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NO. 1 IGA SWIATEK COACH TOMASZ

PARTS WAYS WITH 12 SPORTS

Iran's Ali Khamenei adds fuel to West Asia fires



PTI/AP TEHRAN/ BEIRUT

ran's supreme leader on Friday praised the country's recent missile strike on Israel and said it was ready to do it again if necessary, state TV reported. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in his first appearance as leader, in about five years, at Friday prayers, called the missile strike a "shining" job by Iran's armed

On the other hand Israel carried out a series of massive airstrikes overnight, hitting suburbs of Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing Israeli bombardment. The Israeli military said Friday

Peace crucial for global economy: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra its nuclear and oil facilities.

Modi on Friday made "India is more than 85 per oblique reference to the cent dependent on the widening conflicts in the import of crude oil, which is

Middle East and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, saying the two regions were crucial for the global economy and energy security. His comments came amid fears of further escalation

of conflict in the Middle and attack Iran, potentially said.

converted fuels like petrol and diesel, and about half of its gas needs. A bulk of these come from the Middle East, and in scenarios of Israel-Iran getting into prolonged

conflict, the supplies could East if Israel were to retaliate be impacted," PM Modi

before killed Mohammed Rashid Skafi, the head of Hezbollah's communications division. The military said in a statement that Skafi was "a

senior Hezbollah terrorist who

was responsible for the

communications unit since 2000" and was "closely affiliated" with high-up with high-up Hezbollah officials. On Tuesday, Iran launched at least 180 missiles at Israel, the latest in a series of rapidly escalating attacks between Israel and Iran and its allies that threaten to push the Middle East closer to a region-

Israel said it intercepted many of the missiles, and officials in Washington said US destroyers assisted in Israel's defence. Iran said most of its missiles hit their targets. There were no immediate reports

wide war.

casualties.

Khamenei, 80, said in a 40minute speech to thousands of people at the Mosalla mosque, the main prayer site in Tehran, that the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel nearly a year ago on Oct 7, 2023, was a legitimate action by the Palestinian people. He said Tuesday's missile barrage was based on international law, the country's law and Islamic

30 Naxalites killed in Bastar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DANTEWADA/NEW DELHI

In the largest such operation in Chhattisgarh's 24-year history, at least 30 Maoists were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Abujhmad, Dantewada district, on Friday.

The gunfight broke out at around 1 pm in the forest between Thulthuli and villages Nendur Abhujmad on Narayanpur-Dantewada inter-district border, when a joint team of security personnel was out on anti-Naxal operation.

According to the police, the Districts Reserve Guards (DRG) from Dantewada and Narayanpur, acting on specific intelligence inputs on the presence of Maoists in the area, set out on an operation from different government police camps. The DRG is a Continued on page 2 specialised force that at the Centre) is determined to eliminate the menace.

surrendered.

Along with the 30 bodies, a cache of weapons, including an AK-47 rifle and one SLR (self-loading rifle), were also recovered from encounter spot. Dantewada Superintendent

of Police Gaurav Rai told the media that around 30 Naxalites were killed in the gun battle. Abujhmaad straddles between Maharashtra Chhattisgarh, and is called the 'unknown hill' as the

6,000 sq km thick forest has not been surveyed since the British era. The jungle is the epicentre of Maoist activities and about a dozen senior cadres of CPI

(Maoist) are said to be still camping there. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said

'double engine' government in the state and at the Centre) is determined "There is news of 28 Naxalites gunned down in an encounter with security forces in the border area of Narayanpur-Dantewada districts. The great success achieved by the soldiers is commendable.

I salute their courage and valour. Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will end only after reaching its conclusion. Our double engine government is determined for this. determined for this. Eliminating Naxalism from the state is our aim.

According to police, with this latest encounter, 185 Maoists have been gunned down by the security forces in separate gun battles in the Bastar region comprising seven districts, including Dantewada and Narayanpur, so far this year

The last big encounter from the state was reported on September 3, when nine Maoists, including six women, were killed on the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts. On April 16, as many as 29 Naxalites, including some higherranking cadres, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Chhattisgarh in August had said India will be free from Left Wing Extremism (LWE) by March 2026, and a strong and ruthless strategy was required to launch the final assault against the



Bizarre protest at **Mantralaya**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In a dramatic development, tribal leaders, including Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, protesting against the demand to include the Dhangar community in the Scheduled Tribe list, on Friday jumped from the third floor of Maharashtra State secretariat Mantralava on the safety net just a floor below. The protestors said they did this act for not getting appointment with Chief Minister. No injuries were reported in the incident that saw tense moments unfolding at the six-storey Mantralaya complex. The incident occurred around 12.40 pm. Zirwal, his fellow Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislator Kiran Lahamate and BJP tribal MP Hemant Savara were among those who jumped from the third floor onto the safety net installed on the second floor, a precaution taken in response to previous suicide

attempts at the site. Continued on page 2

PUNE HORROR College student gangraped

A²¹-year-old woman was gang-raped by three unidentified men. The accused attacked the woman after tying her male friend to a tree in the desolate Bopdev Ghat area in the Piine Thursday night.

The victim, said to be a college student hailing from Gujarat, is being treated at the State-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune.

The attack took place around 11 pm in the poorly lit and secluded area of Bopdev Ghat. The police came to know about the incident around 5 am on Friday.

With the incident having sparked a major public uproar in Pune, the local police swiftly arrested one person, a 36-year-old resident from Pune's Kondhwa area, in connection with the incident and launched a hunt for

the two remaining suspects. The Pune police have formed 10 teams from the Crime and Detection branches to look out for the two

remaining suspects. O n



Friday evening, the police released the sketches of two of the three suspects involved in the alleged gang-rape. The sketches were drawn on the basis of a statement made by the victim girl to the police at the hospital.

Additional Commissioner of Police Ranjan Kumar Sharma said, "As per preliminary details, the woman and her male friend had gone to the Bopdev Ghar area on late Thursday night

The preliminary investigations have revealed that three suspects, posing as activists, approached the victim and her friend in a

Talking to media persons, Pune's

where three unidentified persons allegedly raped her".

car. They asked the couple what they were doing in



that "prohibited" area. They also took photographs of the couple. After threatening them with dire consequences, one of the suspects forced the girl into a car. They tied the young man to a tree, and took turns to rape the young woman inside the car. The suspects also assaulted the victim's friend before fleeing the crime scene.

The injured young man managed to take the victim to the Sassoon General Hospital for treatment. A complaint was lodged with the

Kondhwa police Station at around 5 am on Friday. Happening as it did in the run-up to the State Assembly polls, the incident has snowballed into a political controversy.

Continued on page 2

Court not to be used as political battleground: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Friday set up a five-Special Investigation Team under supervision of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director to pr the allegations of use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus. A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will comprise two officials each from the CBI and the Andhra Pradesh Police besides a senior Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) official.

"We clarify that we will not permit the court to be used as a political battleground. However, in order to assuage the feelings of crores of people, we find that the investigation should be conducted by an independent SIT consisting of representatives of the state police, the CBI and a representative of the FSSAI," the Bench said.

"We don't want this to be turned into a political



drama. There are sentiments of crores of people throughout the world," Judges observed during the hearing. The order was on the PILs filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board (TTD) former Chairman YV Subba Reddy asking for a court monitored probe on the allegations by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The CM had accused the former regime led by Jagan Mohan

laddus Continued on page 2

Reddy for the adulterated

ghee used in making of

WINGS OF GLORY



People watch the final rehearsal of Indian Air Force (IAF) aircrafts ahead of its 92nd anniversary



Historic Kashmere Gate is now a traffic battlefield

This stretch is notorious for being a bottleneck 24x7

BY RAJESH KUMAR

Cituated close to Civil Lines, Owhere residences of the Chief Minister, Lieutenant Governor and Delhi Cabinet ministers are located, Kashmere Gate has heavy traffic congestion daily. This stretch is notorious for being a traffic bottleneck 24x7.

Lala Hardev Marg is the main road in front of Kashmere Gate metro station and the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) where the flyover coming from East Delhi areas, such as Shahdara and Dilshad Garden, merges. Netaji Subhash Marg connecting Kashmere Gate to Chandni Chowk and Daryaganj always choked due to encroachments and

narrow lanes. Another major congestion point on the stretch comes between ISBT Kashmere Gate and the Chandgi

Ram Akhara junction. Nityanand Marg stretch connecting Tis Hazari court is another bottleneck here. Interestingly, as the number of vehicles on roads surrounding Kashmere Gate has increased multifold, the condition of roads and traffic management remains the same

In 2018, Delhi traffic police had identified the area around Kashmere Gate as an 'accidentprone' zone due to heavy pedestrian movement and traffic congestion. The situation has worsened since 2018. The authorities seem to be clueless here. The area has illegal parking lots, which have an unregulated private vehicle flow, huge encroachments, that add chaos to

Rajni Kant Verma, former Transport Secretary of Delhi

the already heavy volume of traffic on the roads.



A Traffic Jam Vehicles move on road at isbt kashmiri gate government, said that traffic congestion is the major problem at Kashmere Gate, due to heavy traffic and illegal parking of autorickshaws and buses. "Besides,

there are also encroachments surrounding the ISBT Kashmere Gate Metro station, leading to traffic jams here", he said. According to Verma, the problem

removed and regulate the auto rickshaw and private vehicles. transport According to department's officials, the Delhi

will be solved if encroachment is

Ranian Dimri/Pioneer

implementing new policies. Under it, parking and bus-bay usage fees for private and govt interstate buses will now be the same to discourage private buses from parking illegally on the roadside which congests traffic. Furthermore, buses will be assigned a fixed parking time slot of 25 minutes at a predetermined rate. If a bus exceeds this allotted

government has taken steps to

reduce traffic congestion in the

vicinity of the ISBTs by

time, additional charges will be levied. To ensure compliance, buses without FasTags will not be permitted to enter the terminal. Delhi has three ISBTs - at Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan.

Raj Niwas officials said that traffic congestion outside the ISBTs is visibly lower now, and a report from the traffic police has also

impact of reduced turnaround timings on traffic and pedestrian movement outside the ISBTs. At ISBT Kashmere Gate, the

been sought to ascertain the

average turnaround time has dropped from 45 minutes in August to 29 minutes after the new order, averaging 19 minutes since then. The number of buses to and from the terminal was 1,373 per day on average in August and is now 1,644 per day. Notably, the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has proposed several long-term modifications to the traffic diversion plan to decongest the area around Kashmere Gate Interstate Bus Terminus (ISBT). The CRRI has now suggested reducing the width of the footpath under Yudhistir Setu, which will create more space for buses.

Continued on page 2

Banned e-cigarettes worth ₹2 crore seized in Delhi

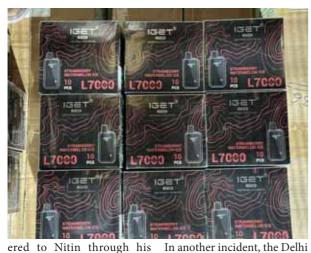
 $B^{\rm anned\ e\text{-}cigarettes\ worth}_{\rm over\ Rs\ 2\ crore\ have\ been}$ seized and eight members of inter-state gangs involved in importing and selling them arrested, Delhi Police said on Friday.

On Thursday, information regarding the import and transportation of prohibited electronic cigarettes in the north district was received, they said.

These e-cigarettes were being transported from Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur to Delhi, the police said in a statement.

A team conducted a raid near a private hospital and upon checking, 24 cartons containing 4,740 units of e-cigarettes made in China were Commissioner of Police (north) Manoj Kumar Meena

Tempo driver Saddiq Ali (47) revealed that e-cigarettes were being taken to a godown in Karol Bagh area to be deliv-



ered to Nitin through his associate, Sheikh Kamal, the statement said

Subsequently, Sheikh Kamal (30) and Nitin (25) were apprehended, it said, adding that on the instance of Nitin, eight boxes of 1,600 e-cigarettes were also recovered from his godown. "Search of a Gujarat-based

kingpin and his other associates is going on," said the station, which raised suspicion, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer

Soon another car stopped near the vehicle and people started to shift boxes into the Ertiga, he said.

The police apprehended both the drivers and seized 20 boxes containing 10 e-cigarettes in each of them. They also seized Rs 4 lakh in cash from their possession, the DCP said.

"The duo has been identified as Ritik Uppal (22) and Sabi Kumar (32). During interrogation, they named three others -- Aniket (32), Pawan Chaurasia (42) and Dikshant Kumar (28) -- who also stored and sold e-cigarettes," the officer said. "All three have been arrested

and 57 e-cigarettes were recovered from their possession," the DCP said. Manufacturing, importing, advertising, or selling e-cigarettes has been banned in

degree programmes simultaneously **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI The Delhi University has decided to allow students to

DU to allow students to pursue two

pursue two degree programmes simultaneously within the university, according to an official notification. As per the notification, the stu-

dents can pursue one degree in regular mode from the DU colregular mode from the DO colleges or departments and the other in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from the School of Open Learning. Under this new policy, the students already enrolled or in the process of enrolling in a degree programme at the university can opt to pursue two degrees at the same time. However, they will not be allowed to pursue two similar academic programmes at once, such as B.Com (Hons.) and B.Com (Pass), even if one of them is taken in the ODL format.

Those who choose to pursue two degrees simultaneously will need to meet all academic requirements for both pro-India since September 2019.

grammes separately. This includes attending classes, completing internal assessments, submitting assignments, giving presentations and meeting promotion criteria for each

courses twice, the students are required to complete the compulsory courses for the programme they enrolled in first whether it's regular or ODL

To avoid studying mandatory

The corresponding mandatory courses in the second programme will be replaced with appropriate alternatives. For example, if a student first enrolls in a regular programme, they will have to complete the mandatory courses for that programme. If enrolled in an ODL programme first, the

compulsory courses for that

programme will take prece-

For undergraduate programmes, the students must complete mandatory courses such as Environmental Science (EVS) or Ability Enhancement Courses (AEC) for the programme they enroll in first. If these courses are also required in the second degree programme, they will be replaced with suitable alternative cours-

For instance, a student pursuing two undergraduate degrees will study the AEC language and EVS courses as part of their regular programme, while for the second ODL degree, they can either choose a different AEC language or opt for a Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) or a Value Addition Course (VAC).

Similarly, if a student is pursuing two B.A. Programmes, instead of repeating a Generic Elective (Language) course, they may select courses from the open Generic Elective (GE) pool to avoid duplication.

The research theme or project work required in the fourth year of the UG programme will need to be different for each degree pursued. Furthermore, the students will not be allowed to combine credits earned from the two different programmes to obtain a major or minor in

Kejriwal vacates Delhi CM's residence

Police apprehended five peo-

ple for allegedly storing,

transporting and selling e-cig-

arettes in the national capital.

According to the police, 257

e-cigarettes worth around Rs

5 lakh were recovered from

their possession along with Rs

At around 2 am on October 2,

a team out on night patrol

spotted an Ertiga car parked

at an abandoned place near

4 lakĥ in cash.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\ Delhi\ chief\ minister}_{Arvind\ Kejriwal\ on\ Friday}$ vacated the CM's residence -- his home for nine years -- and moved into bungalow number 5 on Ferozeshah Road near Mandi House in the Lutyens' zone. Kejriwal, his wife, son, daugh-

ter and parents left in two vehicles for the new bungalow, which is officially allotted to AAP's Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab Ashok Mittal. Before leaving, the Kejriwal family was given a sentimental farewell by the staff of his old house, with the former chief minister hugging them in a gesture of affection.

His wife Sunita Kejriwal handed over the keys of 6, Flagstaff bungalow, which is a CM's residence in north Delhi's Civil Lines, to a government official. The property is maintained by the Delhi government's Public Works Department.

The Kejriwal family entered the Central government's bungalow number 5 on Ferozeshah Road after performing a 'Grih Pravesh' rit-

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders said the household goods of the family were transported to the bungalow in two mini trucks.

Hours after the AAP chief



Road Bungalow has official- statements. ly been allotted to a Rajya Kapoor, who wrote to

would lodge a complaint with Praveen Shankar Kapoor publicly burn the affidavit

Sabha Chairman slammed Kejriwal, saying that Jagdeep Dhankhar in the mat- his attachment to the bungater since the 5, Ferozeshah low contradicts his earlier

leader Vijay Goel said that he Delhi BJP spokesperson ed that the AAP supremo

dated June 7, 2013 in which he had promised never to take a government bungalow, vehicle or security.

"When Kejriwal was the chief minister of Delhi, it was part of protocol and security con-cerns for him to take a bun-galow, security and other facilities. However, now that he has stepped down from the CM's post and is only an MLA, his attachment to the bungalow contradicts his earlier statements and proves the promises in the affidavit to be false," he said.

Senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj hit back at the BJP and said Kejriwal on his own decided to resign from the chief minister's post and give up facilities attached to it.

'Arvind Kejriwal's resignation was his voluntary decision, he did not resign under the pressure of the lieutenant governor or BJP leaders. When he resigned, he also

decided to give up the facili-ties attached to the CM's position," said Bharadwai. He did whatever he felt was right. If the BJP has so much issue with this, the party should ask its all seven MPs of Delhi to vacate their bungalows first," he added. Another AAP leader and

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said there are many leaders in the country who cling to bunand other facilities even after losing

Meanwhile, former Delhi BJP chief Vijay Goel, along with his party workers, staged a protest against Kejriwal, accusing him of unauthorised occupation of a govern-ment bungalow allotted to his party MP.

Goel said that he would lodge a complaint with the Rajya Sabha chairman in the matter. During the protest outside Kejriwal's new residence, the BJP leader criticised the AAP chief for "betraying" his earlier promises of not using government luxuries.

This is the same Arvind Kejriwal who had given an affidavit saying he wouldn't use a government bungalow, car or security upon becoming the chief minister...," Goel

Kejriwal resigned as the chief minister last month, saying he would hold the post again only after he gets a "certificate of honesty" from the people of Delhi in the assembly polls in February.

He said earlier that he would vacate the chief minister's residence during the auspi-cious Navratri period, which began Thursday.
The BJP has accused him of

corruption in the excise policy and in the reconstruction of Chief Minister bungalow. After spending over five months in Tihar Jail, the AAP supremo was released on Supreme Court order gave

TMC, BJP fight for credit on classical language status for Bangla

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The BJP has strongly criticised Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for claiming credit for Bangla getting the 'classical language" status.

A day after the central Government decided to confer the classical language status on Bengali along with other languages like Assamese, Marathi, Pali etc, Banerjee claimed that it was she who had "first made the move to extract the high status for the Bangla language. Banerjee who was out inaugurating Durga Puja pandals all across Kolkata said this while addressing meetings, "We are extremely happy that Bangla has won the Classical Language status ... it was me who had first made the move to snatch this status for our language ... we had given the Centre such well-researched and concrete papers that they had to grant this status to Bangla," Banerjee on Friday said adding "the people of Bengal will be extremely happy to learn this achievement of ours." Earlier Prime Minister

Narendera Modi wrote on the X that "I am very happy that the great Bengali language has been conferred the status of a Classical Language, especially during the auspicious Durga inspired countless people for he said complaining, how Urdu bility of the Indian languages to years. I congratulate all the words were being allowed to

Bengali speakers all over the world on this." Bengal BJP president Sukanta

Majumdar soon reacted to Banerjee's statement saying it was not the Chief Minister but "two martyrs of Bengali language of recent times who should get the credit for dying for the language. Thanking the Prime Minister

for the step taken by his Government Majumdar reminded how two school children Tapas Sarkar and Rajesh Burman of Dandibhit village of North Dinajpur district were shot dead by the Bengal Police while they were agitating against imposition of Urdu in place of Bengali "to satisfy the Chief Minister's vote bank politics" highlighted by minority appeasement.
"If these students were alive

today they would have been

silently creep into Bengali language that was being followed in the school text books. Bengal Opposition Leader

Suvendu Adhikari too thanked the Prime Minister saying that the "people of Bengal are extremely happy to see their beloved language getting included in the list of classical languages "under the leadership of the hounorable Prime Minister.'

When asked to comment on the Chief Minister claiming the credit for the feat he said, "one must ignore the lies peddled by her ... by now the people of Bengal have learnt to accept her statements with a pinch of salt."

The initiative of providing Indian languages the Classical Language status in 2004 when a Linguistic Experts Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Culture under the Sahitya

Pune Horror: College...

From page 1

In his sharp reaction to the incident, NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar said: "On one hand, we have the Ladki Behan Yojana announced by the BJP-led government, while on the other hand there are atrocities on women. On one hand, there is an attempt to provide financial assistance to women through the Ladki Behan Yojana and on the other hand, there is a lot of anger among the people due to the increasing atrocities on

women." Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar said: "Ahead of the State Assembly polls, the Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Ministers are engaged in branding themselves as Bhai, Bhau and Dada. And on the other hand, in the last two days, shocking incidents of abuse of women have come to light in Pune". Wadettiwear's "Bhai, Bhau

made in apparent reference to chief minister Eknath Shinde,

deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar. Fadnavis is the state Home Minister, while Ajit Pawar is the state Finance Minister and Guardian Minister of Pune.

"Unfortunately, constrained to say that Maharashtra is not safe for women. The government should arrest the accused in the said incident and take Wadettiwear's "Bhai, Bhau strict action against them," and Dada" comment was the NCP (SP)'s national working president and Baramati MP Supriya Sule working

said. Meanwhile, local people said that a young woman who had gone for a stroll in Bopdev Ghat earlier this week had been threatened and molested by a person claiming to be a human rights activist.

The Forum for Employees Maharashtra said in a social media message that an IT couple was attacked on the Nande-Lawale road in Hinjewadi recently around 1 am, and has urged for a police checkpost in the vicinity.

Bizarre protest at...

From page 1

The protest, which involved two MLAs and an MP from the ruling Mahayuti alliance, highlighted escalating tensions over Government's handling of

tribal issues. After the police personnel removed these leaders from the net, these tribal representatives then gathered in the ground floor passage and began a sit-in claiming that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was not meeting them to discuss the quota issue.

Dhangar shepherd community in the state is demanding ST category inclusion for the purpose of reservation.

But Zirwal and other tribal leaders are protesting against this demand.

"I am an adivasi first and then an MLA and a deputy speaker," Zirwal reporters when asked what led him to resort to such a protest. "CM Shinde should meet the protesters," he added.

MLC Gopichand Padalkar said Zirwal holds a constitutional post and there is no need to take such an

extreme step. Zirwal said the Government should offer protection to students who have been protesting since a fortnight under

against the halt to recruitment the Panchavats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) in Maharashtra. Speaking in Chhatrapati Sambhaiinagar about the incident, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said, "Zirwal is in the

person...The protesters should have spoken to other leaders who are

present there. The Chief Minister meets everyone after the cabinet meeting. Instead of doing such agitations, they should have spoken to the CM first. This kind of protest by Zirwal is unacceptable." "Casterelated agitations are going on across the state. The CM and two deputy CMs do hold talks with those who wish to discuss issues," he said.

