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Congress practises politics of hate: PM

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI:

Fresh from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) record third consecutive win in the Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday went hammers and tongs at the Opposition Congress, accusing it of practising "politics of hatred" in its desperate bid to return to power. Dubbing the Congress as the "most irresponsible" party, Modi charged that the grand old party devised its winning formula by dividing the Hindu community and spreading seeds of poison in the society to consolidate its voter banks. Inaugurating 10 government medical colleges across the state and laying foundation stone for Rs 7600- crore projects through video-conferencing from New Delhi, Modi said that the Congress practised divisive politics to win elections and it had become a most "irresponsible party" which was coming up with 'new narratives to divide the country'.



Congress 'analysing' Haryana disaster

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the party was analysing the "unexpected" results in Haryana and will apprise the Election Commission about complaints received from various constituencies of the state. In his first reaction after the defeat in Haryana, the former Congress president also thanked the people of Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir for their support. "My heartfelt thanks to the people of Jammu and Kashmir - INDIA's victory in the state is a victory of the Constitution, a victory of democratic self-respect," he said. The BJP on Tuesday clinched a stunning hat-trick win in Haryana overcoming anti-incumbency and dashing Congress' hopes of a comeback while the National Conference-Congress combine pulled off a spectacular victory in maiden elections in Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.



Who will be Haryana CM?

Nayab Singh Saini meets party bosses

PN S ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retained power for the third time in Haryana Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence in Delhi and top leadership of the party on Wednesday. Saini also met Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president JP Nadda. After meeting with Saini, Modi said on X that he congratulated Saini on the party's historic win and expressed confidence that the role of Haryana will become more important in the resolve of building 'viksit Bharat'. People aware of the developments said that while it was a courtesy call made to the Prime Minister by Saini, the formation of the next government in the state would have also been discussed. The meeting came amid the possibility of Nayab Singh Saini being asked to continue in his post after the BJP's success in Haryana, where it won a majority with 48 of 90 Assembly seats.

The BJP had indicated during the elections that Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar in March and hails from the Other Backward Classes, will be its choice for the top post if it wins. Senior BJP leader Anil Vij is also eying for the chief ministerial post. Sources in the Haryana BJP said that important issues, including the date and venue for the swearing-in ceremony of the new government, had to be discussed. The BJP leaders had earlier indicated that it would take place on Dussehra on Saturday. Later they indicated that the grand victory ceremony would take place after Dussehra. The venue is yet to be decided. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Saini credited Modi's policies for the party's success. Terming his meeting with the PM as a courtesy call, Saini said, "I have told Pradhan Mantri ji about the landslide victory of BJP in Haryana. I told him that the people of Haryana have a lot of affection for you which resulted in the formation of the double-engine government in Haryana for the third time."

Will demand restoration of statehood: Omar Abdullah

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After winning a historic mandate in the first Assembly polls, held after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah Wednesday set the agenda of the incoming government by announcing that the alliance government will pass a resolution demanding the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood in its first Cabinet meeting. Omar also claimed his party would keep the issue of restoration of Article 370 alive and continue to raise it. He shared his thoughts with the media, assembled at his residence, where a large number of party workers and elected public representatives converged on Wednesday to celebrate their party's big victory in the assembly elections. A delegation of the Congress party leaders led by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hamid Karra and All India Congress Committee (AICC) incharge Bhartsinh Solanki also visited the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah and greeted him. Listing out the priorities of the incoming government in office, Omar told reporters, "My suggestion to the incoming government will be that the first business of the cabinet should be to pass a resolution asking for statehood to be restored to J&K and the CM should travel to New Delhi with that resolution. Call on the senior leadership of the country and ask them to fulfil their promise. It is the Prime Minister, Home Minister and others who have promised the people of J&K statehood. Nowhere did they say that statehood would be restored



Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) President Farooq Abdullah with his son and party Vice President Omar Abdullah during celebrations after the victory of JKNC-Congress alliance in the J&K Assembly elections at their residence, in Srinagar, Wednesday

only to a BJP government or a government that has BJP members. They said the statehood would be restored to J&K and that is what we hope will be done". Responding to a question related to his party's stand on the issue of Article 370 Omar said, "Our political stand will not change. We have never said that we will remain silent on Article 370 or that Article 370 is not an issue for us now. I have said this many times before the elections that hoping for the restoration of Article 370 from the people who snatched it will be foolish." "But we will keep this issue alive. We will continue to talk on this and hope that tomorrow there will be a change of government in the country, there will be a new setup with whom we can discuss this and get something for J&K," he added.

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AAP shuns Congress, will fight Assembly polls alone

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after dismal performance in Haryana assembly polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has decided to contest the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections independently, a party representative announced on Wednesday. AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar stated, "In Delhi, AAP will contest alone. We are capable of fighting the overconfident Congress and arrogant BJP alone." She blamed the Congress for not taking alliance partners seriously in Haryana and ultimately facing a rout due to its overconfidence. Reacting to this, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said that the people have decided to punish AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal for ten years of destruction, and said that an alliance or not between "AAP" and Congress will not make any difference in the upcoming 2025 state assembly elections. While the AAP received a drubbing in Haryana, with all but one of its 88 candidates los-



ing their deposit, the Congress fell well short of the majority mark, making way for the ruling BJP to return for a third consecutive time. In the election held earlier in the year, the AAP lost the sole seat it con-

tested and the Congress won five out of 10 seats. The AAP and the Congress had fought Lok Sabha elections together in Haryana. In 2019, the party contested and lost in 46 seats. "The Congress has had zero seats in the Delhi assembly for the past 10 years, yet AAP gave Congress three seats in the Lok Sabha polls; still they did not feel necessary to take allies along in Haryana," she said. Kakkar claimed that Congress thwarted all efforts by the INDIA bloc to forge an alliance in Haryana and "didn't feel it necessary to take its ally along with them." The AAP and Congress failed to stitch up a pre-poll alliance due to differences over seat sharing. Kakkar attributed the AAP's winning one seat in the Jammu and Kashmir to the party's development-driven politics. AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, she said. For the past month, senior AAP leaders, including chief Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha, were campaigning in Haryana. On the last day of campaigning, Kejriwal and Sisodia had said during public addresses that the government will not be formed without its support. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP presi-

dent stated that the remarks by "AAP" leaders Sanjay Singh and Priyanka Kakkar on the AAP-Congress alliance are part of Arvind Kejriwal's deliberate strategy. "After the humiliating defeat in Haryana, Kejriwal knows that from his party workers to the media, everyone wants to question him and his party. In such a scenario, Kejriwal used his own leaders to make statements on the alliance to divert the discussion among the public and the media from the shameful defeat," he stated. The Delhi BJP chief added that even before the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress and "AAP" had formed an alliance in Delhi, but neither party benefited from it. In a statement, Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said that the party is on a strong wicket to contest the Assembly elections on its own without any tie up with the "tainted" AAP. He said the party had no credibility left after all its top leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia, were arrested and jailed in the liquor scam.

HC asks DUSU candidates to clean campuses defaced during polls for vote counting to take place

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the candidates of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) and college elections to clean all campus structures defaced during the polls if they wanted vote count to take place. The high court, which had on September 26 halted the counting of votes and declaration of results of DUSU and college elections, said its purpose was only to send a message that such violations would not be tolerated and not to thwart the election process. "Why don't you clean up the mess? The day the place is cleaned up, we will allow the counting of votes the very next day," a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said. "Every day in the city, some crisis or the other is happening. There is dengue, malaria. It's all because we are littering the place. And this (election) is a festival of democracy, it is not supposed to be a festival of money laundering," the court further said.



The court was hearing an application filed by two candidates who contested the college elections in two separate DU colleges, seeking declaration of results. The counsel for the two candidates submitted that they would ensure the premises of Law Centre II and Ramjas College, where they are studying, are cleaned up and repainted in coordination with the varsity. The application was filed in a pending petition seeking action against the DUSU candidates and student outfits involved in damaging, defacing, soiling or destroying the beauty of public walls. Petitioner Prashant Manchanda, a practising advocate, said the erring candi-

dates and their parties be directed to remove the defacement and refurbish the areas and make efforts to beautify the destroyed portions. The court granted time to the candidates, petitioner, MCD, and DMRC to file their status reports and listed the matter for October 21. The court had on September 26 halted the counting of votes of DUSU and college elections till all the defacement material, including posters, hoarding and graffiti, is removed and restoration done. It had said the election may proceed but the counting of votes will not take place till the court is satisfied that defacement of property has been removed.



Artists perform during the Ramnala organised by Lavkush Ramnala Committee at Red Fort ground. Ranjan Dimri

Two workers killed, another injured after inhaling poisonous gas in sewer tank

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two workers died while another was injured after inhaling poisonous gas inside a sewer tank at a construction site in southwest Delhi's Sarojini Nagar. According to the police on Wednesday, the incident took place on Tuesday afternoon when the workers went inside the tank for cleaning. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Southwest Surendra Choudhary said, "On Tuesday, a PCR call was received at Sarojini Nagar police station that a building had collapsed at Pillanji Village, near Metro Gate No.1 and three to four persons were trapped." Reacting to the call, a police team rushed to the place of



occurrence at NBCC, Construction site at Pillanji Village near Metro Gate No. 02. "It is found that two workers were removing garbage from the gutter, which was not in use presently and became unconscious, to rescue them one another labour also went into the sewerage," a senior police official said. The two deceased were iden-

tified as 41 years old Ramasre, resident of Barda Dhamna village of Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur, and 29 year old Babundra Kumar Singh, resident of Bihar's Gopal Ganj were declared dead after being shifted to the hospital. The third labourer has been identified as 28 year old Shrinath Soren, resident of Dikul village of West Bengal's District Dakshin Dinajpur, is undergoing treatment. "Two of the labour were shifted to Diyos hospital in Safdarjung Enclave by the ambulance VCL construction company while the third labour namely Ramasre was sent through ERV of the Police station to AIIMS, Trauma Centre. Later, information was received that Ramasre who was admitted in an unconscious condition was declared dead by doctors. Later on Babundra Kumar Singh was also declared dead by the doctors," the DCP stated, adding that the third person Shrinath is under treatment. A case under sections 106(1) (Causing death by negligence), 125 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 125(a) (Act endangering life or personal safety of others) of BNS was registered at Sarojini Nagar police station has been registered. Choudhary added that a thorough investigation is being conducted. On Wednesday, the post mortem of deceased Ramasre was conducted at Mortuary AIIMS Truma Centre and the body was handed over to his relatives by the authorities.

