mode where players can team up to complete objectives online, offering attendees a hands-on experience of the future of blockchain gaming.

Consumer Affairs Minister criticises air purifier false claims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



awareness. It is important, and I strongly feel (this way)," the minister said stressing the collective responsibility in combating misleading product claims. He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring every Indian has access to safe, reliable, and high-quality products and services. These comments come as concerns grow about air quality in major Indian cities and expansion of the air purifier market.

Joshi also announced plans to make BIS standards mandatory for public procurement on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal. "BIS standards are partially implemented on GeM. We'll try to make it mandatory." The minister highlighted the government's focus on quality standards, noting that Cabinet proposals now include global standard notes.

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

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

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

Indian markets outperform China in last five years, says SEBI



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

"That's like 'some pe suhaga'. It's like the best of all worlds: low risk and very high return," Narayan said, underlining that there are side effects of this as well. Making it clear that it will not be the same going forward and investors should not assume it to be a one-way street, Narayan said such handsome returns can lead to complacency and pointed to a lot of youngsters opening up demat accounts to join the bandwagon.

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

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

On its part, the capital markets regulator is trying hard to ensure that fund-raising clearances are done early so that there is a steady stream of quality paper supply in the market. From a broader, longer-term perspective, Indian markets will only go north from here given the economic growth prospects in the country, Narayan said, issuing specific advice to investors.

Investors need to have the right intermediaries to capitalise on this opportunity presented by India, and not fall for the unregistered and fly-by-night 'influencers' who might be driven by vested interests, he said. Using the oft-repeated idiom of "all roads lead to Rome", Narayan remarked that Rome is not a traveller-friendly place and one may get scammed there as well. Therefore, it is important to seek advice from the right people for the investors, he said.

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

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



WPI inflation rises to 1.84 per cent in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Mobius Foundation calls for Green Curriculums

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

highlighted the critical role of the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework 2023 in furthering sustainable education efforts. The recognition of these policies as instrumental in embedding environmental consciousness into curriculums was one of the event's key takeaways. This year's ICSE focused on the emerging importance of "green education" and "green jobs" as essential components in driving future sustainability initiatives in India and beyond. By advocating for the integration of these elements into educational systems, the conference aimed to foster a collective movement towards a more sustainable world.

Windy India 2024 set to propel wind energy growth

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

technology trends, and investment strategies. India, a global leader in wind energy, ranks fourth in installations and aims to achieve 140 GW of wind power capacity by 2030. The Union Cabinet recently approved 1 GW of offshore wind projects in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, with an investment of Rs 7,453 crore, highlighting the nation's commitment to its Net Zero 2070 goals. Hosted by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd, Windy India 2024 is supported by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Niti Aayog.

BACL breaks ground on major Bengaluru Business Park

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL), a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), broke ground for its ambitious two million sq. Ft. Business Park, aimed at promoting the city as a global hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs). This comes as part of the Karnataka Government's new GCC policy (2024-2029), which aims to create 3.5 lakh jobs and contribute USD 50 billion to the economy, a BIAL statement said on Monday. Located within the larger Kempegowda International Airport's (BLR Airport) campus, Bengaluru Airport City is being developed as a mixed-use destination, featuring business parks, an education & health district, R&D hubs, and multiple entertainment and hospitality options, it said.



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

SW Energy arm, NTPC sign agreement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

JSW Renew Energy Thirteen Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of JSW Energy, has signed a 25-year power purchase agreement with state-owned NTPC. The tariff for the 700 MW solar project is Rs 2.59/kilowatt hour, JSW Energy said in an exchange filing. JSW Renew Energy Thirteen has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with NTPC for ISTS/STU-connected solar capacity of 700 MW, the company said. The project is expected to be commissioned by June 2026. The current solar pipeline capacity stands at 3.2 GW, with PPAs signed for 2.0 GW.