Court not to be used as...

The YSR Congress Party has accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" political gains and the ruling Telugu Desam Party in the state circulating a laboratory report to back its claim. The Bench clarified that it has not gone into the allegations and counter allegations made in either of the petitions or the stand of the respondents, including the

Government The SC clarified that its order be not construed as any reflection on the fairness of the officers of the state-appointed SIT. It said the apex court was passing the order of entrustment of probe to an independent agency only to assuage the feelings of crores of people having faith in the deity. "The SIT appointed by the state government is substituted

as under...," the Bench said. The SC said that two officers of the CBI will be nominated by the Director of the probe

the Andhra Pradesh state police will be nominated by the State Government. While disposing of the petitions, it said the chairperson of the FSSAI will nominate one senior officer of the authority to be a part of the independent General Tushar Solicitor

Mehta told the Bench that if there was any element of truth in the allegations, it was unacceptable. He suggested that the probe by the SIT can be supervised by some senior official of the central government. Hearing the matter on September 30, the top court asked Mehta to assist it in deciding whether the investigation by the state-appointed SIT should continue or the probe should be conducted by an independent

On September 30, the Bench had observed that Gods should be kept away from politics as it questioned Naidu's public making allegations without statement that animal fat was

agency while two officers of allegedly used in making Tirupati laddus under the previous Reddy-led regime. The apex court had said the laboratory test report was "not clear at all" and it prima facie indicated that "rejected ghee" was subjected to the test. "It could thus be seen that a

statement was made by the Chief Minister on September 18, which was even before the FIR being lodged on September 25 and the SIT being constituted September 26," the Bench had said.

"We are, prima facie, of the

view that it was not appropriate on the part of a constitutional functionary to go in public to make a statement which can affect the sentiment of crores of people and when investigation to find out adulterated ghee was used to make laddus was underway," said the Bench, criticizing Chief Minister Naidu for

checking the facts.

Historic Kashmere Gate...

Another key change is the closure of the Nigambodh Ghat U-turn. To increase the space for buses going towards Pataleshwar Mandir, CRRI has suggested reducing the width of a mostly unused footpath. The changes also include directing buses towards the Shastri Park DMRC depot on Grand Trunk Road so that the buses coming from Haryana and Punjab don't wait on Ring Road to enter the ISBT and cause congestion.

Meanwhile, locals and those commuting to the area will soon have to deal with another traffic hurdle. Roshanara Road in north Delhi will remain closed for traffic and pedestrian movement for over a month due to the Delhi Metro's twin tunnel construction. The Delhi traffic police issued

an advisory on Friday, stating

that the road will remain

closed to traffic/pedestrian

from Friday midnight, till November 18. The twin tunnel construction work by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is going on Roshanara Road. The work is underway on both carriageways from roundabout Roshanara to Pul Bangash metro station. Buses and heavy vehicles

coming from ISBT and going towards Shakti Nagar via Roshanara Road will be diverted towards Shamnath Marg, Civil Lines, Mall Road till Khalsa College, towards Shakti Nagar Chowk and vice versa, the advisory stated. Light motor vehicles will be

diverted from Barfkhana Chowk, Lala Jagan Nath Marg to Clock Tower, Chaudhary Nand Lal Marg, Marg Dinanath Parshuram underpass and vice versa, it added. The police have requested the commuters to cooperate by avoiding these roads and if

possible use public transport,

especially metro services.

From page 1

He urged nations from "Afghanistan to Yemen and from Iran to Gaza and Yemen" to be ready to take action against the enemy, and praised those who had died doing so. "Our resisting people in Lebanon and Palestine, you brave fighters, you loyal and patient people, these martyrdoms and the blood that was shed shouldn't shake your determination but make 'you more persistent," he said.

Khamenei gave half of the speech in Arabic as he addressed his comments to Arab nations. Khamenei's last appearance at Friday prayers was after the death of Revolutionary Guard Gen Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in 2020 in a United States drone strike in Baghdad.

A ceremony commemorating the death of Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was held before

Khamenei's speech. Most high-ranking officials, including President Masoud Pezeshkian and top Guard Revolutionary generals, attended the ceremony. Iran is Hezbollah's main backer and has sent weapons and billions of dollars to the group.

Iran's Ali Khamenei...

Also on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Beirut, Lebanon, where he was expected to discuss ongoing fighting between Israel and Hezbollah with Lebanese officials. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, said Iran sent a shipment of aid to Lebanon, including 10 tons of food and medicine.

The blasts in Beirut's southern suburbs by Israel sent huge plumes of smoke and flames into the night sky and shook buildings km (miles) away in the Lebanese capital. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on what the

intended target was, and there was no information immediately available on casualties. state-run National News Agency reported there were more than 10 consecutive airstrikes in the

The new wave of strikes came after Israel warned people to evacuate communities in southern Lebanon, including but also beyond an area that the United Nations declared a buffer zone after Israel and Hezbollah fought a monthlong war in 2006. Israel declared war on Hamas

in the Gaza Strip in response to their Oct 7 attack. More than 41,000 Palestinians have since been killed in the territory, and just over half the dead have been women and children, according to local health officials. Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in Lebanon in that time, most of them since Sept 23, according to the Lebanese

Amit Shah slams Congress over its links with drug bust kingpin

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday attacked Congress over Rs 5640 crore Delhi drug bust "kingpin" Tushar Goyal's link with the opposition party, saying it is dangerous and shameful. However, Congress has denied any link with Goyal and informed that he was expelled from the party two years ago. Shah also said that everyone has seen the plight of the youth of Punjab, Haryana and the entire north India due to drugs during the Congress rule.

"Whīle on one hand the Modi government is adopting a zero-tolerance policy for a

Congress leader in the Rs 5,600 crore drug consignment seized from north India is extremely dangerous and shameful," the minister wrote on X in Hindi.He said that while the Modi government is taking the youth towards sports, education and innovation, the "Congress wants to take them into the dark world of drugs".

"Our government is determined to make India a 'drugfree country' by destroying the entire drug network, without looking at the political position or stature of the drug dealers," he added.In one of Delhi's biggest drug

kilograms of cocaine and 40 kilograms of hydroponic marijuana estimated to be worth around Rs 5,620 crore earlier this week. The BJP on Thursday alleged that the kingpin, Tushar Goel, arrested in connection with the seizure of drugs is the chairman of the Delhi Youth Congress' RTI cell, a claim refuted by the opposition party as baseless. The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) said in a statement that Goel was expelled from the organisation on October 17, 2022, for anti-party activities soon after spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi charged the opposition party with



having links with drug deal-

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, party national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also rejected the

Congress youth wing's claim that Goyal had been expelled on October 17, 2022 for antiparty activities.

Delhi Police have made a

În a significant development,

cocaine—the largest haul ever recorded in the national capital, valued at approximately Rs 5,000 crore. The latest suspect, identified as Jitendra Pal Singh, also known as Jassi, was apprehended at Amritsar Airport in Punjab on Thursday as he attempted to flee to the United Kingdom.Jitendra Pal Singh, alias Jassi, 40, had come to India to oversee the drug cartel's operations but was planning to flee after the arrest of four other members, sources said. He has been living in the UK for the last 17 years and has a UK Green

This arrest points to potential links between organised crime in the UK and a widespread drug smuggling network operating across India.The police were alerted to Singh's attempted escape due to an issued Look Out Circular (LOC) against him. Investigations reveal that this particular drug syndicate operates out of both Delhi and Mumbai, with suspected links to Dubai.

One name that has emerged during police interrogations is Virendra Basoya, an Indian citizen currently residing in Dubai, who authorities believe could be one of the masterminds—if not the kingpin-behind this drug

had previously been arrested in an unrelated case but secured bail. Last year, police in Maharashtra conducted a raid in Delhi, resulting in the seizure of drugs worth Rs 3,000 crore, including 'meow meow,' the street name for the synthetic stimulant

mephedrone. Notably, this raid occurred just a day after Basoya's son married the daughter of a former MLA from Uttar Pradesh's Noida, during a lavish ceremony at a farmhouse near Delhi's airport. Following the police action, Basoya fled to Dubai and is believed to now head an inter-

SC raps LG over MCD standing committee elections

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court on The Supreme Court on Friday expressed reservations over the manner in which Delhi's Lieutenant General (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena had interfered in an election process for the appointment of the sixth member of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) standing committee Issuing notice to the office of the LG, on a plea by Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi challenging the election held on September 27 in which the BJP candidate had returned successfully, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan was critical of the exercise of power under Section 487 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act by the office of LG for holding the poll for the member of standing committee on September 27. The bench orally asked Lt Governor's counsel Sanjay Jain to not to hold the elections till the mat-

"Section 487 is an executive power. Where do you (LG) get the power to interdict the electoral process. It is not for interfering with the legislative functions. It is the election of a member. What happens to democracy if you keep interfering like this? Democracy will be in danger," the bench observed during the brief hear-

ter is heard next.

ing. Section 487 of the DMC Act allows the Delhi Lieutenant Governor to intervene in the functioning of the municipal corporation.

The bench, which sought the response of LG's office in two weeks on the plea of Mayor Shelly Oberoi against the September 27 standing committee polls, told senior advocate Sanjay Jain, appearing for the office of LG, "We will view it seriously if you hold an elec-tion for the MCD Standing Committee chairman.'

It said that initially the court was not inclined to entertain this petition as everyone would start rushing to the Supreme Court but had to issue notice because of exercise of powers under Section 487 of the DMC Act by the LG.

"Our initial view was why should we entertain Article 32 petition but after looking into the matter, we thought this is a matter where we have to issue notice, particularly in view of the manner in which the powers under Section 487 was exercised," the bench said. "We have serious serious doubts about the legality and validity of your (LG's) powers," it added.

The Supreme Court said that there are other issues also which it needs to go into with regard to certain decisions of the mayor. Jain, counsel for the very shameful act. The BJP was

LG's office, said that he was raising a preliminary objection with regard to the maintainability of the petition because the elections have taken place and they can only be challenged by way of election petition.

Reacting to this, the AAP on Friday alleged that Lt Governor Vinai Kumar saxena is "working under a planned conspiraagainst the Delhi government after the Supreme Court questioned his "tearing hurry' in holding the election for the last member of MCD's Standing Committee. Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the powers exercised by the LG to hold the Standing Committee election at 10 pm on September 27 after Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi had postponed were

"What the LG has done is a

but then the people decided that now they wanted to see AAP in the civic body. But the BJP is trying to get power by all means, and for that, the LG himself is in the ground," Bharadwaj said. "Such a hurry shows that the LG is working under a planned conspiracy which does not suit a constitutional office," the minister added. Bharadwaj further said that someone else would have resigned from the LG post by

Lambasting AAP, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Friday said in the last two years, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has completely stalled Delhi Municipal Corporation. The situation has become so bad that fearing defeat, the AAP is not even allowing the election for the constitutionally required Dalit Mayor as per the Municipal Corporation Act, he claimed. Sachdeva said the AAP is showcasing the court's questioning of the Lieutenant Governor on the election issue of the Standing Committee members as its achievement, but the court routinely issues notices and seeks responses on the petitioner's questions in such matters. The Delhi Municipal Corporation is neither fulfilling its service responsibilities nor completing

any administrative work. Since 2015, the Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi government has financially crippled the Municipal Corporation to sabotage the BJP administration, and since coming to power in 2022, they have turned the corporation into a political and legal battleground, where even the elections for the Alderman and Standing Committee members only took place after strict court orders, state BJP chief

Sachdeva added that, after a long wait, elections for the Ward Committees and Standing Committee of the Municipal Corporation were held under the pressure of the Supreme and High Courts. However, seeing an imminent defeat in the election for the Standing Committee chairman, the Aam Aadmi Party first did not participate in the process, and after losing, went back to court to ensure that the Standing Committee would not be formed, resulting in the corporation remaining stalled. He said by taking every issue of the Municipal Corporation to court, the Aam Aadmi Party has not only deprived the people of Delhi of development for two years but has also obstructed the election of a Dalit Mayor as mandated by the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act.

Juvenile held for murdering Unani practitioner after confessing on Instagram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi police crime branch has arrested a 17-year-old for allegedly killing a 55-yearold unani practitioner inside his private nursing home in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj onThursday. According to police, the juvenile has confessed he shot him on the instructions of the husband of a nurse working in the same hospital. After the incident, he allegedly uploaded a post on a social media platform with his photograph and a caption: "Kar diya 2024 mein murder" (Finally committed murder in

Both the juveniles lived in the same locality and the weapon used in the crime has been recovered, police said. The breakthrough came when police tracked the suspect through his Instagram account, where he posted a photo of himself holding a pistol with the caption, "First murder of 2024," which led the police straight to him.

Police said one juvenile was arrested from the Anand Vihar area. During interrogation, the accused juvenile confessed that he had been hired by the husband of a nurse who suspected Akhtar of having an affair



NIMA HOSPITAL

revealed that he was in love with the nurse's daughter and that the nurse's husband had promised him that he would get him married to his daughter if he murdered the doctor. "The husband suspected an

affair between the nurse and Dr Akhtar. The accused teen was in love with the nurse's daughter. So, the husband promised he would get his daughter married to him if he killed Dr Akhtar," a Delhi Police officer told the media. Police said the juvenile con-

fessed to his involvement in the murder, along with his accomplice, another juvenile. He stated that they had procured the pistol used in the crime from one Babu r/o Khadda Colony, Jaitpur and kept the same with Jafrabad after commission of Murder. The weapon used in murder along with empty and live cartridges have also been recovered.

The incident occurred in the early hours of October 3, when two teenagers, aged 16 and 17, entered Nima Hospital in Delhi's Jaitpur area around 1:30 am, pretending to seek treatment. One of the boys asked the staff to change the dressing on his injured toe. Moments later, they shot Dr Akhtar at point-blank range. The police have also questioned a female nurse of the nursing home and her husband in connection with the case, sources said.. Initially, the police said, the accused claimed a monetary dispute with Dr Akhtar but recanted later.

Kejriwal to address second Janta Ki Adalat rally on Sunday: Sanjay Singh

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

am Aadmi Party chief Aarvind Kejriwal will Adalat' rally at north Delhi's Chhatrasal stadium on Sunday, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said. Addressing a press conference

at the party headquarters on Friday, Singh expressed hope that the people of Delhi will give a massive mandate to the AAP in the upcoming assembly polls, as a "certificate of Kejriwal's honesty". He said that the AAP national convenor will address the rally at



Chhatrasal Stadium in Model

announced his decision to resign from the CM's post, saying that he needed to go to the "peoples' court", just two days after being released from Tihar

jail where he spent over five months in connection with the excise policy case.

The AAP supremo also said post after getting a "certificate of honesty" from Delhiites in the assembly polls due in February. Singh said that the BJP's intention to "finish the Aam Aadmi Party and Kejriwal" through a "misinformation" campaign was foiled by the AAP convenor.

The BJP has been attacking Kejriwal on corruption issues, citing an alleged liquor scam related to the excise policy

Kalkaji Temple authority issues fresh directions to check all electricity points **STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Kalkaji Temple authority on Friday issued fresh

directions to check all the electricity points, a day after a 17while standing in a queue to entre the premises that resulted in a stampede. "It is an unfortunate incident and we are with the family members of the victim," an authority mem-

"During navratri, a large number of people offer prayers at Kalkaji Temple. We got to know that some people climbed a railing to reach inside. During this time, one of them took support of an elec-



tricity wire which malfunctioned and touched an iron railing," he said.

When the 17-year-old boy touched the same railing, he got electrocuted, resulting in a stampede-like situation, he said. On the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, Mayank got electrocuted while

standing in a queue to enter the

temple. This resulted in a stam-

pede in which six people got injured. After this incident, we have asked electricians to check every single electrical point and verify that no such condition will happen in future,

Volunteers have been asked to maintain the crowd and only allow 50 people at a time to enter the temple to avoid such situations, he said.

"More than 500 to 600 volunteers, along with security forces, are deployed to maintain law and order," the authority member said, adding that they have installed over 1,000 CCTV cameras to keep strict vigil. The last rites of Mayank were held on Friday.

"We were waiting for our relatives to come. Mayank's last rites were carried out today" his brother, Ritik Sharma said and demanded strict action against the temple authorities. was waiting in the queue, when he touched the railing and got electrocuted. He came to Kalkajit temple with his family members to pay obeisance. A case under section 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery), 125(9) (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered and further investigation was taken up.

Metro services on Yellow Line to be hit on Sunday due to maintenance work: DMRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Train services between Vishwavidyalaya and Kashmere Gate metro stations on the Yellow Line will not be available for 40 minutes from 6 am on Sunday due to maintenance work, a Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official said. Yellow Line connects Samaypur Badli in Delhi with Millennium City Centre, Gurugram.

In order to undertake the planned maintenance work at Vishwavidyalaya metro station, train services on the Yellow Line will be briefly regulated in the early morning of October 6 till 6.40 am, they

According to the officials, the first train service will start at 6.45 am instead of 6 am on Sunday from Vishwavidyalaya to Millennium City Centre Gurugram and at 6.52 am instead of 6 am from Kashmere Gate to Samaypur Badli.

There will be no train services available between Vishwavidyalaya to Kashmere Gate metro stations and vice versa. Vidhan Sabha and Civil Lines metro stations will remain closed till resumption of train services at 6.40 am, the



officials said.

However, normal train services, from 6 am onwards, will remain available on the remaining major section of Yellow Line from Millennium City Centre Gurugram to Kashmere Gate and Samaypur Badli to Vishwavidyalaya stations, they stated.

During the maintenance work, the train services will be available at a frequency of 10 minutes and thereafter, regular Sunday timetable will be followed for the rest of the day, the officials said.

To avoid any inconvenience to passengers during these early morning hours on Sunday, announcements will also be made at the stations and inside the trains on Yellow Line about the destination of trains and respective platforms for change over during this maintenance period, they added.



 $T^{\text{he city authorities on}}_{\text{Friday assured the Delhi}}_{\text{High Court that "sentiments"}}$ were protected in the process of installation of a statue of Maharani Lakshmi Bai at the Shahi Idgah Park at Sadar Bazar . The court was informed by the counsel for the MCD that the statue has been placed in a "corner", 200 m away from the Idgah wall.

A partition wall has been built and "sentiments are being protected", the senior counsel for the DDA said. The court was hearing an appeal by the Shahi Idgah Managing Committee against a single judge's order refusing to restrain the installation of the freedom fighter's statue.

The committee has submitted that the Shahi Idgah Park is an ancient property built during the Mughal period and it is used for offering namaz. The bench was told during the hearing that the statue has been installed.

Favouring an amicable resolution in the matter, the bench headed by Chief Justice Manmohan asked the authorities to take a delegation of the appellant to the site to show



Take a small team and show them the area," said the bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela.

"Three representatives of the appellant are permitted to visit the area where the statue has been installed. Take them tomorrow," the court stated, while listing the matter for hearing on Öctober 7.

On October 1, the court had questioned the opposition to the installation of the statue by the MCD at the Shahi Idgah Park as Maharani Lakshmi Bai was not a religious figure. It had, however, said it does not want the issue to become a "flashpoint unnecessarily". On September 25, it had said Lakshmi Bai was a national hero and history should not be divided on communal politics.

Universities should not be evaluated solely on basis of placement records: Atishi Evaluate also on jobs their graduates create, says CM

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Friday said universi-ties should not be evaluated solely on the basis of their placement records but also job opportunities their grad-

Addressing the second convocation of Netaji Subhas University of Technology, Atishi, who also holds the education portfolio, highlighted the importance of fostering entrepreneurial skills among the youth.

"The biggest challenge our youths face today is unemployment.

I am pleased to know that 81 per cent of NSUT graduates secured jobs. However, I believe universities should not be evaluated based on placement percentages alone, they should be assessed based on how many jobs their graduates generate. This is the need of the hour," the chief minister said.

"Our goal should be to not only secure the best job but also to create job opportunities for others," she added. Atishi also shared success



ernment's Business Blaster programme which provides financial support to school students for establishing star-

their contributions will play a key role in nation-building. Exhorted the students & fac-The convocation ceremony ulty to focus on fundamental was also attended by Delhi and basic research that leads Lieutenant Governor V K to innovations & inventions Saxena, who serves as the for the progress of the Nation chancellor of the university. and humankind at large.

the young brilliant minds its biggest national asset and must inculcate. NSUT has fast evolved into a

premier institution producing the best in technical disciplines. My heartfelt congratulations to the passing out students and their proud parents," Saxena said in a post on

Jaishankar to lead Indian delegation to Pakistan for SCO summit: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation to Pakistan mid -October for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal announced here on Friday.

The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

"The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the

held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. The spokesperson clarified that the external affairs minister is travelling to Pakistan only to attend the SCO summit.

In August, Pakistan invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO's summit. Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it is seen as a major decision on New Delhi's part.

The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO which has been playing a key role in boosting regional security cooperation.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes

Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India on August 5, 2019 announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engage-

The SCO council of heads of government conclave is the second-highest platform in the grouping. The SCO heads of state summit is the top



that is generally attended by the Indian prime minister. The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations. India was the chair of the

SCO last year. It hosted the

format in July last year. India's association with the

SCO began in 2005 as an observer country. It became a full member state of SCO at the Astana summit in 2017. India has shown a keen interest in deepening its securityrelated cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan became its permanent member along with India in 2017. Jaishankar's Pakistan visit will

after he called out the neighbouring country over crossborder terrorism at the United Nations General Assembly.

'Many countries get left behind due to circumstances beyond their control, but some make conscious choices with disastrous consequences. A premier example is our neighbour, Pakistan," the minister said on September 28.

"When this polity instills such fanaticism among its people, its GDP can only be measured in terms of radicalisation and its exports in the form of terrorism. Today we see the ills it sought to visit on others consume its own society. It can't blame the world. This is only karma," Jaishankar

Referring to Pakistani prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's address at the UNGA a day before, Jaishankar said,""We heard some bizarre assertions from it at this very forum yes-

So let me make India's position perfectly clear. Pakistan's cross border terrorism policy will never succeed, and it can have no expectation of impunity. On the contrary, actions will certainly have consequences.

Shehbaz Sharif while addressing the UNGA compared Jammu and Kashmir to Palestine. "Similarly, like the people of Palestine, the people of Jammu and Kashmir too, have struggled for a century for their freedom and

Former MP Ashok Tanwar officially inducted into Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $F^{\rm ormer\ MP\ Ashok\ Tanwar}_{\rm was\ officially\ inducted\ into}$ the Congress on Friday and urged all sections, especially Dalits and backward classes, in Haryana to ensure a "big mandate" for the party in the assembly polls to send a message to the entire country. Tanwar had informally joined

the Congress at Rahul Gandhi's Gandhi's rally in Mahendragarh district in Haryana on Thursday, dealing a setback to the BJP ahead of the October 5 assembly polls. Hours before joining the Congress, the former Sirsa MP was campaigning for the BJP candidate in Safidon assembly constituency and exhorting voters to bring it back to power for a third

Tanwar was officially inducted into the Congress at the AICC headquarters by party treasurer Ajay Maken.