Will reach out to Environment Minister urging him to discuss use of artificial rain: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday that he will again reach out to the Union environment minister, urging an urgent meeting to discuss the use of artificial rain during peak pollution periods. Rai said that no response was received to his previous letter. During a press conference on Wednesday, Rai addressed the city's pollution concerns and emphasised the need for emergency measures to tackle the rising pollution levels. With Diwali around the corner, Rai said air pollution tends to become severe between November one and 15 during this festive period. He emphasised that emergency measures, such as the use of artificial rain, are needed and he had previously



requested the Union minister for a meeting regarding the matter but had not yet received a response from the central government. "I will write again to the Union environment minister, urging for an emergency meeting so we can implement the necessary measures to address this serious situation," Rai said. He also highlighted the steps

tives from 120 construction companies. These companies were trained on the guidelines, including dos and don'ts, with the goal of reducing dust pollution this winter," Rai said. The companies were provided with pamphlets detailing 14 specific guidelines to follow and were instructed to train their workers on these measures. "We expect their cooperation to help lower pollution levels, and in return, we have recognised companies making significant efforts with the Hari Ratan Award," Rai added. To enforce these guidelines, the government has already begun inspecting construction sites and imposing penalties on them who do not comply. Rai also said daily inspections and crackdowns on violations will continue.

Amity University, Noida organising International Conference on Entrepreneurship

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amity University Uttar Pradesh, Noida, is organising its prestigious and insightful 6th Edition of International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership (ICEIL 2024) on the theme 'Leveraging Emerging Technologies for a Self-Reliant Nation' from October 9-11, 2024. Introducing the Conference, Prof. (Dr.) Balvinder Shukla, Chair - ICEIL2024 & Vice Chancellor, Amity University Uttar Pradesh, said in an era marked by rapid technological advancements, nations get unprecedented opportunities to achieve self-reliance through the strategic adoption and application of emerging technologies. Addressing the gathering,

Masaki Seki, President, Sekisho Corporation, Japan, stated "India and Japan share close ties in the areas of economy, defence security, infrastructure development and science and technology. Dr. Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Govt. of India was present on the occasion. A Special message received from Chirag Kumar Paswan, Union Minister, Food Processing Industries, was also read during the Inaugural Session. In his message Paswan appreciated and congratulated Amity University for organizing the conference on an extremely relevant theme and stated that such conferences motivate the students to work hard, achieve success and contribute to nation-building.

40 artisans build city's tallest Ravan effigy over period of four months

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

It took 40 artisans over four months to build the city's tallest Ravan effigy which now towers over the southwest Delhi's Dwarka at 211-foot. The Rs 30-lakh effigy, constructed by artisans from Barara village of Haryana, will go up in flames on Dussehra on October 12 in an emblematic victory of good over evil. The effigy was installed on the first day of Navratri, during the 'Kalasha Sthapana', on the DDA Ground in Sector 10, according to Ramnala Committee Chairman Rajesh Gehlot. "This is the tallest Ravana ever built, standing at 211 feet, decorated with velvet cloth and constructed with iron. It was built over four months by

a team of 40 artisans," Gehlot said. The committee has sent an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the grand event, as it does every year. "As of now, we have not received a response, but we are hopeful," said the chairman of the committee, which has been hosting the Ravan-burning for 14 years. "This will be our 12th Ravana Dahan, as we could not celebrate Dussehra for two years due to COVID-19," said Gehlot, who took pride in the fact that no paper was used in making the effigy. He said that this year the committee has also created a replica of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir "before it was destroyed," and a stage featuring 3D animations.

BSES introduces WhatsApp in Hindi with 25 services

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further improve its services and connect with consumers, BSES has now introduced WhatsApp services in Hindi with 25 services. Giving details, discom officials said here on Wednesday, apart from BSES Mobile Apps and Website, WhatsApp has emerged as one of the most powerful tools in the discom's digital arsenal. Over three lakh transactions per month and counting—WhatsApp is now a consumer favorite. In today's rapidly digitalizing world, BSES is transforming into a green and digital discom, pushing the boundaries of consumer service and innovation in the power sector. By bringing a host of essential services directly to the mobiles of over 50 lakh consumers, BSES is leading the charge towards a more sustainable, tech-driven future. WhatsApp is emerging as a



powerful platform in this transformation. BSES has now introduced 25 services on WhatsApp. Apart from this, the discom has also introduced WhatsApp services in Hindi. Consumers simply choose the language - English and Hindi - to avail a service on WhatsApp. Now BSES consumers can avail services with just a single message—making interactions with their power distributor simpler, faster, and more environmentally friendly. Gone are the days when consumers needed to visit a BSES office in person. Today, BSES empowers its consumers to avail a variety of services from the comfort of their homes, contributing to a greener ecosystem by reducing paper and travel, officials said. Consumers can send a 'Hi' to 8800919123 (BRPL) or 8745999808 (BYPL) and instantly connect to over 25 vital services across 10 plus categories.

Three refugees, including toddler attacked with acid during argument with residents in Vikaspuri 11-month-old received burn marks, was discharged from Safdarjung hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three refugees, including a Syrian national and a toddler, suffered burns as they were attacked with acid during an argument with residents in west Delhi's Vikaspuri that took place near the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC). A senior police officer said that the 11 month old child was discharged from the Safdarjung hospital on Wednesday after the toddler received burn marks by a local who threw a liquid on three refugees. According to the police on Wednesday, the incident took place near the UNHRC building located at Vikaspuri on September 30 when a fight ensued between the locals of the area and the refugees who took shelter near the building. However, this was not the first time that a brawl erupted between them.



According to sources, the refugees have been identified as a 28-year-old refugee from Syria Rafat and a former call centre employee, his wife Marisa, a Thai national, and their son. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Vichitra Veer said a PCR call was received regarding the quarrel between the refugees and local residents. "On receiving the call, the local police reached the spot and found that there was a quarrel between refugees and

residents. During the quarrel, one person named Rakesh Kumar came with a plastic jerry can and spilled some liquid on the clothes and tentage etc where few of them were residing," he stated. Veer said on primary examination, the liquid appeared to be phenyl, but the exact composition will be established only on chemical examination. According to police sources, among the three refugees, one is a Syrian national. An FIR was lodged under appropriate sections of criminal law on October 1 and the accused was arrested, the DCP said. "A case was registered in Vikaspuri police station against unknown persons under sections 115 (voluntary hurt), 124(2) (throws or attempts to throw acid) and 3(5) (multiple people doing a crime) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)," he added. The police, in a statement, said refugees frequent the UNHRC office in Vikaspuri seeking work and shelter. They often raise slogans, causing disturbance to the locals. "Refugees go there from time to time, asking for work and shelter. Many a times, they raise slogans also, which causes disturbance to the local residents. On that day also, there was a heated argument between the refugees and the security guard deployed there, leading to the incident," read the statement.

JMI issues notice regarding vacant seats for academic session 2024-2025

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia on Wednesday issued a notice regarding vacant seats in several programmes for the academic year 2024-2025. According to the notice, the candidates who have not yet registered can apply online for the programmes under consideration by October 10. "The candidates who have not been admitted so far and wish to be admitted must register their willingness online till October 10," the notice said. The programmes under consideration include Mathematics, B.Voc in Solar Energy, M.Sc. In Virology, B.Sc. In Aeronautics, M.Tech. In Computer and Information Security, M.Sc. In Biophysics, M.Tech. In Nanotechnology, and a Diploma in Unani Medicine (Self-Finance), it stated. Additionally, there are 52 programmes in priority for consideration, it said.

Centre approves Rs 892 Cr for 8 road projects in Chhattisgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has approved Rs 892.36 crore for the development of eight road projects in Chhattisgarh.

Gadkari made the announcement on his social media handle X on Wednesday. Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Public Works Arun Sao thanked the Union Minister. Sao said the Central government was providing continuous support for the construction of roads in the state.



The state Public Works Department submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in September seeking approval for the development of 323.9 kms of road stretches across six districts in Chhattisgarh. Gadkari said the government had approved these proposals. He said financial approval of Rs 892.36

crore had been granted from the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) for 2024-25 to develop eight state road stretches in Bemetara, Mungeli, Rajnandgaon, Jashpur, Bilaspur, and Khairagarh districts. Sao said the money will be used to widen and strengthen the Nandghat-Mungeli road

and the Bemetara-Nawagarh-Mungeli road in Bemetara and Mungeli districts.

Additionally, widening and upgrading of the Dongargaon-Chowki-Mohla Manpur road in Rajnandgaon district, upgradation of the Bagbahar-Kotba road and the Ludeng-Tapkar-Lawakera road and the Jashpur-Asta-Kusmi road stretch in Jashpur district will also be carried out.

He added that the widening and strengthening of the Sirgitti-Sarwani-Pasid-Amladiha-Bartori-Dagori road in Bilaspur district and the Rajnandgaon-Kawardha-Pondi road in Rajnandgaon and Khairagarh districts will also be completed.

C'garh requests Centre to add Raigarh in NCAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh on Wednesday urged the Union Environment Ministry to bring Raigarh district into the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) fold.

At a meeting of the National Apex Committee under the NCAP, R. Sangeeta, Principal Secretary in Chhattisgarh's Environment Department, made the plea due to "rising pollution levels". In July, the Centre approved a coal mining project in Raigarh district, just six months after the National Green Tribunal revoked its environmental clearance.