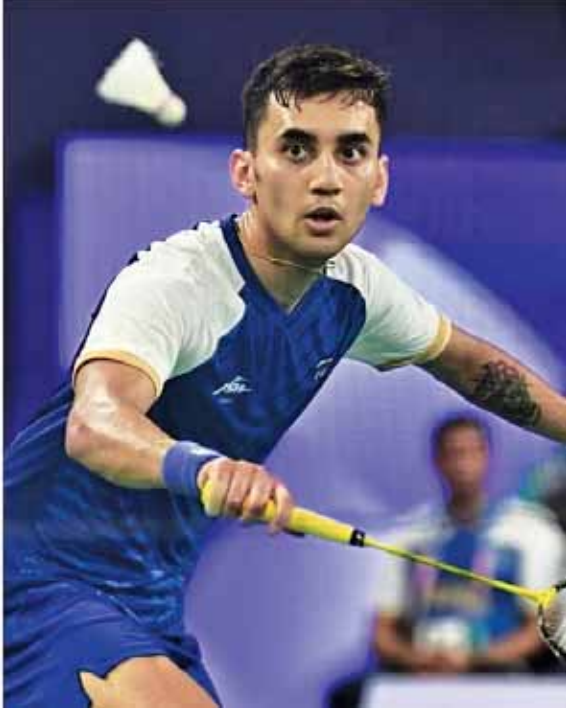
SINDHU, LAKSHYA AIM TO REGAIN FORM AT DENMARK OPEN

PTI ■ ODENSE (DENMARK)

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

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

Here, the 23-year-old from Almora will face China's Lu Guang Zu in his opening match an opponent he is yet to meet in professional badminton. Should he advance, Sen might face Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in the second round, with reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand will, in all likelihood, be waiting for him in the quarter-finals. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, will need to quickly address the issues affecting her performance after a disappointing first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li, an opponent she had previously defeated 10 times. Under the guidance of new coaches Anup Sridhar and Korea's Lee Hyun-il,



she will open against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po and could potentially face China's Han Yue in the second round if she progresses. In addition to Sindhu, India will have several other competitors in women's singles, including the in-form Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and promising talent Unnati Hooda. Bansod, who had reached the quarterfinals of China Open, will go up against Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy

Linh at first, while Kashyap faces Thailand's Supanida Katethong. Hooda, the 2022 Odisha Open winner, will compete against Lauren Lam from the USA. While there will be no Indian representation in men's doubles, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who had missed the Paris Olympics, will compete in the women's doubles, taking on the fifth-seeded Malaysian duo of Pearly Tan and Thinnah

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



Australia faces toughest of challenges in Asian World Cup qualifying

AP ■ TOKYO

Australia faces the most daunting road trip in Asia on Tuesday when it faces a dominant Japan at Saitama Stadium, knowing a win would put the Socceroos back on track for a sixth successive World Cup appearance after a mixed start in the third round of qualification. The Group C meeting is also a chance for new coach Tony Popovic, appointed in September to replace Graham Arnold, to make a statement win in his second game in charge and cross swords with a former team-mate. Popovic played for Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima from 1997 to 2001 alongside Hajime Moriyasu - now coach of Japan. "I know their

head coach very well; he was my captain during my time in Japan. A remarkable person who has dedicated years to developing the national team," said Popovic. Japan is on course for an eighth successive World Cup appearance with three wins against China, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, scoring 14 goals and conceding none. "This is undoubtedly a significant challenge, but it also presents a fantastic opportunity to etch our name in history by winning in Japan," Popovic said after defeating China 3-1 in his first game in charge on Thursday, a result that took Australia to four points in the group, five behind Japan. The top two teams from each of the three groups of six

qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup with the third and fourth place finishers advancing to the next stage. Like Australia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have four points and meet in Jeddah, while winless China hosts Indonesia at home. The top two in Group B meet as South Korea hosts Iraq with both teams on seven points. The game has been switched to the city of Yongin, due to the poor condition of the playing surface at Seoul World Cup Stadium. South Korea will be without English Premier League stars Tottenham Hotspur captain Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton Wanderers due to injury.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 350 players from around the world will go under the hammer in the inaugural women's Hockey India League auctions here on Tuesday. After a seven-year hiatus, the highly-anticipated HIL is making a grand return with an expanded format, featuring both men's and an exclusive women's league for the first time. The historic auction will witness over 250 domestic players and more than 70 overseas players vying for a spot in the inaugural season of the women's HIL.