Later, Tanwar, accompanied

by party MP Deepender Hooda, also met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. 'We are with 36 communities in Haryana. Our resolve is for everyone. We will always raise

the voice of Dalits, tribals, backward classes, minorities and the poor," Kharge said in a post on X.

He also shared pictures from

Addressing a press conference, Tanwar said, "I began my political career with the Congress. In the last few months I was with the BJP, the environment that I saw, I was hurt over a number of issues, the faith that should be there in Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution is not there (in the BJP)."

"On the other hand, Rahul Gandhi is working on strengthening Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution and ensuring that people get their rights and unity in the country is strengthened," he said. Tanwar credited the Congress for his political career.

"I request all Dalits and backward classes of Haryana that to make the state number one and to ensure people of Haryana get their rights... All sections, I request them to give a big mandate (to the Congress) to send a message to the country," he said.

The Dalit leader had on Thursday described his decision to return to the Congress as the "will of God".

"It's all circumstances, destiny and will of the people. Let bygones be bygones," Tanwar

had told PTI on phone. "I am joining the Congress exactly five years after I left it. That was the will of God then, today also it is the will of God... Sometimes, there is not much in your hands," he had said.

Asked on Friday about allegations of opportunism and losing from Sirsa parliamentary constituency on a BJP ticket, Tanwar said, "If Ashok Tanwar was an opportunist, he would have gone to the BJP five years ago. So, from this platform, because today we want to start on a positive note, I would not like to say anything negative but the BJP itself knows that Ashok Tanwar did not lose there, the BJP lost there and the BJP's policy lost there."

Tanwar accused the BJP of disrespecting the Constitution and Dalit leaders.

Asked if there was a guarantee that he would now remain with the Congress, Tanwar replied with a Hindi idiom which loosely translates to if a person who loses his way in the morning returns home in the evening, he is not called

"When you also leave home, no matter where you go in the world, you will come back and stay at home. When a person leaves home, then he realises the value of home more... Now I have understood the entire political system 360 degrees and that is why today I am standing with Rahul ji," he said.

At the rally in Bhawaria on Thursday, Tanwar shook hands with Gandhi and greeted former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who welcomed him into the party fold and patted his back.

Congress leaders K C Venugopal, Bajrang Punia, Rao Dan Singh and political scientist Yogendra Yadav were also present on stage.

Maldives President to visit India to restore strained ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $M_{ ext{Mohamed}}^{ ext{aldives}} \stackrel{ ext{President}}{ ext{Muizzu will}}$ pay a five-day visit to India beginning Monday with an aim to reset ties that came under some strain since November last year.

Though the Maldivian president attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June, it will be his first bilateral visit to India. The ties between India and the

Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. Subsequently, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians. The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA), announcing Muizzu's trip, said it is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people to people ties between the two countries. "President of the Republic of

hold discussions with Modi on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, it said.Muizzu is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi

Maldives Mohamed Muizzu

will be travelling to India on a

state visit from October 6 to

During his visit, Muizzu will

10," it said.

Besides Delhi, he will also visit Mumbai and Bengaluru where he will be attending business

"The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and holds a special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's

'Neighbourhood First Policy', the MEA said in a statement. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to the Maldives in August that prepared the grounds for Muizzu's upcoming trip.

"The visit of President Muizzu to India after the recent visit of the external affairs minister to Maldives is testimony to the importance that India attaches to its relations with the Maldives," the MEA said.

The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male.

Moon replica to be unveiled in Assam to commemorate success of Chandrayaan mission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

stunning 10-meter high Areplica of the moon is set to be unveiled in Guwahati in Assam to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan mission, coinciding with the four-day India International Science Festival (IISF) from November 30.

This 1:50,00,000 scale model will be prominently displayed in the city, crafted by British artist Luke Jerram, said a statement here by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Measuring seven meters in diameter, the moon features intricate 120dpi NASA imagery of its surface, with each centimeter of the illuminated sculpture representing five kilometers of the lunar landscape.



This is for the first time the Ministry is holding the IISF at the Northeast to be hosted at IIT Guwahati. The event is a testimony to the Government's commitment to the Northeast and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the region as a key player in India's growth story, said Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh here at a press conference.
He said that the festival aims to ence literature festival.

celebrate India's achievements in science and technology. The much-sought after event will attract participants from around the globe, featuring discussions on visions for a developed India by 2047, spe-

cialized sessions on science and technology in the Northeast, workshops for educators. The event will also have a focus on nuclear energy for self-reliance, alongside a sci-

Rajnath Singh reaffirms Government's commitment to empower India's defence industry PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reaffirmed the Government's India's defence industry by working hand-in-hand with them, and realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making the country a global manufacturing hub. Addressing the seventh annual session of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) here , he described the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict as a reminder to build a strong defence industrial base, which can be bolstered and expanded with time.

The defence minister asserted that the Government, in its third consecutive term, will provide a renewed thrust to its ongoing efforts towards developing a robust, innovative and self-reliant defence ecosystem. He enumerated



the steps taken to attain 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, including creation of defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, issuance of positive indigeni-sation lists (PILs), corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board, handholding of private industries by DRDO, and unveiling of Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020. On the 10 PILs notified with

over 5,500 items, he stated that the idea is to equip the Armed Forces with platforms/equipment manufactured on Indian soil. Terming the lists as dynamic & not static, he exhorted the industry to achieve complete selfreliance for these items within the stipulated time, and keep shortening the list. He also urged them to assess and identify products that

can be added to the PILs in business. He urged SIDM to view of the rapid changes being witnessed in the field of defence across the globe. The defence minister empha-

ronment conducive to ease of doing business in the country has been created, and a target set for making India's defence industry export-oriented. While he lauded the major contribution of the private sector in taking the defence exports to a record high of over Rs 21,000 crore in Financial Year (FY) 2023-24, he called upon the industry to keep in mind the export and import figures, and strive to reduce the ratio between the two with a target-oriented approach.

Recognising the potential of small & medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups in the defence sector, he acknowledged the challenges they face in achieving ease of doing

work closely with the government to address groundlevel issues & help these enterprises to play a larger sised that due to the role in defence manufacturthat our policies translate into ease of doing business at the ground level. SIDM can help in identifying the practical challenges faced by startups and SMEs so that we can address them," he said. Rajnath urged the industry to invest more in cutting-edge

technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), cyber defence, & autonomous systems. "India's defence industry must keep pace with glob-al trends and focus on highend technology. There is a need to increase investments in areas like AI & autonomous systems, which will define the future of warfare. The government is ready to provide all necessary support," he said

Government introduces Ecomark certification to promote environment friendly goods

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

To promote environmen-I tally friendly products, the Government has introduced the 'Ecomark' certification, aimed at a variety of categories, including cosmetics, food items, and electron-

The move aims to empower consumers to make informed choices while encouraging manufacturers to adopt sustainable production practices, ultimately fostering the growth of green industries. The initiative also aims to prevent misleading claims about a product's environmental impact, according to a statement from the Union **Environment Ministry issued** on Friday here.

"Eco-labelling of products enables consumers to make informed purchase decisions as well as encourage manufacturers to transition to the production of environmentfriendly products, leading to the promotion of green industries," said the notification



signed by Union Environment Ministry Joint Secretary Nameeta Prasad.

The Ecomark initiative which aligns with the 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) principle, focusing on lower energy consumption, resource efficiency, and the promotion of a circular economy will cover a wide range of prod-

"These include products that reduce pollution by minimising or eliminating the generation of waste and environmental emissions; products that are recyclable or made from recycled material or both.

...products that reduce the use of non-renewable resources, including nonrenewable energy sources and natural resources; and products that reduce the use of any material that has adverse impacts on the environment," as per the notification issued

late last month. These include cosmetics such as skin powders, tooth pow-

der, toothpaste, creams, oils, shampoos, soaps, nail polish, and lipsticks and soaps and detergents, food items will cover edible oils, tea, and coffee to name a few while electric/electronic goods include TVs, refrigerators, food mixers, geysers, irons, toasters, and fans. Textiles will cover sustainable fabric Once granted, the Ecomark

will remain valid for three years, with annual reports required from holders to ensure continued compliance. A dedicated Steering Committee, headed by the Environment

Secretary, will oversee the implementation of the Ecomark rules, recommend products for certification, and periodically review the criteria to support ongoing research and development in sustainable practices.

While developing criteria for the grant of 'Ecomark' to a product, the production process, including the source of raw material, will be con-

Apart from this, the use of natural resources, environmental impact, the effects and extent of emissions or waste arising from the production process, the utilisation of waste and recycled materials, the suitability for recycling, and the use of nonhazardous substances in place of hazardous substances will also be considered. Talking about the implemen-

tation procedure, an official said that an application for 'Ecomark' will be required to be made to the CPCB. After that, the Board will, either by itself or through a verifier, verify whether the product complies.

Once this is done, a report will be prepared. Once the Board is satisfied that the product meets the conditions mentioned in the guidelines, it may grant 'Ecomark'.

This mark will be valid for 3 years or until there is a change in criteria, whichever is ear

The certificate can be renewed, as per the notifica-

ICMR inks pact with NVVN to harness solar power across its institutes nationwide PIONEER NEWS SERVICE efforts to help significantly

NEW DELHI

n a move aimed to cut down

Lcarbon footprint and energy costs as the Government sets a target of Net Zero Carbon emission by 2070, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has inked a pact with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), aiming to harness solar power across its institutes nationwide. Under the agreement, NVVN will provide, install, test, and maintain rooftop solar panels at 15 ICMR institutes, totaling a capacity of 4,559 KW. Additionally, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) will secure a fixed solar tariff for the next 25 years, enhancing long-term cost efficiency and sustainability for

ICMR operations. Last year's total electric unit consumption of ICMR institutes was 24,181,811 kwh, as per the

ICMR official. The move to empower these institutes with solar power is the of the Modi-led



Government at the Centre to achieve the target of adding 50 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity every year for the next five years i.e. 2030.

A senior official from the ICMR said that the emphasis is on energy conservation and pollution-free environment aiming to reduce the dependence on conventional sources of energy, and replacing them with renewable sources.

Seven institutes are already benefiting from solar power under earlier projects, and the MoU with NVVN will extend solarisation efforts to additional facil-

States are already stepping up

reduce their carbon footprint and energy expenditure. For instance, Rajasthan is expected to attract investments worth Rs 5 lakh crore in the energy sector over the next five years, Minister of State Heera Lal Nagar said recently at the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo 2024 organised by Informa Markets in India. The Minister said that, "Rajasthan has transformed its

geographic challenges into an energy boon. Currently, we produce 20,000 MW of solar energy, of which only 5,000 MW is used locally, while the rest is supplied across the country. Additionally, we have taken steps to further scale this, with planned investments of Rs 5 lakh crore in the energy sector over the next 4-5 years," Nagar said. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh has taken initiatives for 600 MW of solar and 880 MWh of battery storage, aiming to integrate renewable energy with energy storage solutions

Independent, nominated members can be kingmakers in J and K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

head of the declaration And of the section results on October 8, speculations are going on as to who will form the next Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

While the Bharatiya Janta Party is hoping to come closer to the magic numbers the pre-poll alliance partners -the National Conference and the Congress Party are keeping their fingers crossed. the political

suggested candidates along with five nominated members (with voting rights) are set to play a role in Government formation in

Rough estimates suggested more than half a dozen independent candidates and five nominated members are most likely to play the role of kingmakers along with small political parties after the poll results are declared in Jammu and Kashmir.

grapevine in the region The senior leadership of the suggested independent BJP and the National Conference are secretly maintaining a close watch on the independent candidates likely to emerge victorious in both regions.

According to the Jammu and Reorganization Kashmir (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has been granted powers to nominate five persons to the Assembly including two each Kashmiri Pandits (migrant) and Women and one PoJK have won a maximum

refugee with voting rights, taking the effective strength of the House to 95.

Following this development, the majority mark in the Legislative Assembly will be to political pundits, the

voters across Jammu and Kashmir are most likely to throw a fractured mandate. Since the 2002, Assembly polls no political party has won more than 28 Assembly seats. The National Conference and the PDP

touched the tally of 25 in the 2014 Assembly polls. Congress has touched 20 before hitting the lowest number of 12 seats in 2014. The like-minded political parties will have no other option but to join hands together to cobble up a majority

Meanwhile, Congress has strongly objected to the move of the ruling BJP to get five of its leaders nominated to the Legislative Assembly,

number of 28 seats in the from LG before the process previous polls while BJP has of Government formation in of Government formation in J and K and termed any such move as undemocratic and against the mandate of people and asked the LG to desist from any such move. Reacting strongly to the media reports, JKPCC has termed any such move as undemocratic, an attempt to defeat the mandate of the people. JKPCC senior vice chief president and Ravinder spokesperson, Ravinder Sharma told media persons on Friday that the power to

nominate five members to the Legislative Assembly should lie with the new Government, otherwise it would be an attempt to defeat the mandate of the people.

Expressing hope that Congress - NC will get a comfortable majority to form the Government, but any such exercise would be contrary to the democratic norms and would be another betraval of the mandate of the people, he added. "The people have cast their

elect their

Government whosoever gets majority, in the elections should be given a chance to form the Government," Sharma said.

The Congress party had favored reservations in the Assembly for PoJK refugees, KPs, and other minorities through elections to give representation to them but it would be a misuse of the provision of nomination if it is used to defeat the mandate of people by the BJP, JKPCC chief spokesperson added.



leader Arjun Singh, in North 24 Parganas district, Friday, October 4, 2024. Singh alleged that a group of people threw stones, hurled bombs and fired multiple

Ex BJP MP's house attacked with bombs, bullets in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $B_{\text{gunshots}}^{\text{ombs}}$ were hurled and "They hurled about 15 bombs one after the other ... they residence of former MP and senior BJP leader's Bhatpara residence in North 24 about Kolkata, the politician on

Friday alleged Claiming that he had received a bullet when it grazed past him, the former Trinamool Congress-turned-BJP MP said that a band of TMC criminals were behind the attack.

"At about 8.30 in the morning when the family members were busy preparing for Navaratri Pujas some criminals at the instance of local TMC councilor Namit Singh attacked my housecum-office at Mazdoor Bhawan with brickbats, bombs and they even fired gunshots," he said adding, Namit Singh was a criminal whose name figured in the cases being investigated by the National Investigation

He also alleged that the police stood silent spectator when the gun-toting criminals stomped about the area. "Everything was done at the instance of the local TMC leadership and in connivance with the police who are acting like slaves of the TMC leaders," the leader often referred to be a strongman of the area said

"They hurled about 15 bombs terrorised the locals and the members of my family but the administration did nothing," Referred to as a mafia zone

Barrackpore an industrial region dominated mostly by jute mills has been a hotbed of political clashes — resulting in several deaths — from the days of the erstwhile Left Front. Singh was a TMC MLA from the region in those days and a close follower of the then Opposition Leader and Minister Mamata Banerjee.

When asked to comment on the Friday's attacks local TMC MLA and archrival of Singh said Somnath Shyam said that his party was not involved in the attacks. "The police must be taking action if at all there is any incident ... but the TMC is not involved in

anything," he said. Singh who had twice been an MP from Barrackpore, first on BJP ticket defeating TMC's Dinesh Trivedi in 2014 and then on TMC ticket winning in 2019 general elections. He finally joined the BJP after he was not given a ticket by the TMC in 2024 and contested against the sitting Bengal Minister Partha Bhowmick conceding the seat to him.



Former Minister Harshvardhan

 Γ he ruling BJP suffered yet another setback ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls on Friday, as former Minister and its senior leader from western Maharashtra Harshvardhan Patil announced his decision to quit the saffron party and join the Sharad Pawar-

Patil's announcement came a day after he met NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's "Silver Oak" residence in south

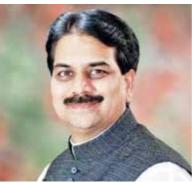
Patil, it may be recalled, had quit the Congress and joined the BJP in the runup to the October 2019 State Assembly

decision to join the NCP (SP) stems from the realisation that he will not be able to contest from home constituency of Indapur, a seat he had represented for four consecutive terms from 1995 to 2009.

Welcoming Patil to his party, NCP (AP) chief Sharad Pawar said: "I welcome Harshvardhan Patil's decision. We expect many party workers to return to the party in the coming days. All those who believe in the ideology of the NCP (AP) are always welcome'

Patil had wanted to the contest the 2024 State Assembly polls on a BJP ticket from Indapur, a wish he had recently conveyed to deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis.

However, coalition compulsions within the ruling MahaYuti — comprising BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit



Pawar-led NCP - has made it impossible for Patil to contest the State Assembly polls from Indapur.

Because, NCP (AP) chief Ajit Pawar meanwhile, went ahead and announced sitting MLA Dattatray Vithoba Bharne
— who had won the elections in 2014 and 2019 from the undivided NCP - as his party candidate for the Lok Sabha

A four-time MLA, Patil — who had been elected to the State Assembly from Indapur constituency in 1995, 1999 and 2004 as an Independent and in 2009 as a candidate from the Congress — is likely to be fielded as an NCP (AP) candidate from Indapur in the 2024 Assembly

Talking to media persons, Patil said: "I have been travelling across the Indapur constituency and meeting people from various sections for the last two months. People have been insisting that I should contest the Assembly election"

Fadnavis...since the Indapur seat is going to the sitting MLA from Maha Yuti (Bharne), he (Fadnavis) assured me of another option. Though the option would have been feasible for me, it would not have been acceptable to my supporters and people from my constituency," Patil said.

"During my meeting with Pawar sahib yesterday, he told me that since my supporters want me to contest from Indapur, I should take a call... I spoke to

my supporters and have decided to join the NCP (SP)," Patil said. Welcoming Patil's entry to her party, Baramati MP and NCP (SP) Working President Supriya Sule said: "The family relations between Pawar family and Patil family go back to six decades...I welcome him to the NCP.

Patil is the Chairman of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories

Patil's entry to the NCP (SP) comes close on the heels of Raje Samarjeetsinh Ghatge, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Kolhapur, quitting the saffron party, joining the Sharad Pawar-led

Similarly, in a "ghar-wapsi" of sorts, three-time former MP and BJP leader from Gondia in Vidarbha region Gopaldas Agrawal had quit the saffron party on September 13, and joined the

Opposition Congress.

Both NCP (SP) and Congress are constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVS).

interact with and how many do

we interact with. As far as

human angle is concerned,

people behind the machine are

concerned we are way ahead of

technology is concerned we

may be not so good as of now,

we have lagged. We were better

than them in technology also

sometime back, but we have

lagged in that and we need to

catch up. As far as production

rates are concerned, we are way

behind. We need to catch up.

That will happen over a period

of time, it cannot happen

Acknowledging the delay in

the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas programme with

the MK-1A deliveries yet to

begin, IAF chief said their first aim is not to let the fighter

aircraft strength go down

below 30 squadrons. In this

regard, he said Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

must now stick to its promise

of producing 24 aircraft every

year to offset the delay. They

have a third aircraft line in

overnight.



The Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh at the Indo-Pacific Regional

Defence Minister reiterates India's stand for rules based on international order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here reiterated India's stand on having a rules based international order and respect for international laws and said "India advocates for a peaceful resolution to disputes and seeks to promote cooperation among nations in Indo-Pacific." These assertions were in apparent reference to China flexing its

muscle in this strategically important region. Addressing the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2024, he also said India's vision for Indo-Pacific is based on

fostering partnerships through sustainable development, economic growth and mutual security. India's vision for the Indo-Pacific is based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) as we believe in fostering partnerships that prioritise development,

sustainable

engagement with its partners understanding that true progress can only be achieved through collective action and synergy, and due to these efforts, it is now considered as a credible and preferred security partner and first responder in the region.

economic growth and mutual

security," Rajnath said.

Defence Minister The reiterated India's unwavering resolve to a rule-based international order, respect for international law, and adherence to the principles enshrined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, describing them as the cornerstones of foreign policy.

"India has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution to disputes and has sought to promote cooperation among nations in the Indo-Pacific, with a strong emphasis on the centrality of ASEAN in fostering regional dialogue, stability and collective growth," he said. Rajnath also underscored

India's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the vital international

routes. He added that the engagement with regional partners, including joint exercises and informationsharing initiatives, is aimed at strengthening the collective maritime security framework. He underlined that the Indian Armed Forces, especially Navy, has been at the forefront of cooperative endeavours with countries of the region, and are continuously working towards building t capacity and capabilities.

"While India's endeavour for maritime cooperation continues, its interests are not in conflict with any other country. At the same time, interests of any other nation should not come in conflict with other nations. This is the spirit in which we must work together," he added.

Rajnath pointed out that the rapidly evolving global maritime landscape is shaped by shifting power dynamics, resource competition and emerging security threats. He added that the emergence of the Indo-Pacific theatre

reflects a visible balancing of global power. The Indo-Pacific region has dynamic geopolitical zone and is the centre of gravity of

the economic and strategic interests. It also carries a degree of pre-existing international tension, rivalry and conflict. While some challenges are of local nature, many challenges have global ramifications. With respect to marine resources, we are witnessing a significant increase in geopolitical competition. As populations continue to grow, the demand for marine resources has surged, leading to heightened tensions and competition among nations," he added. Sharing insights on the subject of 'Global Commons', the natural resources such as

the ocean, outer space, climate, clean air, etc, which is shared by all of humanity, Rajnath stated that these are essential to maintain a sustainable planet. He stressed on the need to create a balance of competing interests, which can offer numerous

economic, and social benefits transcending

India matching up to China by improving airfields: IAF chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

China is rapidly developing infrastructure on its side across the Line of Actual Control matching up by improving its airfields in the border areas, IAF chief AP Singh said here

on Friday.
He also said while India is ahead of China in terms of training, it lags behind in technology and rate of defence production and called for faster pace of developing and manufacturing systems within the country. The Air Force Chief said the aim of the IAF is to achieve total self-reliance by 2047.

The IAF Chief said India has the capabilities to intercept any incoming missile but lack the numbers. He made this observation when asked whether like Israel, which a few days ago intercepted most of the 200 missiles fired by Iran, India can also do the same.

He pointed out India is a much bigger country in terms of size compared to Israel and will prioritise in defending vital installations strategic attacked by missiles.