A carrying capacity and cumulative impact assessment by IIT-Patna found that while sulfur dioxide and nitrogen



oxide pollution levels in Raigarh are within safe limits, particulate matter levels are approaching the maximum allowed for industrial zones.

India launched NCAP in 2019 with a target to reduce particulate pollution by 20-30 percent by 2024 compared to 2017 levels. The government later revised the target to a 40 percent reduction by 2026 from 2019-20 levels.

The programme currently covers 131 non-attainment cities -- those that consistently failed to meet national ambient air quality standards between 2011 and 2015.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, 21 cities and urban agglomerations have reduced PM10 pollution by 40 per cent compared to 2017-18 levels.

Ayurvedic Ras-shala: reviving knowledge, use of medicinal herb



STAFF REPORTER ■ DHAMTARI

The 'Ayurvedic Ras-shala' exhibition being held in Butigarh in Chhattisgarh's Dhamtari district has evoked a good response.

An official communiqué said on Wednesday this is being held as part of the 'Jal Jagar' programme.

It emphasises the significance of water conservation along with the utility of Ayurvedic beverages and medicines.

It is inspired by ancient Ayurvedic texts, Rasa Shastra, which describe various methods for preparing medicines using different apparatuses to purify and formulate potent remedies.

This is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state to

promote water conservation and Ayurvedic medicine.

Water holds immense importance in Ayurveda, as it helps maintain the balance of all major elements in the body.

Butigarh is a natural hub of medicinal plants. A herbarium is also under development there.

Ayurvedic experts said that adopting pure water and Ayurvedic nutrition can contribute to a healthier lifestyle for families and communities.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has applauded this initiative of the AYUSH Department and Dhamtari District administration and asked for more efforts to preserve the state's forest resources and enhance public awareness about Ayurveda.

Chhattisgarh man sent to Laos for 'cyber slavery', 3 arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

Chhattisgarh Police have arrested three persons from Mumbai, including a woman, for allegedly trafficking a man from Chhattisgarh's Durg district for "cyber slavery" in Laos and cheating him of Rs 2 lakh.

Sajah Sheikh (36), Rafi Khan alias Rafiq Khan (42) and a woman, all residents of Mumbai, were arrested by a Chhattisgarh Police team and brought to Durg on Wednesday.

The action was taken while investigating a complaint lodged by a Durg district resident, a victim of online fraud, with the Cyber Range police station. As per the complaint, the victim, from Bhilai town, was duped of Rs 2 lakh by the accused on the pretext of providing him a job of a computer operator in Laos.

A police team tracked financial transactions and acted on technical evidence to zero in on the location of the

accused in Mumbai.

The investigation suggested that Sheikh and the woman used to lure people by sending them advertisements of job opportunities in Southeast Asian countries including Laos.

They had created a fake company, VS Enterprises Manpower Consultancy Pvt Ltd, for the purpose.

In this case, Khan informed the victim about the job of a computer operator in Laos and introduced him to Sheikh and his female associate.

They took the man into confidence and offered him a job at a company in Golden Triangle (a special economic zone) in Laos and received Rs 2 lakh as service charge from the victim, an official said. The accused sent the victim to Laos Thailand by air. He was introduced to the "manager" of the company. The victim was shown some videos during training, which were related to cyber frauds.

When the man refused to do the illegal job, he was kept there for four to

five days and then sent back to India.

After arriving in Chhattisgarh, the victim told the police about his ordeal and how he was forced to work as a cyber slave. "The investigation has also revealed the accused had earlier trafficked 8 to 10 persons from India to Laos and Thailand where they were forced into cyber slavery. To save people trapped in cyber slavery in Laos and Thailand, further action will be taken with the assistance of Interpol," a senior official said.

Cyber slavery refers to a phenomenon where criminal networks force their captives to perpetrate online scams.

Sheikh and Khan were constantly changing their locations in Mumbai, but they were nabbed with the help of the city police.

All the three were booked under Sections 318 (4) (cheating), 3 (5) common intention and 143 (2) (trafficking) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

Women progress through silk production

STAFF REPORTER ■ JASHPUR

Women in Chhattisgarh's tribal-dominated Jashpur district are progressing financially by producing Tussar silk yarn, an official communiqué said on Wednesday.

The Tussar Yarn Production Scheme is playing a key role in women empowerment. The Sericulture Department trains women from economically disadvantaged families to produce Tussar silk yarns.

The department provides them kosa (silk cocoons), and the yarn they produce is marketed, with the earnings directly deposited into their



bank accounts.

Among the beneficiaries is Preeti Chauhan. She said she is now earning a substantial income by producing yarn.

She uses her income to support her family and agricultural activities.

Many more women associated with Tussar yarn production are also overcoming poverty and becoming self-reliant, the communiqué said.

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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive/physical (Physical) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 05-11-2024 for the recovery of Rs. 11,44,485/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Four Hundred & Eighty Five Only) only under Loan Account, due on 21.10.2016, (this amount includes interest till 21.10.2016, being the amount due on termination of the agreement along with future interest & cost as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from 1. SMT. SAVITRI SINGH RAJPOOT (RAJPUT) W/O LAXMAN SINGH RAJPOOT & 2. SRI LAXMAN SINGH RAJPOOT S/O MR. DWAN SINGH RAJPOOT. The reserve price for the Property is Rs. 446013/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Thirteen Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 44601.30/-
Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details:-

KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES (IF ANY)	Not known to the secured creditor. The purchaser, shall ascertain, the unpaid charges towards electricity, maintenance, Tax, any other statutory dues and/or dues etc. if any, as applicable.
RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)	Rs.446013/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Thirteen Only)
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.)	For property No. 1: Rs.44601.30/- (Rupees Fourty Four Thousand Six Hundred and One only), through DD in favor of 'Axis bank Ltd.' payable at Raipur.
BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT	Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) for each property
LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS / TENDER WITH EMD	Till 04.11.2024, latest by 02:00 P.M. at Axis Bank Limited, (Asset Sales Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla chambers, Opp. New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur 492004)
DATE, TIME, AND VENUE FOR PUBLIC-AUCTION	On 05.11.2024, between 11.00 A.M to 12.00 noon with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each at web portal https://www.bankauctions.com e-auction tender documents containing e-auction bid form, declaration etc., are available in the website of the Service Provider as mentioned below.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY TO BE SOLD

Property No. 1
Equitable mortgage that has been mortgaged with the Bank - ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY House/Plot No.LIG No. 49, Admeasuring 899.75 Sq.Ft vide Title Sale deed dated 08.06.2016, Situated at Chhattisgarh GRI Nirman Mandali Raipur, Sub-Division-3, Moushree Vinar Purnea, Gram-Munagi, Mandir Hasad, Patwar Circle No. 13, Teshil-Arang, Sub-Registrar & District Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The property is owned by Savitri Singh Rajpoot (Rajput), // NORTH- LIG 44 // SOUTH- Road of 7.5 Mtr. // EAST- LIG 48 // WEST- LIG 50.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auction-retail> and the Bank's approved service provider M/S C1 India Private Limited at their web portal <https://www.bankauctions.com>.
The auction will be conducted online through the Bank's approved service provider M/S C1 India Private Limited at their web portal <https://www.bankauctions.com>.
For any other assistance, like inspection the intending bidders may contact Authorized Officer of the Bank: Mr. Kartikey Shukla. (Mob. +7838606638 during office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

This Notice should be considered as 15 Days' Notice to the Borrowers under proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Date: 09.10.2024
Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer
Axis Bank Ltd

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, महानदी परियोजना जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोच्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal:
<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(पंजीयन अनिवार्य)

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 159520/निविदा सूचना क्र. 14/व.ले.लि./2024-25
दि. 08.10.2024

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए दिनांक 25.10.2024 17:30 तक ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
कार्य का नाम - कांकेर जिले के विकासखंड नरहरपुर की दुयावा-सरोना नहर के अंजीन वितरक नहर के जीरोइंडर एवं लाईनिंग कार्य आर.डी. 4500 मी. से 9060 मी. तक ।
अनुमानित लागत रु.- 291.35 लाख
(एस.ओ.आर. दिनांक 01.08.2010 से प्रचलित (यथा संशोधित दिनांक 01.08.2014 तक))
अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोच्यूरमेंट वेब साइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 15.10.2024 समय 17.31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
नोट: निविदा में माग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोच्यूरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित / पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन करना अनिवार्य है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, कांकेर
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी परियोजना
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.

G-242503075/7

AXIS BANK LTD
Branch Office: Asset Sales Centre, 2nd Floor, Chawla chambers, Opp. New Bus Stand, Jeevan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur 492004

Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)
As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002

WHEREAS:
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AXIS BANK LTD.**, Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(1)(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued, a demand notice, dated 31.07.2023 calling upon the borrowers and guarantors viz M/s UBV Infrastructure Ltd., Mr. Ranjodh Singh Rana, Mr. Biswanath Chakrabarty, Mr. Subedar Pathak, Mrs. Sharda Rana, Mr. Rohit Sharma to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 2,78,54,127.88 due under Loan A/c No. 913030021925670, as on 31.07.2023 (this amount includes interest applied till 28.02.2023), Rs. 50,88,338 as on 31.07.2023 and Rs. 1,00,00,000/- as on 31.07.2023, only, being the amount due on termination of the agreement together with further contractual rate of interest till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers and guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantors 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 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 08.10.2024.
The borrowers and guarantors in 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 **AXIS BANK LTD.** for an amount of Rs. 2,78,54,127.88 due under Loan A/c No. 913030021925670, as on 31.07.2023 (this amount includes interest applied till 28.02.2023), Rs. 50,88,338/- as on 31.07.2023 and Rs. 1,00,00,000/- as on 31.07.2023, being the amount due as on date together with further contractual rate of interest till the date of payment. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Description of the Immovable Property
Collateral: All that piece and parcel of the land situated under Khata No. 1117, Khasra No. 1185/1DA, 1185/1CHA/6, measuring about 0.146 Hectare or 15175 Sq.ft., Mouza Gram Shankar Nagar, P. H. No. 110, Raipur-1, Ward No. 28, Maharshi Valmiki Warti, Tahsil & District-Raipur, together with the building constructed upon the said land. Boundaries: North: Dpen Land, South: Dharsa, East: Dharsa, West: Open Land. The property in the name of Sharda Rana.