India's top women players, including seasoned goalkeeper Savita, national team captain Salima Tete, rising drag-flicker Deepika, the most-capped women's player Vandana Katarinya, and forward Lalremisiami are some of the big names from the country. Additionally, former Indian stalwarts such as Yogita Bali, Lilima Minz, and Namita Toppo have registered, adding further excitement to the auction.



On the international front, renowned players such as Delfina Merino (Argentina), Charlotte Staphenhorst (Germany), Maria Granatto (Argentina), Rachael Lynch (Australia), and Nike Lorenz (Germany) are set to participate, ensuring a global spectacle. Notably, the maiden season of the women's edition of the HIL will witness participation of total four teams, while two more teams will be added in the second season of the tournament. The participating teams for this season include Soorma Hockey Club, Shrachi Rahr

Bengal Tigers, Delhi SG Pipers, and Odisha Warriors. For the second season, Hyderabad Toofans and a team owned by the BC Jindal Group will be added, expanding the lineup to six teams. Each team will consist of 24 players, including 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight overseas players, aligning with HIL's vision of promoting both local and global talent. Franchises will have a purse of Rs 2 crore to select players, with athletes categorised under three base price slabs --

Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakhs, and Rs 2 lakh. The historic women's auction marks a major milestone in the world of hockey, showcasing the sport's growth and the increasing prominence of women's hockey. It also stands out as one of the rare instances in India where both men's and women's editions of a major sports league will run concurrently. "This is not just a revival of the Hockey India League but also a celebration of the growth of women's hockey in India. We are proud to host the first-ever women's auction, which is not just about building teams but also about building legacies," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said. We are excited to see our domestic talent go head-to-head with some of the best international players and create new heroes for the next generation. The Women's HIL 2024-25 promises to be a watershed moment for Indian hockey, further propelling the sport's growth on both national and international stages."

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ISSF World Cup final here has been robbed of some sheen as three of Britain's top shotgun shooters, including Paris Olympics trap gold-medallist Nathan Hales, will not be competing in the prestigious year-ending event owing to "confusion" over paperwork that led to denial of visa to them. The World Cup final got underway at the Karni Singh Ranges with elite shooters from across the world, including Olympic and world championship medallists, taking part in the training sessions on Monday. The competitions will start on Tuesday. "No, he's (Hales) not (coming). They couldn't get their business visas in time. I don't know the exact ins and outs of it, but there was a complication...I think, what happened is that one of them (shooters) applied for a tourist visa, which was accepted," former shooter Peter Wilson, personal coach of Hales in the Paris Games, told PTI. "But, then, they were told that they had to apply for a business visa and there was, for whatever reason, a complication and it was either revoked and the rest were left pending and they just didn't have the time for it to be processed," added the legendary double-trap marksman who won a gold in the 2012 London Olympics. Wilson, who had recently expressed his



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

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

Tough competition expected at Delhi Half Marathon elite field

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethiopia's two-time 5000m world champion Muktar Edris is expected to challenge Paris Olympics 10,000m winner Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda for the top prize in the men's elite race at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on October 20 here. Fresh from his victory in the 10,000m in Paris, the 28-year-old Cheptegei is set to make his debut at the Delhi Half Marathon. He has been a three-time world champion in 10,000m and boasts a personal best of 59:21 seconds in half marathon.

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



championship titles in the 5,000m in 2017 and 2019. His half marathon personal best is better than that of Cheptegei at 58:40 seconds, which he had clocked in Valencia, Spain in 2021. The women's elite field will be led by 2022 Commonwealth Games 10000m champion Eilish McColgan of Great Britain. McColgan holds the European record for the 10km road race and British records for multiple distances. She has also represented Great Britain in four Olympic Games (2012-2024) and Scotland in three Commonwealth Games (2014-2022). She won the Berlin Half Marathon with a personal best time of 65:43 seconds in 2023.