Making these assertions here during the annual press conference ahead of the Air Force Day on October 8, he said India is modernising its



Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh addresses a press conference at Akash Air Force Mess, in New Delhi on Friday

Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

airfields along the borders with China and using advanced landing grounds (ALG) in central sector. Comparing the two countries, the Air Chief said India is better than China as far as human aspects and training are concerned but has lagged behind in technology and production rates of

"We have done our analysis. We don't have a design to go offensive unnecessarily. Only when we are pushed, we will do something... We have our plans in place. One place I can positively say is we are training much better than them. We have exposure much better than them. We get to know... how they train and how many

Nashik, it is yet to churn out an aircraft, be noted. He stressed that private players have to come in to ensure the numbers. "We can't keep relying on one agency. Even HAL will have limitations," he stated, given the numbers

Sedentary lifestyle main cause for heart disease, back pain, diabetes: Study

work from home Abecomes a common lifestyle particularly post-Covid pandemic, many of us find ourselves spending sitting, excessive hours whether at our desks or on the couch, often slouched over our laptops and phones. A brisk walk and exercise is

key, Jooa Norha, a doctoral researcher physiotherapist

65 with metabolic syndrome a cluster of conditions that health issues.

study health conditions involving the risk of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes. The study was conducted on 64 adults

between 40 and 65 years-old who were overweight or obese. The participants were further divided into two groups — one group was asked to reduce their sitting time and include light exercise in their routine, while the other group was asked to carry on with their normal routine. The ones who included light exercise in their routine demonstrated stable back pain, while the inactive group showed a steep increase in the intensity of back pain. Hence, the study concluded that reducing inactivity can help

Thousands bid final farewell to Thomas Cherian to Cherian who had come KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI onlookers shouted "Thomas special vehicle that carried the and prayers from Holy Bible.

 Γ housands of people had gathered at Elanthur St Peters Church to bid farewell to Thomas Cherian, a craftsman in Indian Army's elite Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers who had laid down his life at the altar of the nation in an air crash on February 7, 1968 in Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh.

High ranking bishops and priests of the Orthodox Church led the prayers and other rituals prior to the funeral as his brothers and sister stood with sombre faces. Cherian was buried with full military honors as

Cherian Amar Rahen". His mortal remains were

recovered from the crash site last week after a 56 year long search operation carried out by the rescue team of Indian Army. The body was flown to Thiruvananthapuram by a special IAF aircraft and was received by the officers and jawans of the Pangode Brigade of the Army, stationed in the suburb of the

capital city, Thomas Cherian began his last journey to his village early Friday morning after the officers and jawans accorded him the customary send off at the Brigade head quarters. A while the group of bishops motorcade accompanied the and priests read out psalms

coffin which was draped in the national tricolors. The body was kept in his ancestral home for two hours before the cortege accompanied by hundreds of people left for the church.

Thousands had gathered to bid him good bye and for most of them Thomas Cherian was an unknown soldier till Monday. It was through the communication from Indian Army that they came to know about Cherian who had left the village at the age of 17 to serve the nation. team of officers and soldiers acted as pall bearers

There was a message from Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi which was read out by the church representative. Wreaths were placed on behalf of the Kerala Government as well as the district administration. Close relations of Cherian

including his two brothers Thomas Varghese, Thomas Thomas and sister Mary kissed the coffin for the last time while the officers handed over the tricolour to Thomas Thomas. The casket was lowered into a special tomb near to the final resting elder brother.

till the last post was sounded

place of their parents and "This is an emotional farewell aircraft had been retrieved.

back from the snow clad Himalayas to the arid soil of this village. All we could offer right now is our tearful goodbye," Ğopalakrishnan, who was in attendance at the Thomas's Odalil Home from morning

the Army buglers. Cherian's name would figure in the record books for the feat of Dogra Scouts of the Indian Army and Tiranga Mountain Rescue for recovering a soldier after 56 years of search mission. Till date only nine bodies out of the 102 passengers who were on board in the ill-fated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

University of Turku who conducted the study has focused on adults aged 40 to

increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Flagging the detrimental effects of a sedentary lifestyle on back pain, especially on the ones who are overweight and physically inactive, she said that the unhealthy habit can lead to serious long-term targeted participants with metabolic syndrome — a combination of

fix back pain significantly.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

How secular is India?

As India grapples with internal strife and external criticism, the debate surrounding its commitment to secularism intensifies

India, a nation characterised by its rich tapestry of religious diversity, has long championed the values of secularism and pluralism. However, the landscape of religious I freedom in the country has come under scrutiny, particularly with the recent designation by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) of India as a "Country of Particular Concern." This designation has ignited a contentious debate, leading to a sharp rebuke from the Indian government, which labeled the USCIRF a "biased organisation with a political agenda." In its 2024 report, the USCIRF highlighted alarming trends regarding religious freedom in India. The commission reported instances of violence against individuals based on their religious identity, citing cases of killings, beatings and lynchings carried out by vigilante groups. It also noted the arbitrary arrests of religious leaders and the demolition of homes and places of worship, characterising these actions as severe violations of religious freedom. The report further pointed to changes



in India's legal framework that, according to the USCIRF, target and disenfranchise religious minorities. These changes include the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the implementation of a uniform civil code. Such measures, the USCIRF argues, contribute to a climate of fear and marginalisation for non-Hindu communities. In response to the USCIRF's assertions, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs firmly rejected the report. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described the commission's narrative as a "motivated" misrepresentation of facts aimed at maligning India's image on the global stage. The ministry's statement emphasised that the USCIRF's reporting is unsci-

entific and driven by an agenda that fails to reflect the realities of India's democracy. It is true that no external agency or country has right to give us lessons in religious freedom and tolerance as we have practiced it since ancient times. Moreover, they have skeletons in their own cupboard which they would better take care first. The trigger happy policemen in the US don't think twice before shooting a black guy for not pulling over his car. But having said that it is time for us to reflect and introspect. To be fair, religious freedom has eroded in the recent years. There have been lynching incidents and that is not a made up thing. We may say that they are isolated incidents but they are enough to send a message to the community. Moreover, the attacks on churches and other religious places have been reported from across the country all this while the police looked the other way or just took mild action. It is time to ensure one and all that India is safe as it has been for ages for people of all religions and castes. And India as a State does not discriminate people for the religion they practice or food they eat. The concerns raised by the USCIRF may be exaggerated and they may make isolated incidents look mainstream but the government must maintain zero tolerance for such incidents so that no outside agency dare raise a pointing figure at us.



A child looks at dolls depicting scenes from Ramayana during the Dussehra Doll festival, in Bengaluru

NATO's eastward march threatens Asian stability



For Asia, aligning with NATO's expansionist policies risks destabilising the region and eroding cultural values of peace and coexistence

ATO's expansion into Asia poses a monumental danger that threatens not only regional stability but also the core values of peace and coexistence that many Asian countries uphold. The recent change in NATO leader-ship, with Mark Rutte taking the helm, may suggest a potential for new strategies, but the underlying policies and militaristic attitudes of the alliance remain unchanged. The illusion of progress is merely that—an illusion—while NATO's intentions to maintain a prolonged battlefield in Ukraine serve as a reflection of its true objectives. As observed, the US weapons sales surged dramatically in 2023, reaching a record total of \$238 billion as the demand for arms skyrocketed due to the ongoing conflict. Profiting from the sale of weapons on one hand and exploiting the suffering of unarmed civilians across Europe and West Asia is becoming increasingly reprehensible. This reflects a strategic mindset where war is not an unfortunate circumstance but an industry. This is, however, not a new phenomenon. This is how we "civilisations" behave. The history of military alliances has consistently illustrated a paradoxical truth: nations often proclaim peace while simultaneously preparing for war and engaging in it.

The recent rise of Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who has advocated for an 'Asian NATO,' is nothing but a sign of a looming storm ahead. Ishiba's call for deeper ties among Asian nations and the establishment of a NATO-like grouping echoes sentiments that prioritise militarisation over diplomacy. This vision stands in stark contrast to the scepticism expressed by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who highlighted India's unique historical position and its reluctance to embrace the treaty alliances that such a framework would entail. Ishiba's proposition to station Japanese troops on the US soil and share control of nuclear weapons nighlights the extreme lengths to which some leaders are willing to go in the name of security, yet it has not



The alliance has not only prolonged conflicts but has also turned them into battlegrounds for competing ideologies and geopolitical power plays. This relentless devastation not only lays waste to nations but also serves the insatiable appetites of the arms industry, which reaps substantial profits from the chaos of ongoing warfare. Evidence reveals that the US government perceives conflicts as lucrative ventures rather than humanitarian crises. Nations that align themselves with NATO risk becoming collateral damage in a power struggle that has little regard for their sovereignty or cultural identity. The allure of NATO's promises can be enticing, but history teaches us that aligning with powerful military alliances often leads to disastrous outcomes. Karl Marx posited that "history repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." NATO's past interventions, from the Balkans to Afghanistan, and today's Ukraine showcase a pattern of

The question remains: will Asia fall into this trap once received significant backing from again, sacrificing its autonomy

TEN YEARS OF SWACHH BHARAT

destruction that is all too



THE HISTORY OF MILITARY **ALLIANCES HAS** CONSISTENTLY ILLUSTRATED A **PARADOXICAL** TRUTH: NATIONS OFTEN PROCLAIM PEACE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PREPARING FOR WAR AND ENGAGING IN IT

for the sake of Western agendas? Moreover, the political discourse surrounding NATO often ignores the implications of its militarisation on social stability and development. This is particularly relevant as Asian nations find themselves increasingly pressured to align with NATO's militaristic strategies. The focus on military expenditure detracts from addressing pressing social issues, economic development, and environmental sustainability. The growing arms race in Asia, driven by NATO's expansion, threatens to spark regional conflict with catastrophic consequences, echoing the historical precedent set before World War I.

itary presence fosters stability is fundamentally flawed, often leading to insecurity and competition as nations rush to arm themselves against perceived threats. This environment heightens the risk of miscalculations and unintended escalations, with incalculable costs in human lives and economic stability. Additionally, engagement in militaristic alliances under NATO's banner risks placing Asian nations in a moral quagmire, contradicting the region's philosophies that prioritise peace, harmony, and cooperation, as espoused by Confucianism, Hinduism, Islamism, and Buddhism. The very qualities that were undermined by colonialism, after

The belief that increased mil-

years of suffering and the sacrifices of millions, must be protected and promoted, as aligning with NATO may ultimately undermine these cultural values in favour of a destructive path centred on military solutions.

Moreover, the consequences of such an alignment are not limited to immediate military conflicts. Long-term geopolitical ramifications could destabilise the entire region, further entrenching power struggles that lead to conflict. Embracing a militaristic alliance may offer a temporary illusion of security but ultimately leads to self-inflicted wounds-akin to harakiri. The path toward a more peaceful and stable future lies not in militarisation but in diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect. Instead of succumbing to the pressures of NATO's warmongering agenda, Asian countries should seek to forge their paths, grounded in their cultural philosophies and values that prioritise harmony and coexistence. The rhetoric of security and defence masks a more insidious agenda one driven by the militaryindustrial complex that thrives on conflict and arms sales. For Asian nations, the choice to align with NATO is a perilous one, iraugnt with the potential for self-destruction.

(The writer is a journalist and author; views expressed

Double-edged sword of social media: Impact on relationships



the constant comparison to

While it offers the promise of community and instant communication, the allure of curated perfection can lead to unrealistic expectations and strain relationships

∼ocial media has become an integral part Oof modern life, connecting people from all corners of the globe. While it offers numerous benefits, such as facilitating communication and fostering community, it also poses significant challenges to relationships and mental health

One of the most significant ways social media can impact relationships is by creating unrealistic expecta-

The carefully curated images and posts that people share online often portray an idealised version of their lives. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and comparison, as individuals may feel pressure to measure up to the perceived perfection of others. Additionally, the constant stream of information and updates can make it difficult to maintain deep and meaningful connections with

loved ones. Social media can also contribute to the breakdown of relationships. The anonymity and lack of accountability that the internet provides

can create a breeding ground for cyberbullying, harassment and online infidelity. These behaviours can erode trust, damage relationships and have a devastating impact on men-

tal health. Furthermore, the constant pressure to be online and connected can lead to feelings of anxiety and stress. The fear of missing out (FOMO) can drive individuals to spend excessive amounts of time scrolling through social media feeds,

neglecting their relation-

aspects of their lives. This can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness and low self-esteem.

The impact of social media on mental health can be particularly severe for young people, who are often heavy users of these platforms. Studies have shown that excessive social media use can be linked to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and even sui-

cidal thoughts. This is in part due to the exposure to negative content, such as cyberbullying ships and other important and hate speech, as well as

others. On the other hand, social media can also have positive effects on relationships and mental health. It can provide a platform for connecting with like-minded individuals, building supportive communities, and sharing experiences. Social media can also be a valuable tool for staying in touch with friends and family who live far away .To mitigate the negative impacts of social media on relationships and mental health, it is important to

use it mindfully. Set limits on your social media usage, be mindful of the content you share, take breaks from social media, prioritize real-life connections, and seek support if needed.By using social media in a healthy and balanced way, individuals can reap its benefits while minimising its risks.

(The author is an awardwinning poet, novelist, writing retreat curator, and founder of The Write Scene.com, based in Dubai; views are

familiar.

Madam — Swachh Bharat Mission, one of the first programmes announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he took office in 2014, completes 10 years on October 2. The aim was to equip all households with individual toilets, ensure communities have cluster toilets to eradicate the open defecation system followed in villages, and ensure that schools and anganwadi toilets have waste management systems for both solid waste and liquid waste. To achieve this, the government's assistance was increased from Rs 10000 to Rs 12000 under the SBM scheme. Amazingly, over 10 million toilets have been constructed in rural households in 6 lakh villages till date, benefiting 50 million people, and many of these villages have been designated as open-defecation-free, which is essential for a healthy environment. Before launching SBM, unsafe sanitation caused an estimated 199 million cases of diarrhoea annually, with

3 lakh deaths. Also, a UNICEF report indicates that women in Indian villages feel safer after the installation of toilets in rural households. Also in villages declared ODF, the risk of groundwater contamination due to human waste has been reduced a lot. Though villages benefitted a lot due to the Swachh Bharat Mission, a survey has emphasised the urgent need for action against plastic pollution and air pollution in rural and urban lands. Motivating the communities against air pollution and water pollution for adopting a proper sanitation model for a healthy life is the urgent need of the

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

LAWRENCE'S FUNERAL CONTROVERSY Madam—Apropos of the story 'The battle over CPI (M) leader M M Lawrence's final journey, October 3, 2024. The Communists globally are political chameleons with unequal rules for the comrades. Most of the Communists,

Indian PhD system needs revamp

THE EDITOR



he Indian education system, especially the higher and research-oriented education system, has gone through so many structural changes from the past till now. But the researchoriented PhD programme still lacks somewhere to provide ease to the people vis-à-vis their admission to the doctoral program. There exist some of the undoubted systematic flaws in the UGC-NET examination score as a mandatory requisite

though they claim to be non-believers in God in public, may be passionate believers in God in private.

The unfortunate Lawrence episode points to the chaos the Communist ideology can create in a Communist family by vertically dividing its members into two warring factions.It also shows that even the deceased Communist may not be allowed to rest in peace by the comrades merely to accommodate their political ideology, what may to the grieving family.Once an individual is bitten by the Communist ideology, there is no escape from it, even if she/he desires to change his ideology after being convinced about the utopian Communist goals. If the diehard Comrades learn a lesson or two from the unfortunate Lawrence episode and the Party's insensitive handling of the entire episode, it would be better for the Comrades.

Bichu Muttathara | Pune

Madam — India is the fifth-largest

economy in the world. At the same time,

STARVATION AMID GROWTH

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur the Global Hunger Index-2023 ranked India 111th out of 125 countries, with the level of hunger falling in the serious category. Though the Union government had rejected this index as erroneous, it cannot be rejected altogether, as evidently West Bengal agricultural migrant labourer Samar Khan, 35, died of starvation in Chennai as he reportedly did not have money to buy food. He was admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital after he collapsed owing to starvation. He had not

Already, the PhD course demands a minimum of

a five-vear time period for its completion, and man-

dating a UGC NET score as a prerequisite to tak-

ing admission in a PhD only extends the time peri-

od for aspirants interested in becoming research scholars. UGC needs to make either systematic

changes in its examination pattern or needs to

enhance critical thinking and innovative thinking

tests for the students interested in doing PhDs

from the reputed academic institutions of India.

Otherwise, India will continue to bear the cost of

losing some fantastic minds to non-Indian uni-

versities that offer research ease, especially at the

eaten for six days. His colleague, another agricultural labourer, Satya Pundit is still in the hospital. Even having a buffer stock; people dying of starvation is a slur on the country, especially when we are talking of the fifth largest economy in the world. Besides, hollow slogans of the government that nobody will be allowed to die of starvation are belied

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

for taking admission in a PhD. The research work and PhD are all about deep understanding instead of memory strength of the very field of students' specialisation and interest area, in which root learning from UGC-NET could merely assist.



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FIRST COLUMN

THE POWER OF INTELLIGENCE, **KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM**

The human mind should be open to positivity and confidence, to harness intelligence and knowledge



wo thousand five hundred years ago, a prince from the formidable Sakya dynasty, in the quest for reality and truth, discarded his monarchical apparel to adorn ochre robes and went on to become Gautama the monk. He and his mind incessantly wandered till the attainment of truth and insight. Upon attaining enlightenment after performing arduous tapas, Gautama the monk became Buddha the Enlightened and Compassionate One. The mind of the prince turned Bhikkhu had become hollow and empty from within and without realise the pristine verisimilitude. There is also the story of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu.

Once a young evangelist who cast away the traditions and rituals of the Catholic order, only to serve the poor and infirm (particularly those afflicted by leprosy), she was first to become a sister, then Mother Teresa, after rendering selfless yeoman service to the populace of Kolkata (then Calcutta) and humanity at large. She was the fourth Indian to be canonised on September 4, 2016, and was set in stone as St Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis for the phenomenal work and the miracles that have taken place. Buddha and St Teresa were not confined to monasteries and convents respectively to live their lives as ascetics in contemplation, meditation, chastity and poverty. Both were prototypical individuals who transcended boundaries to carve a niche for themselves by providing an alternative ideology

Meanwhile, way back in the year 1943 a young Swedish national, Ingvar Kampard set up a company called IKEA. IKEA is an acronym for Ingvar Kampard Elmtaryd at Agunnaryd. Today it is one of the largest readyto-assemble furniture companies in the world. These are individuals, who with their mettlesome moves hold the ordinary traveller's gaze in askance. What differentiates them from the rest of the pack? It is not the opaci-



ty of their thought process, but looking for out-of-the-box solutions. While IKEA sets up furniture in our households, and Jio and WhatsApp provide the necessary seamless connectivity in communication, it is intriguing to decipher the letters of the acronym IKW.

I stand for Intelligence, K signifies Knowledge and W represents Wisdom. Intelligence, Knowledge, and Wisdom need to be harnessed by humans in ample measure to metamorphose our minds and lives to become true achievers. In the wired world today, we are girdled with far superior technology in comparison to a few decades ago and are surrounded by a plethora of gizmos at our disposal. The product and service should necessarily be flexible, adaptable, and positively meant for the public good. Only in such a scenario will the longevity of the article in question be

Siddhartha with his superior intelligence grasped that he was encumbered by misery and suffering; he gained knowledge through the various techniques of pranayama and meditation and ultimately wisdom dawned on him in the form of enlightenment. Today a seeker without living in the monastic order, living like any ordinary individual could attain and experience bliss and enlightenment by practising the technique of

Similarly, in the Art of Living, through the regular practice of the Sudarshan Kriya, a seeker can live in the present moment by banishing antipathetic thoughts. St. Teresa of Kolkata too possessed enormous intelligence, knowledge, and wisdom to establish the order of the Missionaries of Charity to serve the distressed sections of humanity. The human mind should be developed into a sacred place, which is malleable to embrace positivity and confidence to harness the skills of intelligence and knowledge so that the Gods bestow us with a bounty of wisdom.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Bangladesh's interim Govt's crackdown on secularists



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Shahriar Kabir's arrest, amid controversial charges linked to his long-standing fight for secularism reflects Bangladesh fundamentalists working behind the interim government



t is important to examine in some detail Shahriar Kabir's arrest in Dhaka on September 17, 2024, and the subsequent related developments, to understand the forces driving Bangladesh's interim government and direction in which it is taking the country. To start with, one must briefly look at who Kabir is. Author, journalist, film-maker and an internationally respected champion of human rights, secularism and democracy, he has also been at the forefront of the struggle to bring to justice those who had collaborated with the Pakistanis during Bangladesh's liberation war of 1971 and were their accomplices in the perpetration of crimes against humanity including mass murder and rape. He played an important role in the formation of the Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (Committee for the Uprootment of the Killers and Collaborators of Seventy-One) under the leadership of Jahanara Imam whose husband and one of whose sons were savagely killed by the Pakistanis in 1971. Kabir, who subsequently became the organ- INTERNATIONALLY the-scenes effort. sations president, was, at the time of his arrest, president of its advisory committee. Second, one needs to look at the circumstances of his arrest, the charges against him and his accusers and their ties with the interim government. According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune, datelined September 17, 2024 and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir arrested in Dhaka," Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat), filed, on August 20, 2024, a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka, against Sheikh Hasina and 23 others—one of them being Kabir--accusing them of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013.

Further, according to a report in The Daily Star, datelined September 18, 2024, and carried under the heading "Shahriar Kabir placed on 7-day remand", Kabir, along with Mozammel Babu, was produced before the court with a 10-day remand plea by the police, in a case concerning the death of a domestic help, Liza Akter, during the quota



TO START WITH, ONE MUST **BRIEFLY LOOK AT** WHO KABIR IS. AUTHOR, JOURNALIST, FILM-MAKER AND

RESPECTED CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SECULARISM AND **DEMOCRACY**

reform protests. The report cited a sub-inspector of police present in the court as saying that Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Md Sanaullah, passed the orders remanding him custody

for seven days.
A report datelined September 17, 2024, and published in *Prothom Alo* English under the heading, "Shahriar Kabir, Nurul Islam arrested," cited sources as saying that Kabir was an accused in several murder cases filed with Jatrabari and other police stations in Dhaka. According to information available with this writer, seven murder cases have so far been levelled against him besides the one the ICT. The levelling of murder charges against a person of Kabir's stature is not only laughable but suggests, as in a number of other cases, planned and coordinated behind-

As seen, the case before the 1C1 has been filed by Mufti Harun Izhar Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Hefazat-e-Islam (Hefazat) accusing Sheikh Hasina and 23 others, including Kabir, of crimes against humanity and mass murder in connection with a rally by Hefazat on May 5, 2013.

According to a report in The Dhaka Tribune (August 19, 2024) under the heading "Hefazat rally in Shapla Chattar: Odhikar publishes list of killed people," Odhikar, a human rights organisation, published on Monday (August 19) a list of people allegedly killed during the Awami League-led government's crackdown on the Hefazat's rally on May 5-6, 2013, at Shapla Chattar in Dhaka. The list, originally published in 2013, had led to action against the organisation by the Awami League government.