Date: 08.10.2024
Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer
Axis Bank Ltd

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
राज्य शासन का बैंक
एक भारतीय एक बैंक

Raipur Zonal office
Recovery Department- 1st Floor,
Chawla Complex, Sai (Devendra)
Nagar, Raipur, Email:
cmnarc_rai@mahabank.co.in
No. 9007896452

Appendix IV POSSESSION NOTICE
[For Immovable Property under the Act - Rule- 8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act - 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sub Section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 21.05.2024, calling upon the Borrower:- **M/s. S.R. ENTERPRISES [Partners: (I) Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta S/o Mr. Kulwant Rai Gupta, Ward No. 12, Sundar Nagar, Supela, Bhilai, District - Durg, (C.G.), Pin - 490023 & (II) Mrs. Asha Gupta W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Ward No. 12, Sundar Nagar, Supela, Bhilai, District- Durg, (C.G.), Pin-490023] Address:- 17-E, Industrial Area, Hathkhaj Bhilai, District - Durg, (C.G.), Pin - 490023 & Guarantors - (1) Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta S/o Mr. Kulwant Rai Gupta, Ward No. 12, Sundar Nagar, Supela, Bhilai, District - Durg, (C.G.), Pin - 490023, (2) Mrs. Asha Gupta W/o Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Ward No. 12, Sundar Nagar, Supela, Bhilai, District- Durg, (C.G.), Pin-490023, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.1,01,95,640/- (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred Forty only) plus interest thereon @ contractual rate + cost, charges, expenses etc. w.e.f. 21/05/2024 within 60 days from the date of the said Notice.**

The Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount. Notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 05/10/2024.

The Borrower / Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Maharashtra, Bhilai Branch**, for an amount mentioned above.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The details of the Immovable property mortgaged to the Bank and taken symbolic possession by the Bank are as follows:-

Name of the Executants/Owner - M/S. S.R ENTERPRISES.
All that pieces and parcel of the immovable property located at Plot No. 17-E, Admeasuring 28000 Sq. ft. & workshop building constructed thereon at Industrial Estate, Nandani Road, Hathkhaj, Bhilai, District- Durg, Chhattisgarh in the name of S. R. Enterprises. Bound as follows: - North - Road, East - Road, West - Plot No.92A, South - Plot No. 17

Date: 10.10.2024, Place: Bhilai
Authorised Officer & Chief Manager

IDFC First Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 7th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i).

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com

S. No.	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement ID	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) Reserve Price Amount	(v) EMD Amount	(vi) Date and Time of Auction	(vii) Date and Time of EMD Auction	(viii) Date and Time of Inspection	(ix) Date and Time of Auction	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 13637865.63/- Demand Notice dated: 20-Apr-2021	11308116, 34245604 & 21405662	Gurukripa Enterprises, Kishore Kumar Agrawal & Neetesh Agrawal	INR 6108385.00/-	INR 610838.50/-	30-Oct-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	29-Oct-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	24-Oct-2024 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Name- Vinay Soni Contact Number- 8319378592 Name- Sandesh Jain Contact Number- 8839140796	
(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: All The Piece And Parcel Of Sheet No. 23, Kh No. 1171/1, Plot No 24/1 Area 1439 Sq. Ft & Sheet No 23, Kh No. 1171/1, Plot No. 24/2 Area 1024 Sq. Ft. Total Area 2463 Sq. Ft. Situated At Fafadh, P.C. No. 104/48, Ric - Raipur Ward No. 35, Shahid Hemu Kalani Ward, Sai Nagar, Raipur (C.G) And Bound As:-North: Railway Line, South: Rashikh Lal Plot, East: Khema House & West: Road										
2	INR 2561154.83/- Demand Notice dated: 04-Sep-2019	17322276	Vijay Sharma & Santosh Sharma	INR 620000.00/-	INR 62000.00/-	30-Oct-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	29-Oct-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	24-Oct-2024 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Name- Vinay Soni Contact Number- 8319378592 Name- Sandesh Jain Contact Number- 8839140796	
(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: Plot No 354, 355, 356 & 357, Kh No-562/75 & 562/76, Part Ph No.90, Geekay Township, Mouja, Siltara, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001										
3	INR 2581251.28/- Demand Notice dated: 16-Aug-2019	17383360	Santosh Sharma & Vijay Sharma	INR 620000.00/-	INR 62000.00/-	30-Oct-2024 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	29-Oct-2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	24-Oct-2024 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM	Name- Vinay Soni Contact Number- 8319378592 Name- Sandesh Jain Contact Number- 8839140796	
(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: Plot No 319, 320, 321, 322, Kh No 562/75, 562/76, Part Ph No.90, Geekay Township, Mouja Siltara, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001										

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date: 10.10.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

Congress demands EVM probe in Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded a thorough probe into "discrepancies" found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes of the Haryana assembly polls and demanded that such EVMs should be sealed and secured pending the inquiry. Earlier, Election Commission, in a letter addressed to the Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, noted the statements of Congress leaders and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, who called the results of the Haryana polls "unexpected" and proposed to analyse the polls. "Proceeding on a fair assumption that the statement of the Party President is the formal party position on the electoral outcome, the ECI has agreed to meet the delegation today at 6 PM," the letter reads. A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam



Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khara, besides Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials in the evening. The delegation handed over a memorandum to the officials along with specific complaints from various constituencies in Haryana. Senior party leader Abhishek Singhvi joined the meeting online. The Congress leaders alleged that there are at least 20 such complaints, including seven in writing, from as many assembly constituencies, with many referring to EVMs functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity whereas the average EVMs were found to be operating at 60 to 70 per cent

battery capacity during counting. The party has alleged "glaring discrepancies" related to some EVMs in the Haryana polls and urged the EC to conduct a probe. "There are doubts about vote counting as Haryana results are surprising. Everyone believed that the Congress would be forming the next government in Haryana. When the counting of postal ballots took place, the Congress was winning, but when the counting of EVMs started, the opposite happened," former chief minister Hooda told reporters after the meeting. He said the Congress will submit more complaints to the EC in the next few days. "The EC has assured

us of looking into the matter," Hooda said after meeting the CEC and other election commissioners. Bhan also said that doubts have been created about the veracity of the counting exercise in Haryana and they should be cleared by the EC. Khara said party leaders Maken and Singhvi have urged the EC to conduct a thorough probe, pending which it should ensure that the EVMs with discrepancies are sealed and secured till then. "We apprised the Election Commission about 20 complaints that have come to us, including seven written complaints from seven constituencies with some EVM machines functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity, while some EVM Machines were functioning below 60-70 per cent battery capacity," he said. He also said that the EVMs for which complaints have been made should be sealed and secured till the inquiry into the whole matter is completed. We also told the EC that in the next 48 hours, we will make available to them other complaints that

are being compiled. "All the machines for which complaints have been made should be sealed and secured till the inquiry is completed. The EC has told us that they will give a written reply to us on all constituencies after consulting the respective returning officers," Khara added. "Counting of votes in a fair, transparent and accountable manner is the hallmark of any electoral process that claims to be in consonance with the principles of free and fair elections and the doctrine of the level-playing field as envisaged by the Constitution," the party memorandum to the EC said. "Considering that the said issue could potentially alter the results for some Assembly constituencies, we request that this Hon'ble Commission take urgent measures and order for an enquiry on this issue. In fact, subject to the enquiry report, the Hon'ble Commission should issue requisite directions regarding the counting of polls and final results," it also said.

Mayawati criticises Jat votes shift in Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati on Wednesday rued that the Jat community in Haryana did not vote for her party in the assembly polls and felt there was a need to change their mindset about Dalits. In the national capital to observe the death anniversary of party founder Kanshi Ram, she lamented that the BSP's alliance with the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) did not bear fruits for her party. Mayawati said in a bid to defeat the BJP and to keep it out of power, the Jat community in Haryana voted for the Congress but in the process ditched the BSP. While the Dalit votes shifted to the INLD, the Jat votes did not come to her party. "BSP candidates got only Dalit votes. Had we got even two to three per cent Jat votes, we would have



managed a few seats," she told reporters. She said while the mindset of the Jat community about Dalits has undergone a change in Uttar Pradesh, it is yet to happen in Haryana. While the INLD won two seats in the state, the BSP drew a blank. Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt in the assembly elections. While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were decimated

and the INLD managed to win just two seats. The AAP had contested on its own. Referring to the assembly polls in Delhi expected in February next year, Mayawati hoped that her party would do well. She said a triangular contest among the ruling AAP, and BJP and Congress will help the BSP do better. She admitted that the BSP suffers losses in direct fights, apparently in states beyond Uttar Pradesh. The former UP chief minister also said the BSP would also contest polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand likely next month.

Army Commanders' Conference to address key security issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Army top brass will review issues including the prevailing situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China, security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and ongoing conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Hezbollah during two-day conference starting Thursday. Giving details, army officials said here on Wednesday the second Army Commanders' Conference for this year will be organised in a hybrid mode, with the first phase planned on October 10-11 in a forward location at Gangtok, Sikkim. In the second phase, the senior hierarchy of Indian Army will congregate at Delhi on October 28-29. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will deliver a keynote address to



the senior leadership at Gangtok and will be briefed on the emerging security challenges and the response of the Army in the security domain. As the nation faces numerous regional security challenges, the upcoming Army Commanders' Conference scheduled to commence in Sikkim on Thursday, assumes significance. Conducting the conference of Senior Commanders at a forward location underlines Indian Army's focus on

ground realities. The conference will serve as a forum for Senior Commanders to review current operational preparedness, deliberate on critical strategies and outline future directives. During the first phase of the conference, discussions will focus on critical national security issues and strategic aspects aimed at sharpening Indian Army's war fighting capabilities. Major issues to be deliberated during the two-day session

will include the growing importance of a multi-pronged national security strategy that incorporates integration of Civil Military Fusion and the Diplomatic, Information, Military, and Economic (DIME) pillars to counter contemporary threats besides the need for developing low-cost technologies and alternate strategies to counter the rapidly evolving character of warfare. Aligned to Indian Army's goal of Technological Absorption, the senior hierarchy will deliberate on various issues including infusion of technology in Professional Military Education and explore the possibilities of recruiting domain specialists in niche domains. He will also celebrate Dusshera with troops there.