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

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

AP ■ LONDON

After three wins from four as England interim coach, Lee Carsley appeared to distance himself from taking on the job full time. A 3-1 victory against Finland in the Nations League on Sunday saw England get back to winning ways after the shock 2-1 home loss to Greece. But Carsley sounded uncertain about his credentials to succeed Gareth Southgate in one of the biggest management roles in world soccer. "This job deserves a world class coach that's won trophies and been there and done it and I'm still on the path to that," Carsley said after goals from Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Declan Rice secured the win in Helsinki. Carsley led England's under-21 team to victory in the European Championship last year and was seen as one of the leading contenders to replace Southgate, who stepped down in July. But after naming an experimental team that lost to Greece on Thursday, questions about his suitability were raised. If not for some errant finishing from No. 64-ranked Finland, Sunday could have been another



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

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

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

totally clear what they need from me," he said. **GREECE WINS:** Greece still leads Group B2 after extending its perfect start in the Nations League with a 2-0 win against Ireland. Anastasios Bakasetas and Petros Mantalos scored the goals that kept Greece three points ahead of England. Before the game, Greece's players held up the jersey of defender George Baldock, who was found dead at his home in Athens on Wednesday. **NORWAY ROUTED:** Not even Erling Haaland could prevent Norway from a humbling 5-1 loss against Austria. The Manchester City striker became his country's all time leading scorer this week with 34 goals. But he was kept quiet by Austria in Group B3. Marko Arnautovic opened the scoring at Austria's Raiffeisen Arena before Alexander Sorloth evened the game before halftime. In the second half Austria took control with Arnautovic scoring again. Philipp Lienhart, Stefan Posch and Michael Gregoritsch also scored. Norway still leads the group but is level on seven points with Austria in second and third-place Slovenia, which beat Kazakhstan 1-0.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF WE TOOK CHANCES: MUZUMDAR

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Disheartened India head coach Amol Muzumdar rued the missed opportunities that could have altered the game's outcome after his team's hopes of reaching the women's T20 World Cup semifinals were dashed by a loss to Australia.

In a bid to control their own destiny, the Indian team delivered a lackluster performance on the field, ultimately resulting in a nine-run loss to defending champions Australia in their must-win game on Sunday.

"I think we were right in the game, right till the last over. Just that experience of Australia, saw them through," Muzumdar said at the post match press conference.

"Just a little disappointing with the loss. And I feel we've fielded pretty well. But yeah, a couple of chances could have been, we could have taken those chances and then the things could have been different.

"Maybe 10-15 runs less, even the last over. But at the same time, I would like to say that we put in our best effort



forward in this game," he added.

India dropped as many as three catches, while also missing a stumping opportunity. To add to their woes, a close lbw call also went against them.

In the 17th over of the Australian innings, Phoebe Litchfield, batting on 5, had attempted a reverse sweep with the on-field umpire giving her leg-before-wicket after she missed the shot.

However, a decision to review handed her a reprieve because the ball pitched outside leg stump. India players, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, protested, claiming the ball pitching outside the leg-stump line should be deemed inconsequential given the batter had switched stances.

Litchfield went on to add 10 more crucial runs, helping Australia post the highest team total at Sharjah in the ongoing tournament.

"What I gathered from that non-dismissal is that she didn't move before the ball was released. So, the leg mark, what was there, it stood as it is. That was my only understanding about it.

Whether it was out or not, it was up to the umpires to decide or the third umpire. So yeah, it was a crucial one."

Australia posted a total of 151/8. In response, India fell short, finishing at 142/9 despite skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's unbeaten 54.

With senior players Harmanpreet and Deepti Sharma in the middle, India needed 85 off 10 overs.