Citing persecution by the latter gov-

report, urged the interim government to immediately form an independent inquiry commission headed by a Supreme Court judge and conduct an impartial investigation into the extrajudicial killings committed on May 5 and 6 of 2013 and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Dhaka Tribune report did not mention whether Odhikar had

named the perpetrators. As seen above, Hefazat's complaint was filed on August 20, 2024, the day after Odhikar's post. Three questions arise here. What was the number of people killed? Was the rally peace-

What was the context in which it was held and what were the Hefazat's demands? Against the Odhikar's figures, a BBC report, datelined May 6, 2024, stated that at least 27 persons had been killed and dozens hurt in the clashes. It also said that at least two of the dead were policemen. Also, the fact that the police, according to the report, "used stun grenades and rubber bullets" to disperse the protestors indicates an effort to keep the casualties to minimum.

The rally was extremely violent. The report cites one witness as saying that the demonstrators "were very aggressive, some people were throwing stones and the situation quickly become violent... the police had no option but to respond". The wit-ness further told the BBC, "Rioters vandalised markets and set fire to bookshops where the Holy Koran is sold. Thousands of Koran and religious books burned. They also attacked the ruling party's political office and national mosque."

The Hefazat's 13-point programme includes the enactment of an antiblasphemy law with provision for death penalty, exemplary punishment to all bloggers and others who "insult Islam," cancellation of

Bangladesh's policy for women's development, bans on the erection of sculptures in public places, the mixing of men and women in public, candlelight vigils, and "shameless behaviour and dresses," besides declaring Ahmadiyas as "non-Muslims." Nadia Sarmin, covering its rally for ETV, was mercilessly beaten for daring to be a woman "in a men only" event. Grievously injured, she was rescued by other iournalists.

It is not surprising if all this reminds one of the Taliban's agenda, A DW report (May 9, 2013) by Graham Lucas under the heading "Bangladesh Chaos," cited Maulana Habibur Rahman, one of the Hefajat leaders, as boasting of his role in the 1980s Afghan war and his support to the former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

The interim government has close and warm relations with the Herazat. It has lifted the ban on the organisation. The advisor for religious affairs, AFM Khalid Hossain, is the latter's Nayeb-e-Amir. Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus had a long and cordial meeting on August 31, 2024, with Mamunul Haque, the organisations head. The Hefazat is holding rallies and processions all over the country.

It is in this context that one has to see Shahriar Kabir's arrest and continued detention, in the teeth of demands for his release by international human rights activists and organisations.

The idea is to send a clear message to people in Bangladesh: do not champion secular democracy and humanism and oppose Islamic fundamentalism. If we can send Shahriar Kabir to jail, we can also send you there.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer; views expressed are

Legal tussles over EWS quota violations undermine RTE Act in Delhi

The violation of the Economically Weaker Section quota under the Right to Education Act continues to plague India's education system

he consistent violation of the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota under the Right to Education (RTE) Act has become a troubling issue across India, particularly in major cities like Delhi. Despite clear legal mandates, several private schools continue to deny admissions to children who rightfully qualify under this provision, creating a barrier to equal educational opportunities for underprivileged communities.

Recent legal proceedings in the Delhi High Court have once again brought this issue to the forefront, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of the law to safeguard the rights of EWS students.A case in point is Master Ayan



Saifi, a 4-year-old son of Shahid who had been allotted a seat through a computerised draw of lots conducted by Delhi's Directorate of Education (DoE) for the academic year 2024-25. But, a leading private Senior Secondary School in Rohini denied the admission and that ensued a legal tussle. Shahid approached to Delhi ensures free and compulso-

High Court with his plight ry education for all children and sought justice. It is misconception that lawyers are reluctant to take up such cases especially for people coming from lower strata of society. Credit goes to a young Delhi lawyer Aman Sharma who took up the case for the kid and secured provisional admission for Ayan Saifi to the school.

The Delhi High Court, under the guidance of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, acknowledged the violation of the RTE Act and in an interim order granted provisional admission to the child, emphasising the school's legal obligation to comply with the EWS quota. The RTE Act 2009 is a landmark legislation that aged 6 to 14. One of its key provisions mandates that 25 per cent of seats in private unaided schools be reserved for children from EWS and disadvantaged groups (DG). This quota is intended to promote inclusive education and bridge the gap between socio-economic disparities. However, despite the importance of this provision, its implementation has been met with resistance from many private schools, not only in Delhi but schools across the country.

The refusal of admission highlights the ongoing challenge in enforcing this law. It violates a child's fundamental right to education under Article 21-A of the Constitution. "Denying chil-



dren from economically weaker sections the education they are entitled to, despite a confirmed allotment, not only goes against the spirit of the Right to Education Act but also creates unnecessary hurdles for families already facing socioeconomic challenges," argues

advocate Sharma.

can easily be seen and unfortunately, it has become pervasive across private educational institutions. Ayan's case is not an isolated incident. Private schools in Delhi have repeatedly been found guilty of disregarding the EWS quota, prompting legal battles that seek to restore the rightful educa-

underprivileged children. In March 2024, the Delhi High Court revised the income threshold for EWS admissions, reinforced eligibility criteria and offered clearer guidance. However, schools have continued to evade their responsibilities. A similar ruling in 2022 in the case of Rameshwar Jha v. Principal Richmond Global School set a precedent for punitive action against schools that refuse EWS

The Delhi High Court had then warned that schools could face severe consequences under the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, for non-compliance with the RTE Act. Yet, schools still engage in tactics that delay A pattern of non-compliance tional opportunities for or deny admission to EWS

students, forcing families to take the matter to court. The larger issue at hand is the erosion of trust in educational institutions and the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional rights. Advocate Sharma urges the Directorate of Education (DoE) and the judiciary to take stringent actions against schools that defy the RTE Act, calling for penalties and stricter enforcement measures. It becomes imperative for

policymakers, educators, and civil society to collaborate in upholding the principles of the RTE Act and to work towards a more inclusive education system. (Author is a senior journal-

ist; Views expressed are personal)

Malaysia's Anwar in B'desh for talks | EU to impose duties

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim arrived in Bangladesh's capital on Friday to meet with interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who took over in August after the former prime minister fled during a mass uprising.

Anwar's hourslong visit will focus on trade and investment, migrant workers and the Rohingya refugee crisis, offi-cials and media reports said. Yunus received Anwar in Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport where he was welcomed with gun salutes and a red carpet reception. It is the first visit by a foreign leader to Bangladesh since



This photo provided by Bangladesh Press Information Department shows Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, left, speaking with Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Friday.

Yunus took over on Aug 8 after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India. It is also the first state visit by a Malaysian leader to Bangladesh in 11 years. Anwar, who is arriving from Pakistan, is leading a 58-member delegation. Next year, Malaysia will chair the Association for Southeast About 800,000 Bangladeshi

Bangladesh is also pursuing a policy of increasingly involving Rohingya refugee crisis. More than 1 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar live in

camps in Bangladesh.Bangladesh was Malaysia's second-largest trad-

ing partner in South Asia in 2023, with total trade reaching \$2.78 billion, according to official figures. Malaysia is also one of the leading destinations for Bangladeshi migrant work-

workers are employed as low-skilled workers in Malaysia's construction, manufacturing, plantation and services sectors. But the recruiting process is often corrupt, and allegations of rights violations by Malaysian employers and Bangladeshi recruiting agencies are rampant. More than 6,000 Bangladeshi students study at Malaysian higher education institutions, according to 2023

for Ishiba as prime minister were

around 50% or even lower, the

lowest levels for a new leader,

according to Japanese media.

Opposition leaders have criti-

cised him for rushing to hold an

election after only adding a

new face and fresh image to the

party without any concrete

results. He plans to dissolve

parliament next Wednesday for

an election on Oct 27, allowing

only a few days of debate on his

On the economy, Ishiba said in his speech that he wants work-ers to have sustainable salary

increases that exceed inflation,

and will promote investment to

create "a virtuous cycle of growth

and distribution". He promised

economic support for low-income households and mea-

sures for regional revitalization

and disaster resilience.

The European Commission, which manages trade on behalf of the 27 member countries, welcomed their majority approval of its plan to impose the duties, even though EU automotive powerhouse Germany and Hungary voted against it.

AP BRUSSELS

deadline.

 $E^{\rm uropean\ Union\ countries}_{\rm on\ Friday\ voted\ to\ impose}$

duties on imports of electric

vehicles from China, as talks

continued between Brussels

and Beijing to find an amica-

ble solution to their trade dis-

pute before an end-of-October

Electric vehicles have become

a major flash point in a broad-

er trade dispute over the influ-

ence of Chinese government

subsidies on European markets
— which has forced the under-

cutting of EU industry prices
— and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology to

Those duties will come into force on Oct 31 unless China has a solution to end the stand-

Commission spokesman Olof Gill said that any solution proposed by Beijing would have to be fully compatible with World Trade Organisation rules, remedy "the injurious subsidisation" by China, and be "monitorable and enforceable".

Beijing opposes the duties. "China firmly opposes the EU's unfair, non-compliant and unreasonable protectionist practices in this case, and firm-ly opposes the EU's imposition step available.

of anti-subsidy duties on Chinese electric vehicles," a spokesperson at China's Commerce Ministry said in comments posted online.

on Chinese EVs

Still, it means that the EU and the Chinese government have four more weeks to negotiate. Talks have already been held between Valdis Dombrovskis, the EU commissioner for the economy, and Chinese Trade Minister Wang Wentao, as well as at the level of technical experts.

The China-EU technical teams are due to resume negotiations on Oct 7.

The duties on Chinese manufacturers, if applied, would be 17% on cars from BYD, 18.8% on those from Geely and 35.3% for vehicles exported by China's state-owned SAIC. Geely has brands including Polestar and Sweden's Volvo, while SAIC owns Britain's MG, one of Europe's bestselling EV brands. Other EV manufacturers in China including Western companies such as Volkswagen and BMW would be subject to duties of 20.7%. The commission has an "individually calculated" rate for Tesla of 7.8%. The retaliatory duties have run

into opposition in Germany, which has Europe's biggest economy and is home to major automakers. Germany's auto industry association, the VDA said the German government sent the "right signal" by voting against them. Hildegard Müller, who chairs the group, called the decision "a further step away from global cooper-

EU tariffs on EVs part of an 'economic cold war: Orban

Budapest (Hungary) (AP): The European Union risks entering an "economic cold war" with China, Hungary's prime minister said on Friday, pledging to vote against an EU plan to impose higher tariffs on the import of Chinese electric vehi-

EU countries are set to vote on Friday whether to finalise the tariffs, part of a broader trade dispute over Chinese government subsidies and Beijing's burgeoning exports of green technology

to the 27-nation bloc. The tariffs are expected to pass the vote. But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Friday that his country will oppose them, and warned that Europe's tendency toward economic protectionism would

destroy the EU's economy. "What they're making us do, what the European Union is doing, is an economic cold war," Orban told state radio. "This is the worst thing that can happen to Europe. ... If this continues, the European economy will die," he

The EU in July imposed the provisional tariffs of up to 37.6% on EVs made in China, saying they unfairly benefit from government subsidies. Beijing, in response, filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization in August, saying the tariffs violate WTO rules and undermine global cooperation on climate

change. China also launched retaliatory investigations into French cognac exports and European pork in what some analysts fear could develop into an economically harmful trade war with the

Hungary under Orban has pursued close ties with China and Russia while its Western partners increasingly seek to distance their economies from those countries. Moscow's war in Ukraine and fears that a flood of inexpensive Chinese products could disrupt Western markets

have accelerated those efforts. Kim threatens to destroy South Korea if provoked

AP SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported on Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms. The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests. Next week, observers say North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national

borders. During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday, Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons", if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sover-eignty of North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"If such a situation comes, the

permanent existence of Seoul and

the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name. Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday. Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would be the end of the

Kim government because Kim

would face "the resolute and overwhelming response" of the South Korean-US alliance.

Japan's new leader vows stronger defence

New Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba opened his first policy speech in office Friday by expressing deep regrets over the governing party's slush funds scandal that dogged his predecessor. Ishiba replaced Fumio Kishida on Tuesday with the paramount mission of quickly pacifying public anger over financial misconduct in the Liberal Democratic Party and regaining support ahead of an Oct 27 parliamentary election.

"I will achieve politics that is not for politicians but for the peo-

(Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY)

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the INDIAN BANK under the

Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security

rule 8 AND 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice

dated 20.05.2024. Calling upon the Borrower M/S SINGHAL TRADING COMPANY

PROPRIETOR YOGESH KUMAR SINGHAL S/O RAJ KUMAR SINGHAL &

GUARANTORS (1) YOGESH SINGHAL S/O RAJ KUMAR SINGHAL (2) CHITRA

JAIN W/O YOGESH SINGHAL (3) KRISHNA DEVI SINGHAL with our NARAINA

Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 23, 54,882/- (Rupee

twenty three lakh fifty four thousand eight hundred eighty two only) within 60 days

the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public

in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein

below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act

read with rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on This 03" Day of OCTOBER of The Year 2024

respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Guarantor is

particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and

any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the INDIAN BANK for an

mount of Rs 23,54,882/- (Rupees twenty three lakh fifty four thousand eight

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE ASSET

All that part and parcel of the Property consisting of Plot No. C-100 M, 3RD FLOOR (WITH ROOF RIGHTS) SAINIK NAGAR, NAJAFGARH ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR

NEW DELHI-110059 IN THE NAME OF CHITRA JAIN & KRISHNA DEVI SINGHAL BOUNDED; On the North by PLOT NO C - 99 M On the South by PLOT NO C - 101 M

KMBL/RARDW/DEL3924805/Pre-Sale Date: October 4, 2024

*Subject: - Presale Notice for Loan Contract No. LADEL00003924805

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited hereby issues this presale notice regarding the

vehicle TATA INDICA DLS with Registration No. HR12G6165, associated

with Loan Contract No. LADEL00003924805 previously held with ICICI

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, having acquired the loan account and rights

through a Deed of Assignment dated December 31, 2007, has taken over the

outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 13,41,171/- till dated 04.10.2024

which includes interest. This amount is due to non-payment of instalment

The vehicle has been repossessed as of February 27, 2011, due to

continuous defaults. The Mrs. Sheela Pannu are urged to remit the total due

within 7 days of this notice to reclaim the vehicle. Failure to comply will result

in the vehicle being sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, with proceeds

If proceeds exceed the debt owed, the balance will be refunded to the legal

heirs, while any shortfall must be settled promptly. This notice does not

waive any further rights or remedies KMBL may pursue as per the loan

For queries or assistance, please contact Mr. Vipin Goswami at Kotak

Registered Office: 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex,

Mahindra Bank, Agra, at phone number 9582795982

Branch Office: G-9, VIKASPURI NEW DELHI-110018

undred eighty two only) and interest thereon

Date: 03.10.2024 / Place: New Delhi.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

ADD: D-38 RAJDHANI PARK DELHI 110041

Without Prejudice

Sheela Pannu (Borrower)

despite previous reminders.

applied to the outstanding amount.

documents or applicable laws.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051

Bank Limited

On the East by LANE 10 FT On the West by LANE 30 FT

orrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in

from the date receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repa

nterest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with

geser 🗫 🙈 Indian Bank

ple," Ishiba said, pledging to provide sincere explanations and ensure that lawmakers abide by the rules.

He set five policy pillars to uphold, including security, economy and disaster resilience. Ishiba said he will bolster Japan's military capability to defend itself from threats from China, Russia and North Korea under the framework of the Japan-US

security alliance. He did not mention two goals he advocated before taking office — making the Japan-US security alliance more equitable and establishing a NATO-like collective defense system in Asia —

apparently to avoid controversy ahead of the election that the LDP must win. Omitting those goals also saves him from possibly irking Washington, but may disappoint those who saw him as willing to speak up even when he risked disagreement

with his own party.
Ishiba noted violations of Japanese airspace last month by Chinese and Russian warplanes and North Korea's advancing missile technology and testing as examples of the worsening security environment that Japan faces and stressed the need for a further buildup of Japan's mil-

इंडियज कर 各 Indian Bank

He said he will promote a "strategic, mutually beneficial relationship" with China and increase communication on all levels to build "stable and constructive" ties. He also said he will further strengthen and expand Japan's ties with South Korea and the trilateral cooperation Japan has with it and the United States.

Asian Nations, and Bangladesh

is eager to increase its trade

ASEAN in resolving the

with that region.

He called the Japan-US security alliance a cornerstone of Japanese diplomacy and security as well as the foundation of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and international society

The first public support ratings

(Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY)

Indian Bank

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the INDIAN BANK under the ecuritization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 AND 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 27.06.2024. Calling upon the Borrower (1) M/S ADD SERVICES PROP. VISHAL GUPTA SIO JAG MOHAN GUPTA (2) AGGARWAL PACKERS PROP. Mrs. VINITA GUPTA WIO VISHAL GUPTA & Guarantors (1) Mrs. VINITA GUPTA WIO VISHAL GUPTA (2) MR. MUKESH AGGARWAL SIO JAG MOHAN GUPTA (3) VISHAL GUPTA SIO JAG MOHAN GUPTA with our NARAINA Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice eing Rs. 41,11,822/- (Rupees forty one lakhs eleven thousand eight hundred twenty wo only) within 60 days from the date receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarante having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower Guarantor/Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under ection 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on This 03" Day of OCTOBER of The Year 2024.

Sorrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in espect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower/Guarantor in articular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the INDIAN BANK for an mount of Rs. 41111,822/- (Rupees forty one lakhs eleven thousand eight hundred

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE ASSET

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of FLAT NO 102 UPPER GROUND FLOOR BUILD ON PROPERTY BEARING NO. C/35, MEASURING 100 YRDS, OUT OF KHASRA NO.12, MUSTAIL NO.10, MANSA RAM PARK, UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI 110059. BOUNDED: - On the North by PLOT NO 34 On the South by PLOT NO. 36 On the East by FLAT NO. 101. On the West by ROAD 10 FT.

ate: 03.10.2024 / Place: New Delhi.

Without Prejudice

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

KMBL/RARDW/AGR7145040/Pre-Sale Date: October 4, 2024

The Legal Heirs of Mrs. Geeta Solanki

C-306, Shiv Puri, Kedar Nagar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282010 *Subject: - Presale Notice for Loan Contract No. LAAGR00007145040

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) hereby issues this presale notice regarding the vehicle Hyundai Santro with Registration No. UP80AV8823 associated with Loan Contract No. LAAGR00007145040 previously held with ICICI Bank Limited.

KMBL, having acquired the loan account and rights through a Deed of Assignment dated December 31, 2007, has taken over the outstanding dues amounting to Rs. 17,18,900 till dated 4.10.2024, which includes interest This amount is due to non-payment of instalments despite previous reminders.

The vehicle has been repossessed as of February 11, 2016, due to continuous defaults. The legal heirs of Mrs. Geeta Solanki are urged to remit the total due within 7 days of this notice to reclaim the vehicle. Failure to comply will result in the vehicle being sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis with proceeds applied to the outstanding amount.

If proceeds exceed the debt owed, the balance will be refunded to the lega heirs, while any shortfall must be settled promptly. This notice does not waive any further rights or remedies KMBL may pursue as per the loan documents or applicable laws.

For queries or assistance, please contact Mr. Vinod Sharma at Kotak Mahindra Bank, Agra, at phone number 7302980350.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Registered Office: 27 BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex,

Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051

Branch Office: E-12/8, 5th Floor, Shree Vrindavan Tower,

Sanjay Place, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282002

Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Letter No.: 4502(I)/ Nivida-01/2024-25

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	PD PWD Almora Development work of Nanda Devi Temple in district Almora under Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission (Civil work).	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.21 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (Including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Building work in Central Govt./Any state Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा) निविदा सूचना

भोपाल, दिनांक 03.10.2024 क्रं. 155/के.कर्म/2024 नगर निगम भोपाल केंद्रीय कर्मशाला के द्वारा लाईट व्हीकल हेतु विभिन्न साईज के टायर ट्यूब क्रय किये जाने हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा

٠	The figure of the same of								
क्रं.	निविदा	सामान का विवरण	अनुमानित	धरोहर	निविदा	प्रदाय			
	क्रं.		लागत	राशि	फार्म का मूल्य	अवधि			
1.	2024_UAD_	REGARDING PURCHASING VARIOUS ZISES TYRE TUBES			•				
	373509_1	OF LIGHT VEHICLE AT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL	13938414/-	69692/-	12500/-	०७ दिवस			
	BID SUBMISSION END DATE 29.10.2024 TIME 5:30 PM BID OPENING DATE 30.10.2024 TIME 5:30 PM								

निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट mptenders.gov.in पर देखी एवं केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैकेनिकल) से कार्यालयीन

परिवहन शाखा, नगर निगम भोपाल

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pranch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.co The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies

availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA).

A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice. Date of Notice NPA Name of the Borrower/Co-Description of Secured

No.	Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Asset to be enforced	ding as on Date of Notice	Date
1.	Pravin Kumar Bhattacharya/ Anindita Bhattacharya/ Mig 2- 2971, Housing Board, Chhaoniward No. 26, Industrial Estate Bhilaidistrict Durg Chhattisgarh- 490026/ LBBL100006749648/ TBBL100006714977	Khasra No. 25/ 199, Ward No. 50, Borsi (East) Ward, P.H. No. 39, R.N.M. Kasaridih, Mouza Borsi, Tahsil And District Durg, Chhattisgarh Admesuring An Area of 0.0220 Hectare= 2400 Sq. Ft.= 223.04 Sq. Mtr.	August 08, 2024 Rs. 43,50,653.16/-	03/06/ 2024
2.	Rupam Rani/ Shambhavi Enclave, Flat No. E4 Bhootnath Road, Near South Of Amarnath Temple Kumhrar, District Patna Bihar Patna - 800026/ LBPTN00004941958	Gh-03 Sector 16C Greater Noida U.P.	August 16, 2024 Rs. 23,61,841.38/-	24/06/ 2024

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower/s and/or guarantor/s (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Else, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: October 05, 2024 Sincerely, Authorised Signator For ICICI Bank Ltd.