Other issues under deliberation will focus on enhancing the overall organisational health and easing the processes of the Field Army to make them more resilient and responsive. The second phase of the conference will feature a discussion on evolving geopolitical landscape followed by brainstorming on operational matters and meetings of various Boards of Governors. They will deliberate upon welfare measures and schemes for financial security of serving soldiers, veterans and their families. The senior hierarchy of the Army will also be addressed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh.

Congress hits back at Modi over political speech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his attack on the party while virtually inaugurating development projects for Maharashtra, saying taxpayers' money cannot and should not be used to indulge in a "political speech". A day after the Congress' defeat in the Haryana polls, Modi called the opposition party irresponsible and a factory to "spread hatred". He said the Congress wanted to divide Hindus and pit one community against another. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) wants to weaken Maharashtra to gain power, but the ruling Mahayuti will strengthen the state, he said after virtually inaugurating various projects



worth more than Rs 7,600 crore for the state. In a social media post, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said, "Why should the @PMOIndia use a government platform and a government programme to attack a political speech and attack the opposition?" "Taxpayers' money cannot and should not be used to indulge in a political speech? For that, he can use the BJP's platform," Khara said. Modi said the BJP winning the Haryana Assembly

elections shows the mood of the country. He added, "In Maharashtra, we have to get a bigger victory." Elections to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly are likely to be held next month. Modi said never before has Maharashtra seen the expeditious development of projects. Under the Congress regime, the same speed and scale was witnessed in terms of corruption, he said. "The Congress is an irresponsible party and a factory to spread hatred. The Congress is not concerned about development and legacy, we have paid attention to both," he said. "Our goal is Viksit Bharat with the development of poor, farmers, youth and women," the prime minister said.

PM Modi to attend ASEAN summits, bilateral meetings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with the prime minister of Lao PDR and other leaders on the margins of two key summits he is slated to attend in Vientiane on October 10-11, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Wednesday. Modi will attend the 21st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit in Lao PDR, the current Chair of the 10-nation grouping. "We attach great significance to all ASEAN-related mechanisms. This will be PM's tenth attendance at an ASEAN-India Summit," Secretary (East) in the MEA, Jaidev Mazumdar said at a briefing here. In 2023, Modi had made efforts to be there for the ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta before the G20 Summit in New Delhi, he added. The Summit in Vientiane will review the progress in India-ASEAN ties and "chart the future direction of our relationship," Mazumdar said.



At the invitation of Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, he said. He will have a bilateral meeting with Siphandone, the Secretary (East) said. India has "close, friendly, historical and civilisational relationship" with Lao PDR, which includes a whole host of different areas, such as restoration of cultural sites, capacity building, and power projects, he added. When asked if Modi will also have bilateral meeting with

leaders of other countries, Mazumdar said, "As is normal and usual, on the margins of international conferences and meetings, the prime minister will have bilateral meetings with a number of leaders. These are all in the works, and you will get to hear of them as they happen." Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967. The member States are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam.

President Murmu to visit African nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a state visit to three African nations Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi, starting October 13, which is a reflection of India-Africa "growing partnership," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA, Dammu Ravi, at a briefing here said the visit comes after the African Union became a member of the G20 at its summit last year under the Indian presidency of the grouping. "This visit should be seen in the context of Africa as a continent and how India wishes to engage, and is looking at having a stronger partnership with Africa. It's a reflection of India-Africa growing partnership," he said. Africa includes 54 countries and forms the "core of the Global South," Ravi said. The first leg of President Murmu's three-nation visit will begin from Algeria, then onward to Mauritania, and it will end with Malawi.



Secretary (CPV & OIA) in the MEA, Arun Kumar Chatterjee, said President Murmu will visit Algeria at the invitation of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, from October 13-15. "This will be the first-ever visit by the President of India to Algeria and a visit at the level of a head of state or a head of government after 39 years. Also, this visit will take place within a month after President Tebboune's swearing-in for his second term in office," he said.

INS Talwar joins IBSAMAR VIII exercise in South Africa

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar, arrived at Simon's Town, South Africa, on October six to participate in the eighth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy scheduled from October six-18, navy said here on Wednesday. Giving details, officials said the exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen cohesion between the three navies. The broad concept is based on Blue Water Naval Warfare, encompassing the dimensions of Surface and Anti-Air Warfare. The harbour phase of IBSAMAR VIII will include professional exchanges, Damage Control and Firefighting drills, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure drills, cross-boarding, aviation safety lectures, joint diving operations, an Ocean Governance seminar, sports interactions, cross-decks visits, and interaction among Special Forces and Junior Officers.



Multi-lateral interactions are crucial bridges of friendship that increase mutual trust and enhance interoperability among navies of like-minded littoral nations towards the common goal of a peaceful maritime domain and positive maritime environment. Defence cooperation between India and South Africa is on an upward trajectory. Operational Sea Training and Submarine Rescue Support have been commenced between both navies since the 12th edition of Navy-to-Navy talks held on August 26-28 here. The visit of INS Talwar aims to further strengthen the ties and reaffirm India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth.

CJI DY Chandrachud reflects on legacy before retirement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is set to demit office next month, turned philosophical, saying he had served the country with "utmost dedication" amid "fears and anxieties" as to how history will judge his tenure. The 50th Chief Justice of India (CJI), his two-year tenure will end on November 10. "I find myself pondering over questions -- did I achieve everything I set out to do? How will history judge my tenure? Could I have done things differently? What legacy will I leave for future generations of judges and legal professionals?" he said. The CJI shared his thoughts while addressing the third

convocation ceremony of Jigme Singye Wangchuk School of Law in Bhutan. "The answers to most of these questions lie beyond my control, and perhaps, I will never find answers to some of these questions. However, I do know that, over the last two years, I have woken up every morning with a commitment to give the job my fullest and gone to bed with the satisfaction that I served my country with utmost dedication," added CJI Chandrachud. During the event, the CJI sought "pardon" for being "vulnerable" at a time when he was about to demit office and said he was "heavily preoccupied" with fears and anxieties for the future and



past. "As you navigate the complexities of your own journeys, do not be afraid to take a step back, reassess, and ask yourself: 'Am I running towards a destination, or am I running towards myself?' The difference is subtle, yet profound. After all, the world needs leaders who are driven

by purpose and not just ambition," he said. According to the CJI, once someone has a sense of faith in his/her intentions and abilities, it is easier not to obsess over outcomes but to value the process and the journey towards those outcomes. The CJI further reflected on an unrelenting passion to make a difference in the world, saying he often pushed himself to the extremes and worked long hours carrying a heavy load, as if the world's problems rested solely on his shoulders. "However, over the years, I have come to realise that our ability to contribute to our community is deeply rooted in our self-perception and capacity for self-care," he said.

The journey towards the goal should be enjoyed rather than getting caught up in the fear of reaching the destination, the CJI said. "As someone who is a few decades older than you, I can tell you that these fears are not easy to wish away. However, the personal growth lies in being able to address them and tackling them head-on," he told a crowd also comprising law graduates in the neighbouring country. CJI Chandrachud, known for speaking his mind, has pronounced verdicts on crucial issues affecting public life besides kicking off technological, administrative and infrastructural reforms to enhance the efficiency of the justice delivery system.

Malabar 2024 kicks off in Visakhapatnam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Opening Ceremony of Malabar 2024 under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command was held onboard Indian Naval Ship Satpura at Visakhapatnam on October nine. The 28th edition of the multi-national maritime exercise that commenced on October eight and would extend till October 18, navy said here on Wednesday. The Malabar exercise, which was initiated in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the US, gained further traction as a significant maritime engagement, with Japan and Australia joining in subsequently. The ceremony, hosted by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar,



Rear Admiral Chris Smith, Commander Australian Fleet. The crew and planning staff of participating ships, aircraft and Special Forces from Australia, India, Japan and the USA were also present. The Commanders of all participating navies acknowledged the importance of the exercise in enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement to address common maritime challenges and to create cooperative framework. The exercise will be conducted in two distinct phases both at Harbour and at Sea. It will witness live weapon firings, complex surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills and joint manoeuvres.

The exercise will be conducted in two distinct phases both at Harbour and at Sea. It will witness live weapon firings, complex surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills and joint manoeuvres.