Asked what message was being sent to the duo in the middle at the time, Muzumdar said: "First and foremost, it was about the run chase. Second was keeping the net run rate also in account. But the only message was if we take it a little deeper, then we do have a good chance to chase these runs down. "I think Harman's presence was very important till the end. That is what I felt in her run chase. We almost got it through."

India's chances of making the semifinal now hinge on Pakistan beating New Zealand on Monday.

"Well, I just want to wish Pakistan all the best. That's all I can say. But we will be watching the game very closely, that's for sure."

Ben Stokes returns for second Test against Pakistan

PTI ■ MULTAN

Captain Ben Stokes made a return to the England Test team as he was on Monday named in the playing eleven for the second match against Pakistan beginning here Tuesday, after he was declared to have been recovered from an injury he sustained in August.

Stokes, who has been out of action due to a hamstring problem, is one of the two changes in the England side that beat Pakistan in the first Test by an innings and 47 runs.

Fast bowler Matthew Potts was included in place of Gus Atkinson.

Stokes has replaced pacer Chris Woakes while England have retained both spinners Shoaib Bashir and Jack Leach in their eleven.

According to the visiting team management, Stokes has bowled and batted

without any discomfort in the nets in the last few days and was cleared by medical experts to make his comeback.

The 33-year-old all-rounder last played in the Hundred where he sustained his injury in August forcing him to miss the entire three-match series against Sri Lanka at home.

He also missed the first Test against Pakistan here.

Pakistan is yet to announce its playing eleven although the selectors on Sunday dropped Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah for the remaining two Tests and also released Sarfaraz Ahmed from the squad.

England Playing XI: Ben Stokes (capt), Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk), Brydon Carse, Matthew Potts, Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir.



Cummins to lead Australia in Pakistan ODIs, McGuirk retained

AP ■ SYDNEY

Pat Cummins will captain Australia's one-day squad for the first time since lifting the Cricket World Cup in November in its three-match series against Pakistan at home next month.

Cummins was named Monday in the 14-man Australia squad for the matches at Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth along with Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc, the other regular members of Australia's test pace lineup.

Jake Fraser-McGuirk has been given another chance after struggling in Australia's Twenty20 series against Scotland in September, in which he made 16 runs in three innings with two ducks. While he made a 30-ball 50 against England, he wasn't selected for the subsequent five-match ODI series.

Fraser-McGuirk will likely open the batting with Matt Short in the absence of Travis Head and Mitch Marsh who are on paternity leave. The squad also includes batters Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne and white ball regulars Glenn Maxwell, Josh Inglis and Adam Zampa.

Cooper Connolly also has

been retained after making his one-day and T20 debuts on Australia's September tour to Britain.

Allrounder Aaron Hardie who scored 67 runs in two innings while batting No. 8 and took four wickets in the England series has kept his place while Marcus Stoinis returns after being left out of the England one-dayers.

Seamer Sean Abbott also has held his spot with several bowlers recovering from injuries suffered in England. Nathan Ellis, Xavier Bartlett, Ben Dwarshuis and Riley Meredith all left that series with injuries while Spencer Johnson was ruled out with a side strain before it began.

Meanwhile, test allrounder Cameron Green confirmed Monday he will undergo surgery on a stress fracture in his back and will be out of action for six months.

A squad for the Twenty20 series against Pakistan will be named later this month.

The Pakistan series which comprises matches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Nov. 4, the Adelaide Oval on Nov. 8 and Perth Stadium on Nov. 10 is Australia's last one-day series before the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan in February.

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



PTI ■ BENGALURU

India head coach Gautam Gambhir is not too concerned about the recent lukewarm form of Virat Kohli, insisting that the star batter remains as hungry as he was when he made his debut and should not be judged after every match.

Kohli has made only one fifty, a 76 against South Africa at Centurion in December 2023, in his last eight innings, and him regaining his touch is crucial for India against New Zealand in a three-Test rubber starting on Wednesday and during the five-match series against Australia next month.

Gambhir is confident that Kohli will come good very soon.