E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

[APPENDIX IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of below mentioned immovable Secured Asset under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financia Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with proviso to rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the below mentioned borrower, Co-mortgagor & Legal heir of Co-mortgagor 8 urety that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to The Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been sken by the Authorised officer of The Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS THROUGH "SALE BY e-auction (under SARFAESI Act & Rules, 2002") as per brief particulars given hereunder

S. No.	Name of Borrower, Mortgagor & Branch.	(a) Date of Demand Notice (b) Possession Type/Date Demand Notice Amount	Description of Property	Price	(a) Earnest Money Deposit. (b) Bid Increment amount. (c) Date & Time of Inspection (c) Last date/Time of EMD & KYC Submission. (d) Date/Time of E-Auction.
2	Smt. Jyoti Bajwa W/o. Sh. Late Sh.Ajay Bajwa, J/P/17/946 (50583) JK Loan account no. 00028110006711, 00028110006736, 00028070008598, 0002821000006, (Borrower, Co- Mortgagor & Legal Heir of Co-Mortgagor & Surety) Sh. Sahii Bajwa S/o. Late Sh. Ajay Bajwa (Legal Heir of Co- Mortgagor & Surety) Branch Jagatpuri	interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-09-2023 till the	Built Up Shop On Ground Floor, Upto Ceiling Levet, With All Fixtures And Fittings: Fitted Thereon, With Connection Of Electricity In Running Condition With Meter, Together With Propertionate, Imparliable, Undivided Ownership Rights Of The Land Thereunder, Built On Portion Of Property Bearing No. A-7/28, Measuring Area Of Pilot 14.85-sq.mtrs (8 X 20") Having Its Plinth Covered Area 14.85-sq.mtrs Situated In The Abadi Of Uf. Colony Known As Krishan Nagar, In The Area Of Village Ghondii, Illaqu Shahdara. Delhi-110051 And Bounded As East: Gail, West: Portion Of The Said Property Of Others, South: Shop Of Others Built On Portion Of The Said Property.	(Rs. 21,75,000/-) Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Only	(a) Rs.2,17,500/- (b) Rs.20,000/- (c) 23-10-2024 11.00 am. Te 4.00 p.m., (d) 12-11-2024 upto 5:30 p.m. (e) 14-11-2024, 3:00 p.m. To 5:00 p.m.

For detailed Bid/Tender form, terms and conditions of the said sale, please refer to the Bink provided in THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEAR JANAK CINEMA, NEW DELHI-11005B, The Secured Creditor Bank's ebsite, i.e., www.kangrabank.com.

The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M's. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger), and for detailed Bid/Tender form, terms and conditions of the said sale and procedure of submission of Bid/Tender, are available from their website at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

STATUTORY NOTICE AS PER RULE 8(6) & RULE 9 (1) OF SARFAESI ACT,2002 This notice also be considered as a notice to the above named borrower/mortgagor of said loan, to pay the dues in full before the date of sale, failing which the property will be sold on the above mentioned Sale/Auction date. This publication is also 30 day's notice to the above named borrower &

AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

HARISH SHARMA

HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058 PHONE NO. 9013568418,9013568419. DATED: 03-10-2024

Dockworkers' pause strike until Jan 15

Detroit (AP): Some 45,000 dockworkers at East and Gulf coast ports are returning to work after their union reached a deal to suspend a strike that could have caused shortages and higher prices if it had dragged on.

The International Longshoremen's Association is suspending its three-day strike until Jan 15 to provide time to negotiate a new contract. The union and the US Maritime Alliance, which represents ports and shipping companies, said in a joint statement that they have reached a tentative agreement on wages.

A person briefed on the agreement said the ports sweetened their wage offer from about 50% over six years to 62%. The person didn't want to be identified because the agreement is tentative. Any wage increase would have to be approved by union members as part of the ratification of a final contract.

Talks now turn to the automation of ports, which the unions says will lead to fewer jobs, and other sticking points.

Industry analysts have said that for every day of a port strike it takes four to six days to recover. But they said a short strike of a few days probably wouldn't gum up the sup-

ply chain too badly.
The settlement pushes the strike and any potential shortages past the November presidential election, eliminating a potential liability for Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee. It's also a big plus for the Biden-Harris administration, which has billed itself as the most union-friendly in American history. Shortages could have driven up prices and reignited inflation.

The union went on strike early Tuesday after its contract expired in a dispute over pay and the automation of tasks at 36 ports stretching from Maine to Texas. The strike came at the peak of the holiday season at the ports, which handle about half the cargo from ships coming into and out of the United States.

Most retailers had stocked up or shipped items early in anticipation of the strike. "With the grace of God, and the goodwill of neighbours, it's gonna hold," President Joe Biden told reporters Thursday night after the agreement. In a statement later, Biden applauded both sides "for acting patriotically to reopen our ports and ensure the availability of critical supplies for Hurricane Helene recovery and rebuilding".

Biden said that collective bargaining is "critical to building a stronger economy from the middle out and the bottom up".

The union's membership won't need to vote on the temporary suspension of the strike. Until Jan 15, the workers will be covered under the old contract, which expired on

The union had been demanding a 77% raise over six years, plus a complete ban on the use of automation at the ports, which members see as a threat to their iobs. Both sides also have been apart on the issues of pension contributions and the distribution of royalties paid on containers that are moved by workers.

Thomas Köhler, who teaches labour and employment law at ment, according to the person.

Boston College, said the agreement to halt the strike means that the two sides are close to a final deal "I'm sure that if they weren't going anywhere they wouldn't have suspended (the strike)," he said. "They've got wages. They'll work out the language on automation, and I'm sure that what this really means is it gives the parties time

to sit down and get exactly the language they can both live with." Kohler said the surprise end to the strike may catch railroads with cars, engines and crews out of position. But railroads are likely to work quickly to fix that. Just before the strike had begun, the Maritime Alliance said both sides had moved off their original wage offers, a tentative sign of progress. Thursday's deal came after Biden administration officials met with foreign-owned shipping companies before dawn on Zoom, according to a person briefed on the day's events who asked not to be identified because the talks were private. The White House wanted to increase pressure to settle, emphasizing the responsibility to reopen the ports to help with recovery from Hurricane Helene, the person said. Acting Labour Secretary Julie Su told them she could get the union to the bargaining table to extend the contract if the carriers made a higher wage offer. Chief of Staff Jeff Zients told the carriers they had to make an offer by the end of the day so a manmade strike wouldn't worsen a natural disaster, the person said. By midday the Maritime Alliance members agreed to a large increase, bringing about the agree-

Melania says she supports abortion rights, putting her at odds with GOP

 $M^{
m elania}$ Trump revealed her support for abortion rights on Thursday, ahead of the release of her upcoming memoir, exposing a stark contrast with her husband, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, on the crucial election issue.

In a video posted to her X account on Thursday morning, the former first lady defended women's "individual freedoms" to do what they want with defended their bodies — a position at odds with much of the Republican Party and her own husband, who has struggled to find a consistent message on abortion while wedged between anti-abortion supporters within his base and the majority of Americans who support abortion rights.

"Individual freedom is a fundamental principle that I safeguard," Melania Trump said in the video. "Without a doubt, there is no room for compromise when it comes to this essential right that all women possess from birth:

individual freedom. What does 'my body, my choice' really mean? The video appears to confirm excerpt of her self-titled memoir reported by

The Guardian on Wednesday.

Melania Trump has rarely publicly expressed her personal political views and has been largely absent from the campaign trail. But in her memoir, set to be released publicly next Tuesday, she argues that the decision to end a pregnancy should be left to a woman and her doctor, "free from any intervention of pressure from the government", according to the published excerpts.

Why should anyone other than the woman herself have the power to determine what she does with her own body?" she wrote, according to The Guardian. "A woman's fundamental right of individual liberty, to her own life, grants her the authority to terminate her pregnancy if she wishes." Melania Trump writes that she has "carried this belief with me throughout my entire adult life".

PUBLIC NOTICE

ımar Verma R/o 256, Guru Ram Dass Naga Karkardooma, Laxmi Nagar Shakarpur, Delhi 110092 hereby disowning & dis-inheriting he Son Vipul Verma & his wife Smt. Priyanka Kaith from all her moveable & immovab properties and severe her all relation with them due to their disrespectful and irresponsible behavior towards me and my late husband. My

client shall not be responsible for any acts of them in any ways.

JATIN SAPRA (Advocate) Chamber No. 150
Patiala House Courts New Delhi-110001

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. Anis Ahmed, is the owner of Builtup Property bearing House No. C-85, area measuring 50 sq. yds., out of Khasra No. 536 situated at C-Block Raju Park, Devli Road Channar May Dollib.

thanpur, New Delhi., by virtue of GPA, ATS will dated 03.06.2004, executed by Mrs BiroDevi, and same to be finance by SMFC

idia Home Finance Company, General public ereby informed that if anybody has any

harge/interest/title in the said property or an tind of dispute kindly inform the undersigne

writing on the below mentioned address n Writing on the below inclinated addicess
within 07 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate
SG Associates (Law Firm)
F18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaibbav Khadh, didrapura, Mcazabad UP.

-mail: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 701171764, 01204440300

TO be known to all that I, Shama Malhotra Wo Late R. K. Malhotra (Yo. 57-A, G/F, PK/BLK-B3, Lawrence Road, Kashav Puram, Delhi owner of DDA MIG Flat No 57-A.G.F PK/BLK-B3. Lawrence Road Keshav Puram, Delhi owner of DDA MIG Flat No. The state of the sta

AND SERVICE CONTRACT

25; Dated: 01-10-2024; <u>Tender No.</u>: EL_TRD_19_24-25; E-Tender are invited

by the undersigned for the following work

Name of work : AT Katihar Division

contract (B, C & D checks) AMC for (12)

Twelve nos. Eight Wheeler Tower wagon

of (02) Two years. Tender Value

₹3.92.70.010.99/-: Earnest Money

₹3,46,400/-; Date & time of closing of

ender at 15:00 hrs and opening at 15:30

hrs. on 25-10-2024. For complete

above e-tender will be available upto 15:00

hrs. on 25-10-2024 in the website

Sr. DEE/TRD, Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

| Baba Farid University

of Health Sciences,

Sadiq Road, Faridkot - 151203

Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for the following

1) Opening of Canteen/cafeteria in

the campus of GGSMH. Faridkot

Terms and conditions can be

http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The

enders will be accepted in E-

Tender mode only. Bidder can also

download tender notification and

document from the University

website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in

DATE: 03/10/2024, PLACE: Ghaziabad

Service upto 28.10.2024

Sr. DEE/TRD. Katiha

किच्छा शुगर कम्पनी लिमिटेड, किच्छा जनपद-ऊघम सिंह नगर (उत्तराखण्ड) Mob. No. 8392928226, 8392928209 Email: purchasekichha@amail.com

ई-निविदा सूचना (Re-Tender)

वित्तीय वर्ष 2024—25 के लिए विभिन्न स्टोर सामग्री एवं जॉब कार्य, गन्न परिवहन कार्य लेबर सहित हेतु. GST के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत निर्माता/अधिकृ विक्रेता/सक्षम ठेकेदारों से, उत्तराखण्ड अधि० प्राप्ति (प्रोक्योरमेन्ट) नियमावर्ट 2017 में निहित प्राविधानों के अन्तर्गत दो निविदा प्रणाली (Two Bid System हे अन्तर्गत ई—निविदायें www.uktenders.gov.in पर आमंत्रित की जात । www.uktenders.gov.in पर प्राप्त निविदा ही मान्य होगी, अन्य माध्य प्राप्त निविदा स्वीकार्य नहीं होंगी। आवश्यकता होने पर नेगोशिऐसन L-(प्रथम न्यनतम) एवं सामग्री विक्रय हेत **H—1** (प्रथम उच्चतम) दर दाता से किय नायेगा। विस्तृत सूचना मिल की वेबसाइट <u>www.kichhasugar.com</u> पर र्भ अधिशासी निदेशव

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, JITENDER KUMAR Gupta S/O ram Richh Pal Gupta R/O H.No. 18, Upper Ground Floor, opposite Subzi Mandi OUT GATE, KEWAL PARK EXTENSION, AZADPUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI- 110033 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as JITENDER GUPTA and RRP GUPTA in my Driving License No. DL- 0119940164605 and JITENDER and RAM RICHPAL in my Voter ID Card No. AKC0617878. The actual name of mine and my

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Shubbda Seth, Mr. Sanjay Seth & Mr. Rakesh Seth, are claiming to be the owners of Property No. 08, (300,96 SQ. Mtrs.) Block-A Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., Niman Vihar, Delhi-110092.

Sald Property'. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners are selling the said property to someone who is taking housing loan from our client for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objectionly upon the said property but its saie and mortgage and/or any kind of claim, litigation etc. upon the ownership of above owners namely, Mrs. Shubhda Seth, Mr. Sanjay Seth & Mr. Rakesh Seth, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Ind Floor, 23, Shiveji Mara, Moti Negar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41112527-28 legal@knalegal.com

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In continuation to already announced Festival Special Trains-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special trains as per detail given below:-

			hi - Darbhanga Jn N estival Special Train (E		Trips
rain No.: 02262		1	STATIONS 1	Train No.: 0226	
ARR.	DEP.	+	SIATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
	00:20		New Delhi	20:15	
21:15			Darbhanga Jn.		23:20
ATE O	F RUN: 02	262 fr	om New Delhi and 02	261 from Da	rbhang

on every Wednesday, Sunday from 13.10.2024 to 27.11.2024. STOPPAGES: Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara Jn., Danapur, Patliputra Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. stations.

JOIV	INIODATIC	ISTAC, AC-2 Her, AC-3 Her	& Sieebei	•
090		Udhna Jn Barauni Jn Udhr Special Train (Weekly)	na Jn.	16 Trips
in No.: 09067		067 STATIONS A		.: 09068
R.	DEP.	↓ STATIONS ↑	ARR.	DEP.
-	05:30	Udhna Jn.	14:30	
10	11:20	Varanasi Jn.	10:40	10:50
15		Baruni Jn.		23:45
ES	OF RUN:	09067 from Udhna Jn. on ev	ery Thurs	day from

10.10.2024 to 28.11.2024 and 09068 from Baruni Jn. on every Friday from 11.10.2024 to 29.11.2024

STOPPAGES: Surat, Bharuch Jn., Vadodara Jn., Ratlam Jn., Nagda Jn., Ujjain Jn., Maksi Jn., Shajapur, Biyavra Rajgarh, Ruthiyai Jn., Guna Jn., Shivpuri, Gwalior Jn., Soni, Bhind, Etawah Jn., Govindpuri, Fatehpur, Prayagraj Jn., Gyanpur Road, Banaras, Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Chhapra Jn. Sonour Jn. Haijour Jn. Muzaffarour Jn. & Samastiour Jn. stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc. passegers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

AR

11:

Visit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern

RVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Nobel Prizes to be announced next week

AP NORWAY

Wars, a refugee crisis, famine and artificial intelligence could all be recognised when Nobel Prize announcements begin next week under a shroud of violence. The prize week coincides with the Oct 7 anniversary of the Hamas-led attacks on Ísrael, which began a year of bloodshed and war across the Middle East.

The literature and science prizes could be immune. But the Peace Prize, which recognizes efforts to end conflict, will be awarded in an atmosphere of ratcheting international violence — if awarded at all.

"I look at the world and see so much conflict, hostility and confrontation, I wonder if this is the year the Nobel Peace Prize should be withheld," said Dan Smith, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. As well as events roiling the

war in Sudan and risk of famine there, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and his institute's research showing that global military spending is increasing at its fastest pace since World War II

which are making heroic efforts but are marginalised, Smith said. "But the trend is

Earnest Money Deposit

Probable Amount of Contract

Purchase of Tender Start Date

Last Date for submission of

Technical and Financial Bid (Online)

Cost of Document

Pre-Bid Date

draw attention to that by with-

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that M/s
Mercy Trading Pyt. Ltd, its Director Sh. Prem Kumar S/o Sh. Kishan Lal R/o A-335, Sadatpur, Shahdara, Delhi-94, who is the allottee of Commercial Shop No.08, Block -E-4, Sector-56, Noida U.P, had sold the said property on GPA basis to the following person(s). GPA was executed on in favour of Sh. Satyshwar Prasad Bahuguna S/o Late Sh. Urvi Dutt Bahuguna R/o A-33/516, Air India Colony, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-57. So it is informed to all concern that the said Commercial Shop No.08, Block-E-4, Sector -56, Noida, is going to be transferred in favour of Sh. Paras Bhardwaj S/o A.H. Sharma R/o A-33, Sector-27, Noida (U.P) If any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Commercial Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of

PUBLIC NOTICE totice is hereby given on behalf of NARESH, rea measuring 250 sq. vis. out of Khasra No. 999min, situated in village BehtaHazipur Aragana & Tehsil Loni Ditst. Ghazlabad U.F., Javarena & Tehsil Loni Ditst. Ghazlabad U.F., Javarena & Tehsil Loni Ditst. Ghazlabad U.F., Javarena & Tehsil Loni Ditst. Ghazlabad U.F., Handelwal vide Sale Deed dated 11.01.2023 Javarena & Javarena & Javarena & Javarena & Handelwal had purchased the same from Javarena & Javare Dua purchased the same from Pankaj Ra i Sale Deed dated 19.03.2018 and Pankaj Ra surchased/ owned the property from Ra ishan vide Regd. General Power of Attorne lated 20.02.2018 bearing document no.111. dook no.IV, Volume no.1405, pages no. 39: 08, and now NARESH KUMAR SHARMA inten 08, and now NARESH KUMAR SHARMA intend a varialed/availed mortgage against the financial sistance from SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd., formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we withis public notice that if any Person having any pe of claim/right/title/ interest/creating mortgage ert the said property, may inform in writing, at the tidness mentioned below, about his objections, tithin 14 days from today, failing which it shall be resumed that the said property is free from all type 'Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, ew Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

this notice. Sh. Satyshwar Prasad Bahuguna

"It could go to some groups

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. USCL/352 Tender ID: 2024_UAD_374105_1 Dated 04.10.2024

Agency to Establish, Operate and Manage an Incumbation Centre

under Ujjain Smart City". Interested bidders may purchase and submi

their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Interested parties for "Selection of

For more details, please visit https://www.mptenders.gov.in. Any

Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only

2.00.000./-

04.10.2024

14.10.2024

10,000/-

NA

in the wrong direction. Perhaps it would be right to holding the peace prize this year." Withholding the Nobel

Peace is not new. It has been suspended 19 times in the past, including during the world wars. The last time it was not awarded was in 1972.

THE PIONEER (1

LOST & FOUND

I, Vinod Kumar Vats S/o Sh R.D. Sharma, H no. 235, Nimri Colony, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-52, hereby declare that my original documents Diploma of D. Pharma Including its mark sheet having Roll No. 5276 and original high school certificate including
COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE mark sheet having Roll No. 36160 and Original intermediate certificate including mark sheet having Roll No 262779 has been lost, If found kindly contact: 9910486112.

PD(821)A

• CHANGE OF NAME • (having two nos. of Cummins engine model NTA-855R in each TW) for a period

It is for the general information, That I Monika D/o Sh Tej Ram, Ex Wife of Rahul@Mohd Oasim. R/o A-25 Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex Shakarpur declare that I got divorced from my Ex-husband vide Court Decree no. as HMA. No. 1253/2024 dated 12.07.2024. Furthur I have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Kaifreena aged 13 years and my minor son namely Kabir aged 11 Years and shall hereafter be known as Rashi and Aayush respectively for all future purposes. It is Certified That I have complied with all other legal requirements in this connection. PD(823)A

PROPERTY FOR SALE

2BHK, Area 50 sq. yds, First Floor in Naraina Village, Lal Dora Property to be Sold by Auction. Contact: 9871012559 for T & C and other details

nil/12/239/2023/38181 Dated CHD :- 10/1/2024 PD(822)A

downloaded

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MADINE DEDATATION No. MD/ACCTS/WK/R-08/2024/1217 Date: 27.09.2024 E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (E-TCN)

Name of the Work: Hiring of 01 no. Moorin Launch along with operational crew for daily on shift operation for a period of 07 (Seven) years Total Estimated cost (including Hire Charge and Fuel Cost): Rs.12.11.88,139/- excluding GST, Estimated cost put to tender for hir charges only: Rs.5,16,20,976/- Excludin GST. Last date & time of submission of tende through on-line bidding is 17:00 Hours or 18/10/2024. Date & time for opening or Technical Bid is 15.30 hours on dt.22.10.2024 For further details please log on to the Websit https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Paradip Port Authorit

PUBLIC NOTICE

t is for the information of the General Public tha House/Flat No. 845/GF, Sector-11-14, Palwa was Allottee/transferred in the name Sh. Krisha was Allottee/transferred in the name Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Chatter Singh Through GPA Sh. Shiv Kumar S/o Sh. Mani Ram. R/o H.No. Village- Baghola, Tehsil & Distt-Palwal Palwal (Haryana) vide letter No. 2658 dated 16-8-2016 Now above Allottee Sh. Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Chatter Singh Through GPA Sh. Shiv Kumar S/o Sh. Mani Ram R/o H.No. Village- Baghola, Tehsil & Distt Palwal Palwal (Haryana) has submitted the documents for the transfer of the allotment of the above mentioned house in the name of Smt. he above mentioned house in the name of **Sm** Arti W/o Shashi Kant R/o House.No. 845/GF, Sec 11-14, Palwal Now by the present Public Notice, i is informed to all public in General that in case anybody has objection to the above said transfer or allotment of house, in the name of Smt. Arti W/ Shashi Kant R/o House. No. 845/GF, Sec-11-14, Palwal He/She can file the objection within 15 days from the publication of the notice after that necessary action for the transfer of the above mentioned house will be taken by this office as per Rules and no objection will be entertained after 15 m the date of publication of this notice

Estate Manage using Board Haryana Sector-7-A, Faridab

ROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE PPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82)

CASE NO. 445/2018 RAM KISHAN ARORA VS AMJAD ALI AMJAD ALI V-441, GALI NO. 28,

VIJAY PARK, MAUJPUR, DELHI

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Amjad Ali has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section 138 NI ACT, and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Amiad Ali cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Amjad Ali has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is

Ms. Sanghmitra Metropolitan Magistrate-01 Room No.54 Distt. Shahdara KKD Court Delhi-110032.

hereby made that the said Amiad

Ali is required to appear before this

Court to answer the said complaint.