SP announces candidates for six UP Assembly bypoll seats amid tensions with Congress

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the declaration of assembly poll results in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Wednesday gave a jolt to Congress and announced its candidates for six out of the ten Uttar Pradesh assembly seats where by-elections are due later this year. The SP is part of the opposition INDIA alliance, which includes the Congress. Despite this, SP's announcement comes amid Congress's demand for five seats in the upcoming bypolls. Congress had not shared any seats with the SP in the Haryana assem-

bly elections, leading to growing friction between the two parties. According to the list released by the SP, Tej Pratap Yadav has been fielded from Karhal, while Naseem Solanki, the wife of jailed SP leader Irfan Solanki, has been given a ticket from Sisamau in Kanpur. The Karhal seat was vacated by Akhilesh Yadav after he won Lok Sabha election from Kannauj. Other candidates include Mustafa Siddiqui from Phulpur (Prayagraj), Ajit Prasad from Milkipur (Ayodhya), Shobhawati Verma from Katehari, and Jyoti Bind from Majhwan. Shobhawati Verma is the

of SP MP Lalji Verma who was SP MLA from Katehari, while Ajit Prasad is the son of Faizabad (Ayodhya) MP Awadhesh Prasad. Jyoti Bind is the daughter of SP leader Ramesh Bind, who lost the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Mirzapur. The ten assembly seats up for by-elections include Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad, Majhwan (Mirzapur), Sisamau (Kanpur City), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj), and Kundarki (Moradabad). Five of these seats were won by SP and other five by BJP and its



allies. Nine of these seats fell vacant after their MLAs were elected as MPs in the recent Lok Sabha elections, while the Sisamau seat is vacant due to the disqualification of Irfan Solanki after his conviction in a criminal case. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai stated that the party had submitted a proposal to its leadership to contest five of the bypoll-bound seats: Majhwan, Phulpur, Ghaziabad, Khair, and Meerapur. These seats had been won by the BJP in the 2022 assembly elections. Responding to the SP's announcement, Congress has yet to release its final

stance on the seat-sharing arrangement. Samajwadi Party spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said that seat-sharing negotiations would ultimately be decided by SP national president Akhilesh Yadav. The SP's move has sparked reactions, particularly from the BJP, which linked the decision to the recently concluded Haryana polls. Transport Minister in UP Government Dayashankar Singh said Haryana results have reduced Congress as non-existent political entity in UP. BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi remarked that the SP's decision to announce

candidates for seats, which Congress also claimed, reflects the Haryana election results, stating that the SP is "telling Congress its place." Tripathi claimed that the Haryana results, where the BJP secured a third consecutive victory by winning 48 out of 90 seats, have boosted the morale of the BJP, and the party is confident of winning all the by-election seats in Uttar Pradesh. As the BJP takes confidence from its Haryana victory, the by-elections in Uttar Pradesh are being viewed as a critical litmus test for the opposition INDIA alliance and its cohesion ahead of the 2024 general elections

Company linked to AAP MP from Punjab generated huge proceeds of crime, says ED

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A company linked to AAP MP from Punjab Sanjeev Arora and some other entities caused "loss" to the state government and generated "huge" proceeds of crime by misusing industrial lands for residential projects, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleged Wednesday. The federal agency had raided the premises of Arora, also a businessman, that of a company promoted by him -- Hampton Sky Reality (erstwhile Ritesh Properties Industries Limited or RPIL) -- and others like Hemant Sood and Chandar Shekhar Aggarwal on October 7 in

Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Delhi and Gurugram. It also raided another company named Royal Industries Ltd (RIL), and its directors Gurmeet Singh and Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal on the same day. The federal agency said in a statement that it seized "incriminating" documents, mobile phones and digital devices during these searches. Arora, on the day the raids took place, had said he was a "law abiding" citizen and he was not sure about the reason for which the searches were conducted. "I will cooperate fully with agencies and make sure all their queries are answered," he had

said in a social media post. Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) national convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the ED action was a "politically motivated attack by the Modi government". The money laundering case stems from a criminal complaint filed in a Ludhiana court, under various sections of the IPC, against RPIL and an FIR registered by Ludhiana Police against RIL. The ED claimed its probe found that RPIL and RIL were allotted industrial lands by the Punjab government with an objective to promote industries in the state on certain conditions.

TMC mocks Congress for failing to win Haryana

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what looked like an addition of insult to injury the Trinamool Congress once again targeted the Congress for failing to provide leadership to the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in the elections after the tri-colour party's loss in the Haryana Assembly elections. Without naming the Congress senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh on Wednesday said that "the anti-BJP parties should now introspect as to why they are repeatedly failing to defeat the BJP ... every time tall claims are made and finally they fall flat in elections."



Iterating as to how in Bengal the TMC repeatedly defeats the BJP Ghosh said, "in Bengal we don't make hollow claims ... when our leader Mamata Banerjee said that she will defeat the BJP she did it ... she walked her talk and kept her promise but it is not so in other places ... the parties that are claiming leadership of the INDIA alliance should not start thinking of their failures and decide their next course of action ... they should find out the reason why they are unable to defeat a part despite favourable political situations." Saying that "some parties" should stop their arrogant approach of looking down on regional parties the TMC leader said, "before the elec-

tions an impression was created that some party was winning and others are losing but final results were different ... this is the result of arrogance and nothing else." The TMC has for long been claiming the leadership of the INDIA block often saying Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should be playing a far bigger role in Delhi because she had proved times and again that she is the only leader who can defeat the BJP and no one else. The party had made its views clear in its mouthpiece Jago Bangla after the Bengal Chief Minister returned to power with thumping majority in 2021 winning 214 seats as against the BJP's 77.

More than 200 senior doctors resign in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hundreds of senior doctors from various medical colleges including Calcutta Medical College, CNM Medical College, Sagor Dutta Medical, North Bengal Medical College joined their RG Kar Medical College and Hospital colleagues tendering on Wednesday mass resignation in protest against the State Government's "nonchalant approach" towards the eight junior doctors who have been on an indefinite fast for the past 96 hours and whose condition continued to deteriorate. "The condition of the junior doctors sitting in an indefinite fast is deteriorating by the hour and the Government is so arrogant and nonchalant that they have simply not cared to even call them for talks ... we the senior doctors could not sit back and enjoy the Durga Pujas while our children suffer

like this for a rightful demand ... so we have tendered mass resignation," one of the doctors of Calcutta Medical College said. This, whereas scores of members of Junior Doctors' Association from Delhi, Jodhpur and other places started reaching the fasting site at Esplanade in central Kolkata to express their solidarity with their Kolkata brethren. About 50 senior doctors of RGKMCH had on Tuesday resigned en masse to express solidarity with their junior colleagues. "This is almost the same place where our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had done a 26-day fast against the setting up of Tata Nano factory at Singur in 2006 ... she knows the pain and risk of such indefinite fast ... yet her Government is not sensitive enough to come and talk to these junior doctors who are



like our children and who are fighting in the interest of the general health set up of the State... is it not the duty of the Government to come and talk to them," said Dr Tamta a senior doctor. Members of the civil society including actor Kaushik Sen, activist Sujata Bhadra too wrote to the Chief Minister requesting her to "take a sympathetic view towards the doctors' demands." The doctors' movement started after the brutal rape and murder of a postgraduate lady doctor of the RGGKMCH on

August 9 inside the seminar room of the chest medicine department of the hospital. Even as the doctors demanded justice for the victim they added in their ten-point demand among other things a centralized referral system, security for all the medical staff inside the hospitals, ending of the threat syndicate and related malpractices that were rampant in most of the Government medical colleges and hospitals, basic amenities like rest rooms and washrooms for doctors, installation of CCTV cameras in all the Government hospitals, real-time monitoring of bed availability, and the establishment of task forces to ensure the proper functioning of essential facilities like CCTV cameras, on-call rooms, and washrooms, etc. The doctors have also been asking for students' body elections --- that had not taken for quite some time now --- to be

conducted in all colleges "so that students nominated by influential people from the ruling party do not get the chance to control the system and perpetrate a threat syndicate and extort lakhs of rupees from students and even subjecting their sexual exploitation, junior doctors said. Meanwhile Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said that the Government had received no official communication of mass resignation, adding such mass resignations were anything but procedural. "Resignations are tendered individually before they are accepted," he said apparently making the Government's intentions clear. Elsewhere, the police on Wednesday stopped the vehicles carrying doctors around Durga Puja pandals where they were likely to raise slogans and sensitize the general people.

Mumbai cops arrest man for mercilessly beating dog to death

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai police have registered an FIR against a man for allegedly beating a dog to death at Juhu in north-west Mumbai. Acting on a complaint lodged by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India and a concerned citizen, Jay Sarin that the accused man had mercilessly beaten a dog to death using metal rod, the Juhu police registered an FIR against the accused man. An FIR has been registered against the accused under Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 11(1) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. "Those who abuse animals often move on to harming humans. It is imperative that



members of the public report cases of cruelty to animals such as this one for everyone's safety," PETA India Cruelty Response Coordinator Sinchana Subramanyam said in a press statement. "We commend Sub-Inspector Rahul Shinde for his prompt action in registering the FIR

sending a strong message that cruelty to animals will not be tolerated," Subramanyam said. The PETA India recommended that perpetrators of animal abuse undergo psychiatric evaluation and receive counselling, as abusing animals indicates a deep psychological disturbance.

Former Kerala DGP joins BJP

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The faction-ridden BJP in Kerala got a shot in the arm on Wednesday as R Sreelekha, the first lady IPS officer in the State joined the party as a member. This is the first time Sreelekha, a former director general of police and multi-faceted personality, getting associated with a political party. K Surendran, president of Kerala BJP, called on Sreelekha at her Thiruvananthapuram residence and handed over the membership card. "There is no special agenda behind me joining the BJP other than helping the party to grow in Kerala. I am really impressed and awe-struck by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the social



and economic development made by the country since 2014," Sreelekha told media persons after becoming a member of the BJP. She said she had been thinking seriously about joining the party for the last three weeks and Wednesday's decision was the culmination of this introspection. Sreelekha, retired from the IPS in 2020

after 33 years of service and since then she is actively engaged in writing on various issues with special focus on problems encountered by women. Her reminiscences "Sreelekha, With Love", a video channel in YouTube has a vast viewership among Malayalees spread across the globe. An alumna of the elite Institute of English, University of Kerala, Sreelekha has successfully completed post-graduate courses from various international colleges like London Business School, King's College and Scotland Yard. Thomas Jacob, IPS officer and former DGP had joined the BJP in 2019 but he is not active in the party as on date because of the cold shoulder by the State leadership.