"See, my thoughts about Virat have always been very clear that he is a world-class cricketer. He has performed

for such a long period of time. He is as hungry as when he made his debut. To now, his hunger is always there," Gambhir told reporters here on Monday.

"That hunger is what makes him a world-class cricketer. I am sure that he will be hungry to get runs in this series and probably moving forward to Australia as well," he added.

Gambhir said the prolific batter, once he gets into "those runs scoring phases", is remarkably consistent.

"So, I am sure that he will be looking for these three Test matches in the series and then to Australia."

Gambhir reiterated his opinion that a player should not be judged on the basis of a one bad match or a series.

"You don't keep judging people after every game. If you keep judging people after every game, that's not fair on

them. It's a sport and people are bound to fail.

"But more importantly, I think if we can get the results, if people are doing what is needed of them to get the results in our favour, that is fine," he noted.

The former opener said his job is to back the players and keep them hungry for success, particularly during a long season where India is scheduled to play eight more Test matches.

"Everyone doesn't have the best days everyday. I think the kind of vibe we have is we keep backing our players. My job is to keep backing the players. My job is to keep selecting the best playing 11, not dropping anyone.

"I'm sure everyone is hungry and they know there are eight Test matches in a row. So, this is probably the start of them looking at eight Test matches in a row and performing well," said Gambhir.



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

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was on Monday ruled out of the marquee Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India owing to a stress fracture in his spine that will need six months to heal after a surgery.

The 25-year-old seam-bowling all-rounder was diagnosed with the problem in his lower back after experiencing pain during last month's tour of the UK. Green has previously suffered four stress fractures in his back but has not encountered any issues in that area since 2019.

"Whilst spine stress fractures are not unusual in pace bowlers, Cam has a unique defect in an adjacent area to the fracture that is believed to be contributing to the injury," a CA statement said on Monday.

A six-month recovery time will mean Green misses not just the Border Gavaskar Trophy, but also February's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy. His

participation in the IPL is also in doubt.

Green has decided to opt for a similar type of surgery undergone by several pacers including Jasprit Bumrah, James Pattinson, Jason Behrendorff, and Ben Dwarshuis.

"After thorough consultation it was determined Cameron would benefit from the surgery to stabilise the defect and reduce the risk of future recurrence," CA said.

The alternative to surgery would have involved rehabilitation and restricting his bowling during the five-match series against India, starting November 22 in Perth.

"The surgery has been performed successfully with elite pace bowlers in the past. Recovery time is anticipated to be around six-months.

"The decision to proceed to surgery is with Cameron's long-term future as an all-rounder in mind," the statement added.

The operation will be performed by New Zealand surgeons Graeme Inglis and Rowan Schouten, which

involves screws and titanium wire to bind vertebrae together, according to 'cricket.Com.Au.'

His absence would mean Australia will have to rejig their batting order.

Green had returned to the Test side following veteran opener David Warner's retirement earlier this year with Steve Smith being pushed to open the innings. However, the veteran struggled at the top of the order and will drop back to his preferred number four position, which has been left vacant by Green.

The selectors will now keep an eye on Australia's A series against India where the likes of Cameron Bancroft, and teen prodigy Sam Konstas will vie for the now vacant opening spot.

Additionally, Australia will also have to find someone to bowl Green's overs.

Mitchell Marsh did not bowl in Western Australia's Sheffield Shield match against Queensland and hardly rolled his arm while captaining the white-ball teams over the winter.

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Top-order batter Rachin Ravindra said on Monday that nullifying the twin threat posed by senior spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will be crucial to New Zealand's success in the three-match series against India.

Ashwin and Jadeja together have grabbed over 800 Test wickets, and are among the most experienced bowling pairs in world cricket at present.

"They've got consistent bowlers who bowl in an area for a long period of time. I mean, you see the two spinners who play consistently, Ashwin and Jadeja, they're two very accomplished bowlers. You know, they can bat too, which makes it a little bit hard," Ravindra told reporters here on Monday.