By Order

JALPAIGURI RAILWAY STATION GeM Bid Number: GEM/2024/B/

5416669, Dated: 01-10-2024. E-tender following work. Item Category: Custor Bid for Services- Mechanised cleaning of New Jalpaiguri Railway Station for th period of Three years. Estimated Bid Value: ₹15,37,09,640/-; EMD Amount ₹9,18,548/-. Bid End Date/Time: a 13:00 hrs. on 28-10-2024. Bid Openi Date/Time: at 13:30 hrs. on 28-10-2024 Tender has already been uploaded i GeM portal

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

NOTICE is hereby given that Sushila Sharma claims to be owner and in possession of Ground Floor of Prop No. III-F/927, in Vaishali Ghaziabad, U.P herein after called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed dated 06.06.2009, Doc. No. 12990 and said Sushila Sharma 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 howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7days 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

Vishal Diwan (Advocate) For Diwan and Company LLP H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 Mobile No. 9818399999 CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(3) reas the Authorized officer of CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (Clix), a Housing Finance Ban

Company under the National Housing Bank Act., having its registered office Aggarwal Corporate Towe Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi- 110008, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 Issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under subsection (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLUS" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address of Bottower/Co-Bottower: 1. MOHD NASIR S/O BUNDI KHAN, 2. MRS. ISRAT JAHAN W/O MOHD NASIR, BOTH RESIDING AT - HOUSE NO.457 GALI NO.9, SHAHEED BHAGAT COLONY NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110094, ALSO AT:- D-298, GALI NO.7, MUKUND VIHAR 30 FT ROAD, KARAWAL NAGAR NEW DELHI-110094, ALSO AT:- A-4, GRÖUND FLOOR-2, LIG FRONT SIDE RAIL VIHAR, LON, GHAZIABAD UTTARPRADESH, ALSO AT:- HOUSE NO.22 KHASRA NO. 60G/F NEAR SARKAR SCHOOL, NEW SABHAPUR SABAPUR, DELHI-110094

Demand Notice Dated : 01-04-2024, Date of Possession : 03.10.2024 Amount of Demand Notice : Rs. 9,81,465.97/- as on 28-03-2024

Details of Property: "ALL THOSE PIECE AND PARCEL OF ONE KITA RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. A-4 KHASRA NO. 211 IN FLAT NO. GF 2 GROUND FLOOR (LIG) WITHOUT ROOF RIGHT AREA 315 SQUARE FEET I.E. 29.26 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN RAIL VIHAR HABBAST VILLAGE SADULLABAD TEHSIL LONI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD (COMPLETE DETAILS OF WHOSE CONSTRUCTION IS ATTACHED MAP) THE ABOVE FLAT IS SITUATED AT A DISTANCE OF MORE THAN 200 METERS FROM THE MAIN ROAD, THE SAID FLAT HAS ONE BEDROOM, ONE DRAWING ROOM, ONE KITCHEN AND BATHROOM, AND THE LIVING ROOM IS COMMON."

me & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. VIPNANDER PRATAP S/O SURJAN SINGH, 2. NAME & Address of Bortower/Co-Bortower: 1. VIPMANDER PRATAP S/O SURJAN SINGH, 2. SHALU W/O VIPNANDER PRATAP, BOTH RESIDING AT - PLOT NO.2/9, GROUND FLOOR, RAMA WHAR, KARNAL VILLAGE DELHI-11086. SR NO. 1 ALSO AT:- PLAT NO. FP-2 (FIRST FLOOR REAR SIDE, LIG PLOT NO. B-138. RESIDENTIAL COLONY RAIL VIHAR VILLAGE SADULLABAD PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, ALSO AT:- MALILKA GRAPHICS SHOP NO.11 RISAL COMPLEX SHIVA MARKET-11, PTAMPURA NEW DELHI-110034, ALSO AT:- PLOT NO. SOA, BLOCK-B, BUDH VIHAR, VEER SINGH COLONY VILLAGE POOTH KALAN, SULATANPURI BLOCK. NORTH WEST, DELHI-110086, SR NO. 2 ALSO AT: FLAT NO. FF-2 (FIRST FLOOR) REAR SIDE, LIG PLOT NO. B-138. RESIDENTIAL COLONY RAIL VIHAR VILLAGE SADULLABAD PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD. ALSO AT: H 14C, SHARMA COLONY PHASE-2 BUDH VIHAR, SULTANPURI, C-BLOCK NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110086

Demand Notice Dated: 17/04/2024, Date of Possession: 03/10/2024

Details of Property: "ALL THOSE PIECE AND PARCEL OF ONE KITA RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. FF-2 (FIR FLOOR) REAR SIDE, LIG (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) IS BUILT ON PLOT NO. B-138. WHOSE AREA IS 27.87 SQUARE METERS, WHOSE SUPER AREA IS 300 SQUARE FEET, LOCATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY RAIL VIHAR WILLAGE SADULLABAD PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI DISTRICT GHAZIABAD."

Date: 03.10.2024, Place: Ankur Vihar Authorised Officer, CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

verka

e- Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items: Name of Work/Item For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Stainless
i. 5 Ltr.
ii. 10 Ltr.
iii. 20 Ltr.
iv. 30 Ltr.
v. 40 Ltr.
vi. 50 Ltr. Annual/ 1700 Pcs 1100 Pcs 900 Pcs 150 Pcs 1300 Pcs 150 Pcs For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy
a) Hiring of:i. Cold Store for storing white butter at (-18°C) Annual 02 Years/ 1MT, 2MT,4MT,9MTand 13.5MT capacity for various stations

For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
 Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

Allotment of Milk Bars (Civil Hospital Gurdaspur, Batala, Pathankot, Kotli Surat Mahli, Beant State University, M.C.C. Kalanaur, Sports Stadium

NA/12/25768/2023/38191 Dated CHD :- 10/4/2024

Surat Mahli, Beant State village Pahra Gurdaspur).

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

02 Years

SRF

Date: 04.10.2024

SRF LIMITED

24.10.2024 up to 17:00 PM

For Ujjain Smart City Limited

Regd. Office.: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091 Tel. No (Regd office): (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900 E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197 Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana- 122 003 NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company:-

SI. No.	Folio No.	Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares		
1	SRF0049270	ASHOK CHATURVEDI: Shareholder	388469-73	17363542-627	86		
	ANJUL CHATURVEDI: Deceased Joint Shareholder	ANJUL CHATURVEDI: Deceased Joint Shareholder	537469-73	25383334-419	86		
			1133072	295428470-9757	1288		
		90102792-94	10053970-4069	100			
			90202089	15393525-74	50		
2	P0004458	PRADEEP KUMAR JAIN	138908-9	5671552-651	100		
			976529	18588448-647	200		
Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.							

for SRF LIMITED Place : Gurugram

RAJAT LAKHANPAL Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING CAPITAL ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266 Branch Office: Plot No-17, Vijaya Building, 2nd Floor, Barakhamba Road, New-Delhi-110001

APPENDIX IV [See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Registra

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Finance Limited Having Branch Address at: Plot No-17, Vijaya Building, 2nd Floor, Barakhamba Road, New-Delhi-110001 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20.7-204 calling upon the borrowers namely Ramwansh Fibrology Private Ltd. (Through Director), Mr. Deepak Kumar Garg, Legal Heirs of Late Mr. Ramanand Garg; 1. Deepak Kumar Garg S/o, Late Sh. Ramanand Garg, 2. Saroj Garg W/O, Late Sh. Ramanand Garg, 3. Sameer Kumar Garg S/o, Late Sh. Ramanand Garg, 4. Deepti Agrawal D/o, Late Sh. Ramanand Garg, 4. Deepti Agrawal D/o, Late Sh. Ramanand Garg, 4. Deepti Agrawal D/o, Late Sh. Ramanand Garg, 4. Deepti Ramanand Garg, Mr. Sameer Kumar Garg, Mr. Utkarsh Garg, Mrs. Simpal Garg, Mrs. Anupama Garg, Late Ramanand Garg, Ihrough Legal Heirs, Mrs. Saroj Garg, Mrs Ramanand and Sons (HUF) Through Karta, Mr. Sameer Kumar and Sons (HUF) Through Karta, Mr. Sameer Kumar and Sons (HUF) Through Karta, Mr. Sameer Kumar and Sons (HUF) Through Karta to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being 8s.3.13,94,266/- (Three Crore Thirteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 3rd day of October of the year 2024. of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Intere Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 3rd day of October of the year 2024. orrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and ealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited for an nt Rs. 3,13,94,266/- (Three Crore Thirteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty

Description of the Immovable Property All that part and parcel of the Property: "Plot No. R-13/47, Raj Nagar Colony, Ghaziabad – U.P. – 201002

Authorised Officer, (Aditya Birla Finance Limited)

Six Only) and interest thereon.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the act, in respect or

ात्रांक:-61 / भूमि-2024-2**5**

सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहराद्न

युनिपोल / निगम द्वारा विज्ञापन

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत विभिन्न स्थलों पर यूनिपोल / होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु अनुबन्ध की तिथि से कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 22.10.2024 की अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक ई० निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्रम सं0	मार्ग का नाम	होर्डिंग हेतु कुल साईट	
ľ	दर्शन लाल चौक से राजपुर रोड किशनपुर तक 68 साईट, मसूरी डाईवर्जन से मेन राजपुर तक-02 साईट, घन्टाघर से बल्लूपुर चौक चकराता रोड-39 साईट, बल्लूपुर चौक से जी०एम०एस०रोड सेन्ट ज्यूड चौक तक 14 साईट, बुद्धा चौक से गांधी रोड-13 साईट, रेलवे स्टेशन से सहारनपुर रोड ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर तक 14 साईट, हिरद्वार बाईपास रोड-01 साईट, कर्जन रोड से रायपुर रोड डील फैक्ट्री तक-03 साईट, क्रांसिंग से आई०टी० पार्क चौक सहस्त्रधारा रोड-11 साईट, रेसकोर्स एण्ड रैस्ट कैम्प-03 साईट, ई०सी० रोड-08 साईट पर यूनिपोल / होर्डिंग्स के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने सम्बन्धी कार्य।	176	6,84,09,264/-
निवि	वेदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में निर्धारित धनराशि कार्य	प्रतिभूति रू	0-68,40,927/-

एफ०डी०आर० / सी०डी०आर० जो वरिष्ठ वित्त अधिकारी नगर निगम, देहराद्रन के नाम प्लेज होगी। निविदायें ई०निविदा के माध्यम से निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। निविदादाता को निविदा में अंकित निर्धारित धनराशि कार्य प्रतिभूति एफ॰डी॰आर॰ / सी॰डी॰आर॰ को मूल रूप में दिनांक 21.10.2024 की अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा जिसका परीक्षण दिनांक 22.10.2024 की सांय 4.00 बजे गठित समिति के समक्ष किया जायेगा। तकनीकी निविदा के परीक्षण के उपरान्त तकनीकी निविदा में सफल निविदादाताओं की वित्तीय निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्ते विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन की तिथि से यू०के० टैन्डर की वेबसाईट से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है अथवा किसी भी कार्यदिवस में नगर निगम कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा ई०निविदा के माध्यम से www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

Modi releases 18th installment of About 1 per cent fall in Sensex, ₹ 20,000 crore under PM-KISAN

 $\begin{array}{ccccc} P^{rime & Minister & Narendra \\ Modi & will & release & Rs \\ 20,000 & crore & as & the & 18th \end{array}$ instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on Saturday, benefiting over 9.4 crore farmers across the country. Disbursements will Benefit

through Direct Transfer (DBT) during an in Washim, Maharashtra, an official statement said.

Maharashtra farmers will receive an additional Rs 2.000 crore under the state's Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi

With the 18th instalment, the total amount disbursed under PM-KISAN will exceed Rs 3.45 lakh crore, supporting more than 11 crore farmers nationwide.

The PM-KISAN scheme, launched on February 24, 2019, provides Rs 6,000 annually to landholding farmers in three equal



instalments.

Maharashtra has received about Rs 32,000 crore in 17 instalments, benefiting around 1.20 crore farmers. the second highest among all

Around 91.51 lakh farmers in Maharashtra will receive over Rs 1,900 crore in the 18th

instalment Modi will also launch an indigenous sex-sorted semen production technology, aimed at reducing costs by approximately Rs 200 per

Nifty amid tensions in West Asia

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty slumped nearly 1 per cent in a topsyturvy trading session on Friday, dragged by intense selling in FMCG, auto and stocks amid escalating tensions in West Asia and persistent foreign capital outflows.

Besides, a spike in global crude prices on supply uncertainty due geopolitical tensions dented market sentiments, traders

Falling for the fifth day running, the BSE Sensex tumbled 808.65 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at 81,688.45. The benchmark hit a low of 81,532.68 and a high of 83,368.32 during the day, reflecting a wild swing of 1,835.64 points.

The NSE Nifty slumped 235.50 points or 0.93 per cent to 25,014.60. Intra-day, it hit a low of 24,966.80 and a high of 25,485.05.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Nestle,



UltraTech Airtel. Cement, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

In contrast, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and State Bank of India were among the gainers. Institutional

Foreign Investors (FIIs) offloaded

equities worth Rs 15,243.27 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled in the positive Markets territory. mainland China are closed due to a holiday. European markets

trading higher in mid-

markets ended lower on Thursday.

The last three days have witnessed huge FII selling of Rs 30,614 crore in the cash

FIIs are moving money from expensive India to cheap Hong Kong on expectations that the monetary, and fiscal stimulus being implemented by the Chinese authorities will stimulate the Chinese economy and improve the earnings of Chinese companies. "It remains to be seen how this Chinese recovery hopes to play out," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.99 per cent to USD 78.39 a barrel.

Falling for the fourth straight session on Thursday, the BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 1,769.19 points or 2.10 per cent to settle at 82,497.10. During the day, it plummeted 1,832.27 points or 2.17 per cent to 82,434.02.

The Nifty slumped 546.80 points or 2.12 per cent to

US, India Dialogue advances semiconductor, minerals cooperation

PTI WASHINGTON

Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo held the 6th Commercial Dialogue here on Thursday during which they reviewed the progress made semiconductors supply innovation

handshake, energy-industry network and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for

A day earlier, the two leaders signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains, with the aim of leveraging the two countries' complementary strengths to ensure greater resilience in the critical minerals sector.

Priority areas of focus include equipment, identifying services, policies and best practices to facilitate the mutually-beneficial commercial development of the US and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and

recovery, a media release said. the commercial Goyal and Raimondo praised the two sides' continuing efforts to facilitate resilient, secure and sustainable semiconductor supply chains.

Since the signing of the MoU establishing a semiconductor chain and an innovation partnership under the framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue, Industry Association and the

launched under the US-India initiative on critical and emerging technology to identify near-term industry opportunities and facilitate longer-term

> semiconductor ecosystems. Goyal and Raimondo pledged to continue working under the MoU to facilitate collaboration between US and

development complementary

Indian companies towards US Semiconductor mutually-beneficial business opportunities, such as Electronics investments, joint ventures Semiconductor Association and technology partnerships, have completed their private and to promote talent and sector "readiness assessment", workforce development to

benefit both countries, the Department of Commerce said in a statement. The two leaders welcomed

introduce a Unified Genomic Chip for cattle and buffalo, developed by the Animal

Five solar parks with 19 MW

capacity will be dedicated under the MSKVY 2.0

scheme, providing farmers

daytime electricity and additional income through

The event will see the dedication of 9,200 Farmer

(FPOs) and e-distribution of

awards for 3,000 MW under the KUSUM-C scheme.

Maharashtra Governor C P

Chouhan and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Chief Minister Eknath

Shinde, and Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and

Devendra Fadnavis will

attend the event. Around 2.5

crore farmers will participate

through webcasts at various

centres nationwide. States

and UTs will celebrate the day

as PM-KISAN Utsay Divas.

Organisations

Union

Singh

land leasing.

Producers

Radhakrishnan,

Ministers Shivraj

Husbandry Department.

the success of the two roundtables convened in San Francisco in November 2023 and in New Delhi in March 2024, bringing the two countries' startup ecosystems closer together and carrying forward their ambitions under the MoU to enhance innovation ecosystems through an innovation handshake under framework of the US-India Commercial Dialogue. They praised the work done

on the EIN Roundtable organised during the Clean EDGE and Environmental Technologies Development Mission in New Delhi in March. The trade mission brought 12 US companies to India to help grow sustainable and secure clean energy markets and accelerate the adoption of environmental solutions in

Views exchanged during the EIN Roundtable helped inform the US-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership

(SCEP) ministerial convened by the US secretary of energy and the Indian minister of petroleum and natural gas in Washington on September 16, the media release said.

They also commended the

significant

announced at the virtual IPEF ministerial meeting last month, including the work being done to improve supply chain resilience under the Supply Agreement for the IPEF partners. They highlighted their commitment collaborate initially in the critical areas semiconductors, chemicals, critical minerals with a focus on batteries, and potentially healthcare products, as agreed to by the IPEF Supply Chain Council. Goval Raimondo reviewed other joint efforts that have been made, including under the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue and the Standards Conformance Cooperation Program (SCCP). Looking ahead, they discussed several priorities for future collaboration,

Apple to open four new stores in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

I Phone maker Apple on Friday said it will open four more stores in India, located in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai.

The company said it will also roll out its first-ever "made in India" iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max series devices this month.

"We're thrilled to build our teams as we plan to open more stores in India because we're inspired by the creativity and passion of our customers across country. We can't wait for them to have even more opportunities to discover and shop for our amazing products and services, and connect with our extraordinary, knowledgeable team members," Apple's senior Vice President of Retail, Deirdre O'Brien, said in a statement. In April 2023, Apple opened

its two stores in India, one in Delhi and the other in Mumbai. "Future Apple Retail stores

are planned in Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi-NCR and



Mumbai," the statement said. According to people aware of the development, the stores are likely to be opened next The company announced

that it will now manufacture iPhone smartphones in India.

"Apple is now manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 lineup, including iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India," the statement said.

Apple began manufacturing the iPhone in India in 2017. "Manufactured in India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max will soon be available for our local customers and for export to select countries across the world," the statement said.

According to sources, supplies of the high-end, Made-in-India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max are expected to begin this month.

Vedanta reports mixed production results for Q2

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $M_{
m on}^{
m ining}$ giant Vedanta Ltd on Friday reported a rise in production of aluminium, zinc and iron ore in the September quarter. However, the production of

steel, mined metal overseas and oil and gas dropped during the quarter. The aluminium output grew 3 per cent to 6,09,000 tonnes

compared to the same period last year, Vedanta said in a filing to BSE. At Zinc India, the saleable metal output grew to 2,62,000 tonnes from

in the second quarter

2,41,000 tonnes. While at Zinc International the mined metal output dropped by 34 per cent to 44,000 tonnes, from 66,000 tonnes in the second quarter.

Meanwhile, oil and gas output dropped 22 per cent



average daily gross operated production during the quarter from 1,34,100 boepd production a year earlier.

tonnes from 1.2 million tonnes in the year-ago period. The total saleable per cent to 2,96,000 tonnes and power sales rose 7 per cent to 4,322 million units from 4,047 million units in the July-September period of the last financial year.

The production of saleable

iron ore rose to 1.3 million steel production dropped 22 The company said that the

impacted due to the planned shutdown on account of the debottlenecking of steel melting maintenance of oxygen plant

Vedanta Ltd, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Ltd, is one of the world's leading natural resources companies spanning across India, South África, Namibia, Liberia, the UAE, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan with significant operations in oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, steel, nickel, aluminium

PFC secures record foreign loan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ttate-owned Power Finance Ocorporation (PFC) on Friday announced that it has secured the largest-ever foreign currency term loan of USD 1.265 billion. This landmark transaction

was executed through a facility agreement multiple banks based in IFSC GIFT City, Gandhinagar, a company statement said. According to the statement,

PFC announced successful closing of issuance of largestever foreign currency term loan from an Indian PSU amounting to USD 1.265 billion.

The loan will primarily be deployed towards financing assets other than thermal

PFC's strong furthering commitment decarbonization and the transition to green energy. The multi-currency funding

including critical minerals.

will enable PFC to expand its operations, enhance its market presence, diversify its funding sources and maintain a competitive edge.
The floating rate loan,

presently at an average rate of 4.21 per cent per annum, denominated in G3 currencies
-- USD, EUR, and JPY -- has a 5-year tenor and is linked to external benchmark rates such as Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) for USD, Euro Interbank Offered Rate (EURIBOR) for EUR, and Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONA) for JPY.

BMW group sales rise in India

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German luxury carmaker BMW Group on Friday said its BMW and MINI brands recorded a 10 per cent year-on-year increase in sales, at 10,556 units in India during January-September period of 2024.

The number of cars (BMW and MINI) sold in the nine months of 2023 was 9,580

Besides, the group also sold 5,638 units of Motorrad brand of motorcycles, the group announced here on Friday

BMW Group comprises three brands BMW, Mini and Motorrad

Of the 10,556 units, BMW Group said, it sold 10,056 units of BMW and the remaining 500 units of the



The highest ever car deliveries during January to September this year, reflects the synergy between a successful strategy and an unparalleled customer experience," said Vikram

BMW Group India. BMW Group India changing the game with its wheelbase product portfolio and a strong electric mobility offensive, he added.

Pawah, President and CEO at

Key models like the BMW 7 Long Wheelou 3 Series Long X1 are BMW Wheelbase and BMW X1 are leading in their segments and demand for the new BMW 5 Series Long Wheelbase is overwhelming, Pawah stated. BMW Group India maintains its top position in the electric mobility space with 725 units of fully electric BMW and MINI cars getting delivered YTD (Year To Date) Q3 2024,

Home cooked meal prices rise in September

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Home-cooked became meals dearer September compared to a year ago as prices of onion, potato and tomatoes shot up, a report said on Friday.

A vegetarian meal cost went up 11 per cent over year to Rs 31.3 in September from Rs 28.1 in September 2023, and inched up from Rs 31.2 in the preceding August, as per the report by domestic rating agency Crisil.

Attributing the rise to firming up in the vegetable prices that account for 37 per cent of a thali cost, the "roti, rice, rate" report elaborated on the factors affecting the overall

"Prices of onion, potato and tomato rose 53 per cent, 50



tomato output in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra," it explained. Prices of pulses jumped 14 per cent on year due a drop in

vegetarian thali, the meal cost dropped by 2 per cent on year

to Rs 59.3 on a 13 per cent decline in broiler prices which have a 50 per cent weightage. A non-veg meal cost, which also includes the payouts on vegetables but dal gets replaced with broiler, was flat production, while fuel dropped 11 per cent due to a compared to the rate in price cut earlier in the year, August, the report said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will soon invite bids for 10 gigawatts of battery energy storage projects, an official said on Friday.

The move will strengthen India's position in the energy storage segment, which is in a developing stage. Vijay Mittal, Joint Secretary,

Ministry of Heavy Industries, said, "The ministry will soon come out with a 10 gigawatt RFP (request for proposal) for those who are working on the energy storage part of it for grid-scale energy storage systems.

So that we have...Indigenous capability for manufacturing of battery energy storage system compatible with advanced chemistry cells."

The official was addressing the 'Summit on Lithium-Ion Batteries', organised industry body India Energy Alliance (IESA), Storage virtually.

India to invite bids for battery storage projects

The ministry is leading the of indigenous mission manufacturing of chemistry cells in the country as part of electric vehicle (EV) initiative. The goal is to achieve net zero by 2070 and reduce the need for imports of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, environmental concerns, he said. Mittal further said that

addressing the government has allocated over 40 gigawatt-hours out of gigawatts to various original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for indigenous manufacturing of advanced chemistry cell under



ACC-PLI scheme. Chairman Rahul Walwalker said, "Many countries are looking for an alternative to relying solely on China, creating a potential market opportunity of up to 2,500 gigawatt hours for the supply chain in India. The goal is to scale up manufacturing in India, with the initial target being 50-gigawatt hours set up by the ACCPLI, and a larger vision set by the IESA for India to have a minimum of 550-gigawatt hours of cell manufacturing by 2035."