India has highest number of oral cancer cases linked to smokeless tobacco: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid concerns that the Areca nut industry is blatantly roping in Bollywood celebrities to promote paan masala as a mouth freshener, a new Lancet study has highlighted that India has the highest number of oral cancer cases linked to smokeless tobacco (chewed, sucked on or sniffed) and areca nut (also called betel nut) use in South Asia. In 2022, India accounted for 83,400 out of 120,200 global cases of oral cancer related to these substances, said the study led by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and published in The Lancet Oncology journal. The consumption of areca nut (30 per cent) and betel quid with tobacco (28 per cent) were responsible for the most



oral cancer cases among women, followed by gutka (21 per cent) and khaini (21 per cent). Among men, it was khaini (47 per cent), gutka (43 per cent), betel quid with tobacco (33 per cent), and areca nut (32 per cent). "Smokeless tobacco and areca nut products are available to consumers in many different forms across the world, but

consuming smokeless tobacco and areca nut is linked to multiple diseases, including oral cancer," said Dr Harriet Rungay, a scientist in the Cancer Surveillance Branch at IARC. "We found that more than 120,000 people across the world were diagnosed with oral cancer that could have been caused by using smokeless

tobacco or areca nut. Our estimates highlight the burden these products pose on health care and the importance of prevention strategies to reduce consumption of smokeless tobacco and areca nuts," he added. The IARC study showed that 120,200 of the 389,800 oral cancer cases in 2022 could be caused by smokeless tobacco and areca nut use. The regions that contributed the largest numbers of oral cancers caused by smokeless tobacco and areca nut use were South-Central Asia (a total of 105,500 cases, with 83,400 in India, 9,700 in Bangladesh, 8,900 in Pakistan and 1,300 in Sri Lanka). "Free accessibility with intense surrogate marketing of smokeless tobacco and areca nut has meant that India has one of the highest burdens of oral cancer in the world.

"While the revenue to the government is minimal, the health impact and associated health-care losses are huge. The ban on gutka was a courageous step that has been counter-vented by the tobacco industry," said Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi, Head and Neck Cancer surgeon and Director, Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer, Tata Memorial Centre, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. He is one of the co-authors of the study. "Areca nuts cause a painful disease called submucous fibrosis apart from mouth cancer that is incurable. Unfortunately that is affecting our younger population and destroying families emotionally and financially. We need to implement the existing laws and regulations effectively for control of smokeless tobacco and areca nuts," he said.

Taiwan has turned out to be global high-tech powerhouse: TECC representative in India

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) Representative in India Ambassador Baushuan Ger has said that Taiwan has turned to be a global high-tech powerhouse and nowadays plays especially a crucial role in the world's semiconductor industry and India is a major stakeholder in this growth and success. "Producing 60 percent of the world's chips and over 90 percent of the most advanced ones, Taiwan ranks No. 1 in semiconductor foundry, packaging and testing; No. 2 in IC

design and ICT product. Taiwan continues to invest heavily in the areas of high precision manufacturing, artificial intelligence, renewable energy and biotechnology as well, with the objective of ensuring our position at the forefront of global innovation," the Baushuan said addressing a gathering for the celebrations of National Day of Taiwan organised in the national Capital. The Ambassador informed that this year Taiwan is celebrating the 113th anniversary of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the first Republic established in Asia. The Government of the ROC

moved to Taiwan in 1949. On the occasion Baushuan said over the years Taiwan and India have developed a natural and reliable partnership. "Although geographically distant, our shared commitment to democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law has been instrumental in deepening our bilateral cooperation across many sectors," he said in presence of diplomats, other dignitaries. He further informed while the Republic of China and the Republic of India maintained brief diplomatic relations from 1947 to 1949, it is not until 1995 when Taiwan and



India re-engaged and established representative offices in Taipei and New Delhi. "Following our Chennai office set up in 2012, I am pleased to announce that we will inaugurate our third mission, the TECC in Mumbai next week," Baushuan said. The Ambassador also shared that given the convergence of Taiwan's "New Southbound Policy", and India's "Act East Policy", on the economic front, the bilateral trade volume has surged from 5 billion USD in 2016 to 8.2 billion USD in 2023, a notable 64% increase. "Today, India stands as Taiwan's 16th largest trading

partner. Approximately 260 Taiwanese companies operate in India, with a cumulative investment of 5 billion USD, spanning from footwear, machinery and auto parts to petrochemicals and ICT products. The contributions of Taiwanese enterprises in India have been remarkable. They have collectively created more than 170,000 jobs in India. Not only do they bring advanced technology and management expertise but also create vast employment opportunities and contribute to the goal of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India)," he added. On country's strategic front,

the TECC Representative mentioned in the face of China's unceasing cross-Strait military intimidation and gray-zone threats, Taiwan has worked hard to strengthen its self-defense capabilities. "While the international community has increasingly recognized that maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is indispensable to international security and prosperity-a position which the G7 leaders' communique in June has re-affirmed for the fourth consecutive year, we will continue to protect our hard-won democratic way of life without bowing to pressure," Baushuan further said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Mixed bag

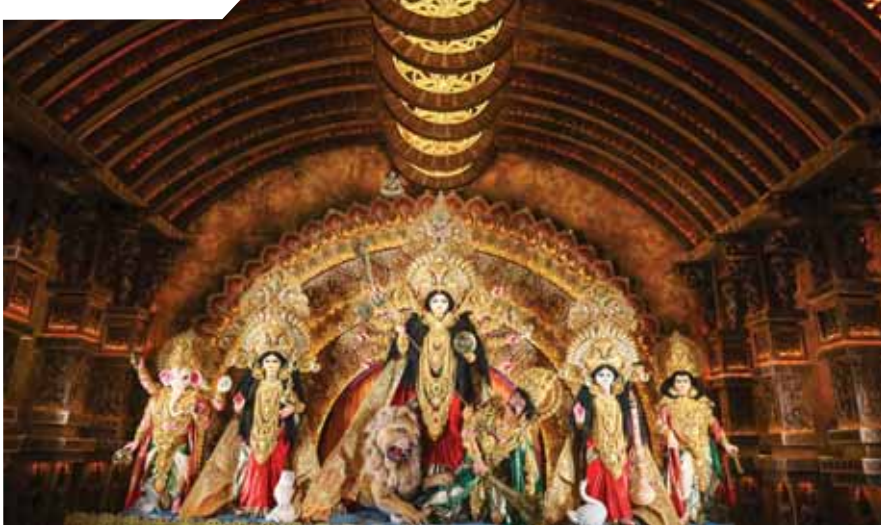
The BJP retains Haryana while the regional parties gain in J and K signalling paradigm shift in the valley

The verdict is out and it is not what was predicted by the exit polls. The BJP retains Haryana and National conference resurges in Jammu and Kashmir. The results once again prove that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and peace while the people of Haryana, though have resentment with the farm laws still have faith in the BJP. The election results in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir have significant implications for national politics. For the BJP, these results serve as a reminder that national leadership may get it votes but its local leaders must also perform. For Congress and other opposition parties, these results offer a glimmer of hope for future contests. At the same time, the resurgence of regional parties, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, signals the enduring importance of local issues and identity politics in India's diverse political landscape. The outcomes not only redefined local political dynamics but also carried significant implications for national politics, especially for major players like the BJP, Congress, and regional parties. Moreover, the election results starkly contrasted with exit polls, which had predicted very different scenarios in both states.

The first post-Article 370 election in Jammu and Kashmir was keenly watched, given its symbolic importance in the region. While the BJP aimed to make significant inroads, particularly in the Jammu region, it faced stiff competition from regional parties like the National Conference (NC). The results saw a resurgence of regional parties, with the National Conference, led by Farooq Abdullah,

securing a majority of seats in the Kashmir Valley. The BJP made gains in Jammu but fell short of its ambitious targets of expanding into the Kashmir Valley. The electorate, it seemed, was more aligned with regional issues such as autonomy, identity, and economic distress rather than the BJP's nationalistic agenda. The outcome underscores the challenges the BJP faces in making a deep impact in the region, especially in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. It also highlights the resilience of local political players who continue to dominate the political narrative in the Valley. While Congress failed to reach the majority mark in Haryana, the Haryana elections put it back in the game. Its vote share was almost at par with the BJP at 39.04 per cent. The BJP vote share was 39.94 per cent. Despite the overall success of the BJP, eight out of ten ministers from the Haryana Assembly lost their seats. Of late the BJP though victorious is losing its sheen and needs to put it act together to regain the voters who are drifting away from its fold. It is a good start for the BJP for the upcoming state elections. The party must maintain the momentum into upcoming critical polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi to remain ahead of its opponents.

PICTALK



A pandal themed on 'Three dimensions of the Universe' during Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata

Revival of democracy amidst calls for statehood



KALYANI SHANKAR

Following the 2019 revocation of Article 370, these elections were a landmark moment, reflecting the people's desire for normalcy and statehood

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted its first Assembly elections in a decade. It showcased the peaceful embrace of democracy by its people last week after decades of militancy. These polls were held after the bifurcation of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5, 2019, following the revocation of Article 370. The BJP claimed that the move was necessary to tackle separatism, enhance economic development and fully integrate the region into the country.

Since 1989, the state has faced militancy, violence and a boycott of polls by separatist elements allegedly sponsored by Pakistan. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said, "The peaceful and participative elections are historic, wherein democracy is taking root more profoundly than ever before, driven by the will of the people of J and K." Intense campaigning, peaceful polling and high voter turnout marked the polls. Those afraid to go to the polling booth were allowed to vote peacefully. These were significant not only for political reasons but also because of developments such as the first Legislative Assembly elections in ten years, the abrogation of Article 370, and the restoration of democracy. This time, the Hindu-dominated Jammu and Muslim-dominated Kashmir were united in the demand to restore statehood, which the Centre had promised earlier. The higher voter turnout showed people's desire for democracy.