"They're consistent, they're good to battle, especially in this part of the world. Obviously, we know how good India are in their own

conditions, the quality of their bowlers and batters. It shows how hard it is for a team to come and win here. So, it's difficult," he added.

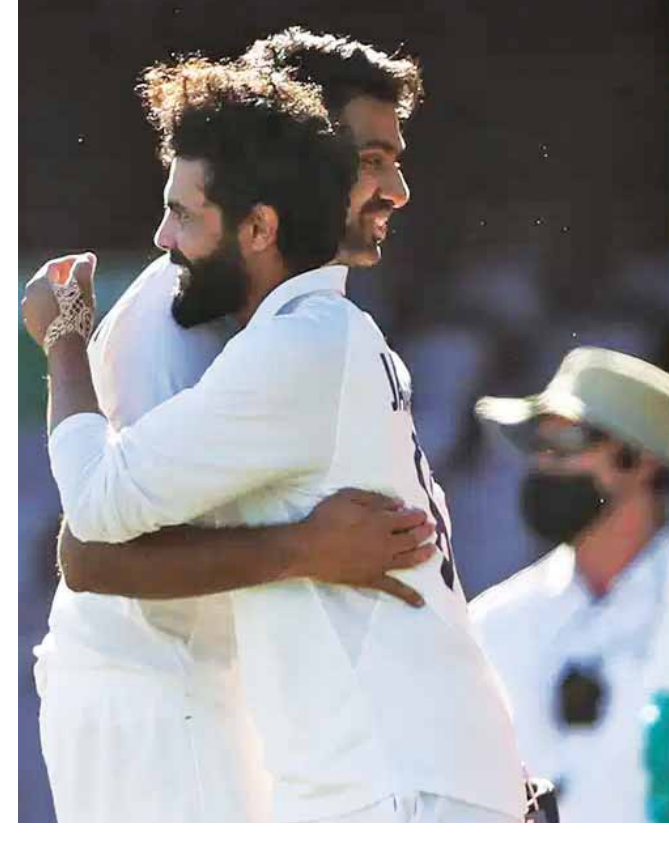
Ravindra banked on his previous experience of playing cricket in India to come good in the upcoming Test rubber.

The Kiwi played in this part of the world during last year's ODI World Cup before appearing for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL 2024.

"Although it is different formats, it gives you confidence that you can perform in this part of the world. I think it's (Test cricket) a different challenge entirely and it's something I'm really looking forward to."

"As you've seen, those two tournaments (ODI WC and IPL) were amazing, the crowds and the passion and the hype and the buzz around them. So, I'm excited to have a full-fledged series here," he noted.

From a team perspective, the 24-year-old said the tourists



will have to keep focus on their game plans rather than worrying about India's approach.

"The brand of cricket they play is very positive, especially in their own conditions. The way they've evolved over the last few years has been amazing, especially away (from home).

"As New Zealanders, we don't necessarily try and look at the opposition too much. We know what a quality side they are and what they bring to the table, but I think if we're able to play our game and be consistent and put our best foot forward, hopefully, that will result in a win," he added.

New Zealand's preparation for the series against India has been far from ideal as they lost 0-2 against Sri Lanka recently, while their one-off Test match against Afghanistan was a washout at Noida.

However, Ravindra was confident that the team can lean upon the learnings from

those experiences against India.

"We did some really good stuff during the Sri Lankan series, obviously, came on the wrong side of the win and loss column. But I think as a group there were times where we really pushed and that first Test was close," he said.

In the first Test against the Islanders at Galle, the left-hander made a fine 92 but the Kiwis lost the match by 63 runs while chasing 275.

Ravindra wanted his side not to repeat the mistake of faltering at the crunch moments.

"I think we've got to understand that we've got to do it (fighting) for long periods of time because that's what Test match cricket is about. Obviously, Sri Lanka and India are different places, but similar in terms of the amount of spin you might play.

"So, we have learnt a lot. So, it's about, you know, seeing how we can play our game and how we can bring that here to India," he added.