INBRIEF

SRM IHM, SRM IST SIGN MOU

KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRM IHM) at the Kattankulathur, Ekkatuthangal, and Sonipat campuses of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRM IST) has Memorandum Understanding (MOU) with Konyang University, South Korea, on October



RITES, DMRC SIGN MOU FOR EXPLORING METRO WORKS



GURUGRAM: RITES Ltd., signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. Through this MoU, both organizations will combine their strengths to identify secure, and execute metro projects in India and abroad. Both organizations will combine their strengths to identify, secure, and execute metro projects in

ANGHT OF MUSICAL TRIBUTE

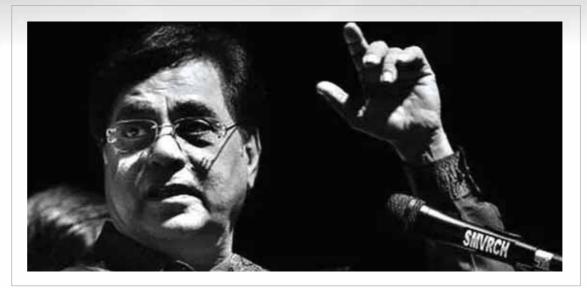
CELEBRATING JAGJIT SINGH'S GHAZALS

The timeless melodies of Jagjit Singh continue to resonate with audiences, and the recent concert, Salaame-Jagjit, featuring Nisschal Zaveri at the Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi, celebrated his enduring legacy. Fans united to honour the ghazal maestro, reliving the magic of his songs in a heartfelt evening of nostalgia, says SAKSHI PRIYA

othon se chhu lo tum, mera geet amar kar do" these beautiful lyrics by Jagjit Singh capture the heart of his music, expressing deep love and emotion. As a master of ghazals, he transformed Indian music with his soulful voice and meaningful lyrics, creating a legacy that continues to touch people today. His songs are anthems of love and nostalgia, connecting listeners across generations. During Salaam-e-Jagjit, the excitement in the auditorium was visible, reminding everyone that they were celebrating a beloved artist whose music resonates with their own stories. The recent concert, Salaam-e-Jagjit, held at the Siri Fort Auditorium in Delhi, was a powerful tribute to the legendary Jagjit Singh. From the moment the audience entered, there was a noticeable excitement in the air, a sense of collective anticipation that hinted at the emotional journey they were about to embark on. It was clear that everyone present had come not just to enjoy music but to celebrate the legacy of an artist who had touched their hearts.

As Nisschal Zaveri took to the stage, the auditorium erupted with applause, a heartfelt welcome from fans eager to honour Jagjit Singh's memory. Dressed impeccably, Zaveri carried an aura of confidence and reverence, and the love for Singh's music shone through every performance. With his first notes of "Pyaar Ka Pehla Khat," he immediately captivated

the audience. They sang along, creating a beautiful chorus that filled the auditorium, merging their voices with his in a shared



ONE PARTICULARLY TOUCHING MOMENT WAS WHEN ZAVERI PAID TRIBUTE TO LATA MANGESHKAR BY SINGING "LAG JA GALE" IN HONOUR OF HER BIRTHDAY. THE AUDIENCE RESPONDED WITH ENTHUSIASM, MANY SINGING ALONG AND CLAPPING TO THE RHYTHM, AS IF THEY WERE AT A CLOSE FRIEND'S GATHERING RATHER THAN A CONCERT

celebration of the beloved ghazal. When Zaveri transitioned into "Aahista Aahista," the mood shifted. The audience fell silent, completely absorbed in the haunting melodies and poignant lyrics that had defined *Jagjit* Singh's music. At that moment, time seemed to stand still. Each word resonated, and the emotional weight of the song was felt throughout the hall. It was a moment that bridged generations, as listeners, young and old, connected with the timeless themes of love and longing that Jagjit Singh so

eloquently expressed.

The presence of notable figures like *Ûstaad Amjad Ali Khan* and wife, Mrs. Subhalaxmi Khan, added to the

significance of the evening. Their appreciation for *Zaveri's* performances was unmistakable. Ustaad Khan stood in support, leading the audience in a standing ovation as the final notes echoed through the auditorium. This act of respect and admiration encapsulated the spirit of the night, a powerful acknowledgment of Jagjit Singh's enduring impact on music and

One particularly touching moment was when Zaveri paid tribute to Lata Mangeshkar by singing "Lag Ja Gale" in honour of her birthday. The audience responded with enthusiasm, many singing along and clapping to the rhythm, as if they were at a close friend's gathering rather than a concert.
This gesture highlighted the interconnectedness of these legendary

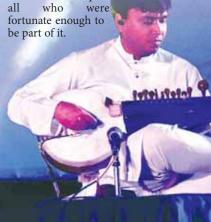
artists, demonstrating the deep respect they had for one another and how their legacies intertwine.

As the evening progressed, it became clear that Salaam-e-Jagjit was more than just a concert; it was a heartfelt tribute to *Jagjit Singh's* contributions to Indian music. The audience's engagement, singing along, applauding and responding to the music, highlighted how deeply *Singh's* work resonates with people across generations. It was touching to see how music can bring everyone together in celebration of a shared love, creating a sense of community among fans.

The concert concluded with a wave of applause and appreciation, with the audience clearly moved by the performances. Zaveri's heartfelt connection to Jagjit Singh's music was evident as he expressed, "Performing Louit Schold are provided in the survey of th Jagjit Saheb's music is always a deeply moving experience for me." The crowd's reactions showed that they weren't just passive listeners; they were engaged participants, each clapping and cheering as a tribute to their love for Singh's work.

As the concert drew to a close, the audience remained in the moment, enveloped in a sense of nostalgia and gratitude. The evening served as a reminder of how music can touch our lives in profound ways. Salaam-e-Jagjit was a fitting celebration of not just the songs of Jagjit Singh but also the very spirit of an artist whose influence remains ever-present. The shared claps, cheers and emotional responses from the audience spoke volumes about the lasting legacy of Jagjit Singh, reminding everyone that music has the power to unite and heal. It was

unforgettable evening that will continue to inspire who were fortunate enough to





Taiwan and India Unite Through Music

BY TEAM VIVA

 $T^{
m he\ India\ Habitat\ Centre\ was\ alive}$ with the sounds of both East and West in a concert that crossed cultural boundaries. The Taipei Philharmonic Chamber Choir and The Neemrana Music Foundation came together for an evening titled "Eastern & Western Music Treasures", filling the Stein Auditorium with music that connected continents and traditions.

More than 50 singers from Taiwan and India performed a stunning blend of Western classical pieces alongside Indian and Taiwanese musical traditions. It wasn't just a concert, it was a celebration of shared human experience, showing how music can unite us, no matter our origins. This extraordinary event was made possible with the support of the Taiwan and Electronic Manufacturer's Association and the India Habitat Centre. Their collaboration ensured the evening was an unforgettable success.

Ferdinand Ta-Ming Ting, Executive

Director of the Taipei Philharmonic Foundation, captured the spirit of the event perfectly, saying, "Music transcends borders and through this collaboration, we hope to deepen the cultural bond between Taiwan and

Since its founding in 1988, the Taipei Foundation Philharmonic represented Taiwanese music on the global stage, performing in over 30 countries. Meanwhile, The Neemrana Music Foundation has been pivotal in promoting Western classical music in Îndia, nurturing young talent and bridging cultures through the arts. Aude Priya Wacziarg, Managing Trustee of The Neemrana Music Foundation, reflected on the collaboration, "This concert is a beautiful testament to the longstanding friendship between Taiwan and India. It's an honour to bring our musicians together in this celebration of unity." The evening was not just about music, it was a celebration of how art unites people, breaking down borders and creating connections beyond words.

MYSTIC MINIATURES A Journey of Introspection

BY **TEAM VIVA**

nuj Prasad's solo exhibition, Mystic Miniatures, is an evocative dive into the realms of spiritual reflection, displayed at the India Habitat Centre's Visual Art Gallery. With intricate precision and an ethereal touch, Prasad offers viewers a chance to encounter mysticism in a way that feels personal rather than grandiose.

As visitors enter the gallery, they are immediately transported into the artist's inner world, where the 150 artworks in ink, watercolour and oil invite a deeper exploration of self. Each piece, though small in scale, possesses a monumental capacity to provoke thought and contemplation. The exhibition showcases Prasad's ability to distill complex ideas into minute details, encouraging the viewer to engage intimately with each artwork.

At first glance, the intricate lines and vibrant colours create a sense of overwhelming complexity. However, as one spends time with the pieces, the seemingly chaotic forms begin to reveal hidden patterns and meanings. This slow unfolding mirrors the process of self-reflection, where confusion gradually gives way to clarity. The exhibition invites viewers to embark on a journey of discovery, probing the hidden meanings and symbolism work into each piece. The tactile nature of *Prasad's* work enhances this experience, allowing visitors to connect with the depth and intricacy of his artistry on a personal level.

Prasad's connection to mysticism is evident in his exploration of spiritual themes through art. He describes mysticism as a natural instinct and each piece reflects this







belief. The artworks exude a quiet spirituality, inviting viewers into a dialogue rather than demanding their attention. The miniature scale of the works compels intimacy, urging visitors to lean in and engage, promoting a sense of stillness that feels almost radical in today's fastpaced world.

Nature serves as a significant influence in *Prasad's* artistic practice. His use of organic shapes and textures reveals a deep reverence for the reflecting environment, an understanding of the interconnectedness of all living

things. This appreciation for the natural world is evident in every stroke, as Prasad captures the minutiae of life with a deft hand. The handmade textures of his paintings further emphasise this connection, inviting viewers to consider the

beauty in the smallest details. The titles of Prasad's artworks add another layer of meaning, prompting viewers to engage with the themes presented. Names such as "Soul Gateway," "Duality," and "3 Layer Orbit" hint at deeper spiritual explorations, while "Treasure Hunt" and "Balloon Above the Sky" evoke a sense of adventure and freedom. Other titles like "Net Zero," "Moving Goals," and "Boundary-less" challenge viewers to contemplate concepts of balance, change and the fluidity of existence. Each title serves as an invitation to interpret the work through one's own experiences, making the exhibition a deeply personal journey.

Mystic Miniatures go beyond the

traditional art exhibition; it serves as an invitation to slow down and reflect on the often-overlooked details of life. In a world that constantly demands our attention, Prasad's work acts as an antidote to the fast pace of modern living. His unique artistic vision encourages audiences to immerse themselves in the spiritual and meditative verses present within each piece. By doing so, he reminds us that profound discoveries often lie in the intricate details we may overlook if we do not take the time to look closely. Through Mystic Miniatures, Prasad invites viewers not only to appreciate art but also to engage in a transformative exploration of their inner selves.

Photos: Pankaj Kumar

WE CAN SENSE EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS JUST BY OUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS: SHAFALI ON MANDHANA

Shafali Verma, the significant other of the blockbuster Indian opening pair, says her no-holds-barred approach goes well with Smriti Mandhana's elegance and both can "sense each others feelings just by our facial expressions"

batting.
One of the factors behind the Indian women's cricket team's dominance in recent times has been the success of its openers, and Shafali admits they know how "important" they are to the team's fortunes.

"I've been opening with Smriti for the past two-three years, and now we can sense each other's feelings just by our facial expressions batting. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses, and we give each other positive vibes," Shafali told Star Sports when asked about her on-field



relationship with Mandhana. understand important we both are to the team, especially during the

perform well for ourselves, our

"Smriti di is an exceptional timer of the ball, and she teammates, and the country." knows how to build an The younger partner added, innings. These are the two batting -- her timing and her ability to construct a big

India will begin their campaign in the ongoing Women's T20 World Cup with a game against New Zealand on Friday, and Shafali said it has been a dream of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur to win the tournament, in which they finished runners-up in the 2020 edition.

"Harmanpreet di is very passionate about the game. Winning the World Cup has always been a dream for her, and I hope we can make that dream come true. She's a great player, a great teammate, and a fantastic captain who inspires and motivates us all the time," Shafali said of the skipper.

Shafali made her World Cup debut as a 16-year-old and having missed the trophy by a whisker then, she is hoping to change that this time around.

debut at 16, and I loved being in Australia. It wasn't just the cricket: I also exploring the country.

'The tournament was special, and I performed well for the team. Thinking back to that World Cup always brings a smile to my face. We were so close to winning, but hopefully, we can change that

this time around."
Playing the final against home team Australia, in front of a packed crowd at the iconic MCG, is an experience that has helped her in learning to handle pressure better.
"I couldn't hear anything

because of the massive crowd. It was a completely new experience for me to play in front of such a big audience.

"I was lost in the atmosphere and the noise, but I've learned to focus more now. I wouldn't feel the same pressure if I were in that situation again."



No. 1 Iga Swiatek parts ways with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek is separating from her coach Tomasz Wiktorowski.

The Polish tennis player announced the split Friday, saying the decision was taken together.

During the three years Swiatek worked with Wiktorowski, the Polish player won four of her five Grand Slam titles and rose to the top of the women's

"After 3 years of the greatest achievements in my career, together with my coach Tomasz Wiktorowski we decided to part way," Swiatek wrote in a post on Instagram. "I want to start with a big thank you and appreciating our work together.

Swiatek appointed Wiktorowski as coach at the end of the 2021 season. He helped her capture 19 of her 22 career titles and an Olympic bronze medal in Paris in

August. 'Coach Wiktorowski joined my team for three seasons, when I strongly needed changes and a fresh approach to my game," continued.

"His experience, analytical and strategic attitude enormous knowledge about strategic attitude tennis helped us to achieve

EU's top court says some FIFA rules on international

transfers are contrary to the bloc's law

things I've never dreamed of only a few months after we started working together.

"Our main goal was to become No. 1 player in the world and coach Wiktorowski was the one who said it first." Swiatek hasn't competed since

losing to Jessica Pegula in the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open. She withdrew from this week's China Open in Beijing - where she would have been defending champion - citing personal reasons. The 23-year-old Swiatek also pulled out of the recent Korea Open in Seoul, citing fatigue.

"Due to this important change on my team, I give myself a couple of weeks to start a cooperation with a new coach, Swiatek wrote.

"I'm in the middle of first talks with coaches from abroad (non-Polish) because I'm ready to take the next step of my career. I will let you know when I make a decision."

Wiktorowski was voted the WTA's Coach of the Year by his peers last year.

'Coach, THANK YOU, I wish you all the best," Swiatek wrote. I know that you would like to rest after these 3 years of hard work and traveling a lot and spending some well deserved time with your loved ones and I hope you'll get what you

Buoyant Mohammedan Sporting gear up for Mohun Bagan challenge



 $F^{\rm resh\ off\ their\ maiden\ ISL}_{\rm victory\ in\ an\ away\ match}$ against Chennaiyin FC, Mohammedan Sporting will aim to carry the same momentum when they square off with heavyweights Mohun Bagan in a lesser known 'Kolkata Derby' this

With bragging rights as well as points on the line, Mohammedan Sporting will against one of Indian football's most dominant forces and resume their rivalry in the ISL.

The black and white brigade secured their maiden win in the ISL by defeating Chennaiyin FC 1-0 last week with Lalremsanga Fanai scoring the decisive goal.

Despite Chennaiyin's attempts to fight back in the secondhalf, Mohammedan's defence led by Joseph Adjei and Vanlalzuidika Chhakchhuak remained resolute to take home full three points that has kept them ahead of the city rivals on goal difference. Mohun Bagan, who are the Alexis League Shield Winners, on front.

the other hand are coming on the back of a 0-3 loss to Bengaluru FC as they will be looking to regroup and infuse fresh energy to their attacking duo of Dimitri petratos and Jason Cummings.
Petratos is on the brink of his

50th ISL appearance for the Mariners, and his experience will be vital in guiding the team through in pressure cooker scenario.

The key for the midfield marshalled by Greg Stewart and Manvir Singh will be to dominate possession, pressing high up the pitch and using their full-backs to

provide width. Lalengmawia Ralte has been flawless defensively, winning all 14 of his attempted tackles this season, which will be crucial stopping Mohammedan's attacks.

Despite their attacking prowess, Mohun Bagan head coach Jose Molina has expressed concern about his team's defensive frailties.

The Mariners have conceded seven goals in their three matches so far, which has put pressure on their ability to

Molina has identified that many of their defensive issues stem from mistakes in attack, emphasising that improving their offensive play will help tighten the defense.

'We're conceding too many goals, and some of them are due to mistakes at the back, but most are because of errors in attack. To improve defensively, we need to attack better," Molina said. Sporting, Mohammedan however, may opt for a more cautious approach as they are likely to sit back, absorb pressure, and hit on the counter using the pace of Alexis Gomez and Franca up

Retired IPS Sharad Kumar appointed new head of BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit

 $R^{
m etired}$ IPS officer Sharad Kumar, who headed anti-terror organisation NIA for four years, has been appointed as the new chief of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit, bringing extensive experience to the

Hailing from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, the appointment of 68-year-old Kumar was done on October 1 in the cricketing body. BCCI's ACU head is appointed for a threevear term.

His name was finalised in the BCCI's Annual General Meeting on September 29, a Board source told PTI.

He is a 1979 batch IPS officer from the Haryana cadre and has had a distinguished career especially as the chief of the National Investigation Agency from 2013 to 2017.

He will take over from KK Mishra, also a former Haryana cadre IPS officer, who was appointed last year but did not complete his term due to unspecified



After serving in the NIA, Kumar was appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission from June 2018 to April 2020, where he

Vigilance Commissioner. In his new role, Kumar will play a crucial part in addressing corruption issues, including match-fixing and betting

also held the interim position of Central

scandals, thereby reinforcing the BCCI's commitment to maintaining integrity of During his tenure as NIA Director

General, Kumar oversaw several highprofile investigations and operations.

Kumar played a pivotal role in enhancing the NIAs capabilities and infrastructure. During his tenure, the NIA investigated several major transfer in the NIA investigated several major terror attacks in India, including the Pathankot airbase attack by terrorists of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Kumar's efforts were instrumental in disrupting terror financing networks. His contribution to law enforcement has been recognised with the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Services in 1996 and the President's Police Medal for

The European Union's top court said Friday that some

are contrary to European

Union legislation relating to

competition and freedom of

movement, in a ruling that will

likely lead to a shakeup of the

soccer market's regulations and

change the sport's economy. The court's ruling came after

former France international

challenged FIFA rules following a dispute with a club

dating back to a decade ago.
Diarra argued that FIFA's

restrictions meant he was

unable to find a new club after

his contract with Russian club

Lokomotiv Moscow

Lassana Diarra



Bopanna-Dodig pair advances to second round of Shanghai Masters

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Croatian partner Ivan Dodig cherished their first win after joining forces, moving to the second round of the ATP Shanghai Masters with a

Martinez, here Friday. The fifthseed Indo-Croatian pair won 6-4 6-3 in the opening round match that lasted 63 minutes. Bopanna and Dodig fired five aces to none of their rivals, and converted three of the eight break points they faced.

They also saved four break straight-set victory over Pablo Carreno Busta and Pedro They also saved four break chances on their service games,

dropping serve only once in the match. India's singles challenge has already ended with both Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan making first round

Ramkumar had made it to the main draw through qualifying round while Nagal had earned a direct entry.

terminated in 2014. FIFA's rules state that if a player terminates his contract without "just cause," the player and any club wishing to sign him are jointly liable for paying compensation to the previous

movement of players and competition between clubs," the court said in a statement. "The rules in question are such as to impede the free movement of professional footballers wishing to develop their activity by going to work for a new club."

"Those rules hinder the free

The court added that current rules "impose considerable legal risks, unforeseeable and potentially very high financial risks as well as major sporting risks on those players and clubs wishing to employ them which, taken together, are such as to impede international transfers of those players."

Diarra had signed a four-year contract with Lokomotiv Moscow in 2013. The deal was terminated a year later after Diarra was unhappy with alleged pay cuts.

Lokomotiv Moscow applied to the FIFA dispute resolution chamber for compensation



and the player submitted a counterclaim compensation for unpaid wages. The Court of Arbitration for Sport found the Russian club terminated the contract with Diarra "with just cause" and the player was ordered to pay 10.5 million

euros (\$11.2 million). Diarra claimed his search for a new club was hampered by FIFA's rules stipulating that any new side would be jointly responsible with him for paying compensation to Lokomotiv.

The former Real Madrid player also argued that a potential deal with Belgian club Charleroi fell through because of the FIFA rules, and sued FIFA and the Belgian federation at a Belgian court for damages and loss of earnings of six million euros (\$7 million). With the lawsuit still going through Belgian courts, the case was referred to the European Court of Justice

for a ruling.
Although the court said FIFA transfer regulations can help maintain a form of stability within professional squads and help guarantee the regularity of

The Diarra case, which is supported by the global players' union FIFPro, went through FIFA judicial bodies before the 2016 election of FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who has made it a priority to modernize transfer market rules.

preventing competition

'The Court recalls that the between

Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag likelihood that United's 11-Defeat against Villa would

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

It feels like Groundhog Day for Manchester United and Erik ten Hag.

Another season has hit crisis point after only a few games. Perhaps that's why the United manager was so dismissive of the renewed pressure on him after last week's humbling 3-0 loss to Tottenham. "Nothing is easy, but this is

nothing for me to panic about because I experienced it so often with my teams during seasons that you are facing those problems," he said this week.

He is right. United's record of three losses after six English Premier League games is in keeping with his two previous campaigns at Old Trafford.



In 2022, he lost his opening two and three of the first seven. In 2023 it was even worse, as United lost three of five at the

Both of those seasons ended

with a trophy, but the feel-good factor provided by the most recent silverware - May's FA triumph against Manchester City - has long evaporated in the face of the

year wait for the league title is set to go on. There is little sign of progress in the league despite spending around \$750 million on transfers.
On Sunday, United travels to

Aston Villa, which has been transformed by manager Unai Emery, who has worked on a fraction of that budget. The Spaniard has spent around \$270 million to turn Villa from a team that was battling relegation when he took over in October 2022 to one that beat beat Bayern Munich in the Champions League Wednesday. In contrast United needed a

stoppage time goal from Harry

Maguire to salvage a 3-3 draw

with Porto in the Europa

League on Thursday, having

led 2-0 after 20 minutes.

intensify questions about Ten Hag's position ahead of the October international break, which has traditionally been a time when clubs look to make managerial changes.

Emery's success at Villa is evidence of what can be achieved in a short period of time. Villa was three points above the relegation zone when he was hired. In his first full season, he led the Midlands club to fourth, eight points ahead of United and qualified for the Champions League.

He is yet to deliver silverware, but the trajectory is clearly upward. United is 13th heading into the

weekend, having finished last season in eighth and the previous year third.

competitions, it insisted that in Diarra's case "the rules in question nevertheless seem, seeking subject to verification (by the Belgian court) in a number of respects, to go beyond what is necessary to pursue that objective."

Concerning competition rules,

the court slammed FIFA's rulings for restricting and preventing cross-border between European clubs.

possibility of competing by recruiting trained players plays an essential role in the professional football sector and that rules which place a general restriction on that form of competition, by immutably fixing the distribution of workers employers and in cloistering the markets, are similar to a no-poach agreement," it said.

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