They were tired of gun fights and wanted to live a normal life. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar praised the people of the Union Territory, which recorded 58.46 per cent voter turnout, the highest in 35 years. The security forces ensured a violence-free election. They also stifled the free movement of separatists. These elections differed from the previous polls as the politics of this region is no longer limited to the four traditional political parties NC, PDP, and the national political parties INC and the BJP. The new addition was the participation of separatist elements in these polls, which must be addressed, as they had



chosen the ballot route rather than the bullet route. Despite many poll issues like lack of development and unemployment, the people wanted a revival of statehood and a united Jammu and Kashmir. The other key issues were Article 370, law and order, terrorism, and socio-economic stability. The delimitation panel gave Jammu six additional seats and Kashmir one. The Opposition held that the balance was tilting in favour of Hindu-majority Jammu. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes got nine seats reserved. Kashmir has been under the international scanner. Diplomats from many countries were taken to the state to observe the polls. They got first-hand information from visiting the state. There are several reasons for the peaceful polls this time. The first was the minimal involvement of Pakistan, as it had its internal problems to sort out. India blames Pakistan for training, funding and pushing Islamist militants, targeting the Hindu-dominated Jammu area more than the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley. Pakistan denies the



THE CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER RAJIV KUMAR PRAISED THE PEOPLE OF THE UNION TERRITORY, WHICH RECORDED 58.46 PER CENT VOTER TURNOUT, THE HIGHEST IN 35 YEARS

charges. Secondly, Kashmiris were tired of living in violent and disturbed situations. Two generations of Children had lost their normal childhood. Thirdly, militants did not call for the boycott of elections this time. On the contrary, separatists themselves entered the poll fray. Many areas once known as terror hotbeds saw brisk polling. The militants probably realised they needed funds and patrons, which they lacked. So, they decided to go through the election route. BJP chief JP Nadda said people had rejected the ballots and chose the ballot route. The election in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a multi-cornered contest for the 90 seats. The National Conference and Congress went for a coalition. At the same time, the BJP and PDP were the other two significant players. The BJP had high stakes but a weak political base in the Valley, while it's strong in Jammu. The party contested only 19 of the 47 seats in the Valley. BJP knew the realistic position in the Valley where it could not hope to get votes. So, the BJP is fighting through proxies. A BJP candidate admitted that the

party would get support from Engineer Rashid, Sajad Lone, Altaf Bukhari, and Ghulam Nabi Azad - all minor players. Kashmiri pundits are still afraid of returning home. The people in both Jammu and the Valley lament the downgrading of the state to two union territories. There is still unemployment and the drug and narcotic trade menace in the state. The election results are out and the National Conference-Congress coalition has got a clear edge. The BJP, which has no presence in the Valley, propped up some independents and hopes to do well in Jammu. The Centre should take credit for completing the election process, and so should the Election Commission. But the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve kudos for fearlessly going to the polling booth to vote. They showed the trend in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections too. There is no doubt Jammu and Kashmir want a popular government. But the only worry is that they must vote for a stable government rather than a split verdict. (The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS

Madam — Aprosop to the 'Strategic Balancing Act', October 8. With Maldivian President Muizzu making his first state visit to India, New Delhi-Male ties are clearly on the mend. Contrast this with the situation in the beginning of the year when Muizzu declined to make India his first port of call after assuming the presidency, undertook a state visit to China, inked a defence cooperation pact with Beijing, and demanded that New Delhi pull out its small contingent of troops in the archipelago nation.

The reality is that both countries need each other irrespective of differences of opinion on certain issues. No country can escape geography and this certainly holds true for both India and the Maldives. India will always remain the Maldives's closest, largest Indian Ocean neighbour and first responder in all crises. China simply can't be a replacement here given its physical distance from the region. Therefore, New Delhi, which also needs Male for better strategic depth in the Indian Ocean Region, and Male have no option but to enhance their cooperative relationship. Muizzu had campaigned on an 'India Out' plank during his election. But fighting elections outside the government and running a country are two different things. Plus, India has always stood by the Maldives. Also, Muizzu has asked Indian tourists to return to the Maldives, something that is vital for that country's economy. Thus, New Delhi-Male relations have once again found equilibrium. That will be a relief for India after the Bangladesh shock.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

ONE YEAR OF WEST ASIA CRISIS

Madam— It has been a year since Hamas attacked Israel. The way Hamas fighters were successful in attacking Israel by breaking through its entire security system on October 7 last year, it seems that if we leave aside the attacks by rockets, drones and missiles, Israel can be defeated in a ground war. Because Iran, Hamas and

Vegetable prices rise in festival season



The prices of vegetables are going through the roof in the market. During Dussehra and Diwali festivals, the prices of essentials and vegetables are skyrocketing. Almost all the vegetables are approaching the century mark. The common man is getting upset with the increased prices. Recently, the increased prices of essential goods have come into force in the context of the central government increasing the import duty

on foreign goods imports. Due to this effect, cooking oil prices have gone up. The prices of palm oil and sunflower oil have gone up.

Till yesterday, the price of tomato was less than 50 rupees, now it has doubled. Recently, due to weather conditions, crops have been badly damaged in the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The situation has changed as the tomato coming from these regions has suddenly decreased. In the absence of tomatoes, hotels and fast food centres are reducing the use of tomatoes. Due to this, the people and the hotel managers are facing severe difficulties. Onion prices also seem to be at that level. Onion price is increasing due to insufficient supply from Maharashtra. In addition to this, some groups are hoarding essential commodities informally and creating artificial scarcity and selling the commodities at high prices, doubling the hardships of the common man.

Appanna Gonapa | Visakhapatnam

UPHOLDING TRUE SECULARISM

Madam — This is in response to the news report titled "India is essentially a Hindu nation: RSS chief" (October 7). Far from being a "Hindu nation," India is historically a nation of all ("None can tell, at whose beckoning, vast waves of humanity/In currents unstoppable, from the unknown here arrived/To merge into the Great Sea" - Rabindranath Tagore), and this is the very reason why "Secularism" is embedded right within the Constitution itself. If Hindus indeed "care for everyone" as their own and "embrace all" so as to live in "harmony," then what compels the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat to advise his own religious group to unite by transcending all narrow barriers of race, language, state and caste? This directly proves that Hindus are a highly divided lot in demographic terms and this gets proved through caste-based atrocities upon Dalits and torture upon linguistic/racial minorities in different states!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The strategic role of generative AI in transforming Industries



KASHYAP DALAL

Generative AI is transforming industries by enhancing customer experiences, boosting productivity and automating processes across sectors

Generative AI has evolved from a novelty in boardroom discussions to a transformative tool across industries. Extending the capabilities of traditional AI in automation and predictive modeling, it's reshaping business processes, customer experiences, and employee productivity. Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, airlines, healthcare, manufacturing, and banking are seeing tangible benefits, as generative AI unlocks new avenues for value creation. **Enhancing Customer Experience:** Improving customer experience is a key priority for businesses today. Companies with both physical and online touchpoints are turning to generative AI, leveraging large language models (LLMs) to provide personalised recommendations that enhance buyer satisfaction and drive revenue growth.



interactions, AI is allowing businesses to delight customers in ways that were previously time-intensive and difficult to scale.

Revolutionising Creativity: Generative AI is also making waves in content creation, democratising creativity, and improving productivity. It allows companies to generate high-quality content quickly, reducing manual input and turnaround times. For example, Belk Ecommerce utilises generative AI to craft engaging product descriptions, ensuring consistency across marketing channels. This automation not only boosts operational efficiency but also delivers a cohesive shopping experience. Customer service is another area seeing improvements through generative AI. Firms like Klarna, a fintech company, use AI-powered virtual assistants to

handle millions of customer service requests, providing quick resolutions and reducing repetitive inquiries. This AI application results in faster, more accurate service and improved customer satisfaction.

Boosting Productivity: Generative AI's ability to enhance employee productivity is becoming increasingly evident, especially in automating routine tasks. By freeing employees from monotonous work, AI enables them to focus on higher-value tasks that require strategic input. This shift is particularly significant for industries where frontline workers are pressed for time. Home Depot's US stores provide a prime example of AI-driven employee enablement. They employ AI-powered apps to assist in decision-making, inventory management, and task prioritisation, resulting in improved store operations and employee satisfaction. Generative AI also enhances documentation processes in sectors requiring high volumes of detailed reports. For instance, Bristol-Myers Squibb has integrated AI into their documentation workflows,

enabling rapid processing of clinical trial data and transforming complex, time-consuming tasks into streamlined operations. Such innovations are revolutionising sectors where speed and accuracy are paramount.

Leveraging Data: With the increasing digitalisation of the world, businesses are relying more on data-driven insights. Generative AI can sift through vast datasets, extracting valuable insights to support better decision-making in areas such as research and data analysis. This capability is exemplified by Spotify, which uses AI to create personalised podcast previews, improving content discovery and user engagement. As generative AI transforms industries, businesses are preparing for widespread changes in operations, AI can augment every function. However, with these advancements comes the challenge of upskilling the workforce. Organizations need to ensure their employees are adaptable and equipped to leverage AI. (The writer is co-founder & chief operating officer, Simplilearn; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

ACHIEVING WORK LIFE BALANCE

A healthy work-life dynamic not only benefits individuals but also strengthens communities



SAKSHI SETHI

In recent years, the world has faced unprecedented challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic to ongoing socio-economic disruptions. These crises have not only claimed lives but have also altered the very fabric of our daily routines and working environments. Amidst these tumultuous times, the concept of work-life balance has emerged as a crucial necessity, emphasising the importance of maintaining mental and physical well-being while fulfilling professional responsibilities. The rising death tolls and widespread fear associated with global crises have taken a toll on mental health. Today, grief, anxiety and uncertainty have become commonplace as people grapple with loss and disruption.

There is no denying the fact that fast-paced technological advancements require constant adaptation and learning, which can be overwhelming and contribute to stress. In many Indian companies, there is a culture of overwork, where taking time off is frowned upon. Many executives even end up working extended hours, sacrificing their time and health, which contributes to physical as well as mental exhaustion.

Moreover, this can even lead to a toxic environment where employees not only feel they have to prove their worth constantly, but the stigma associated with failure may even drive them to push themselves to unhealthy limits to succeed. Poor diet, lack of exercise and high-stress levels have led to lifestyle-related health issues such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, which are prevalent among high-level executives.



Economic downturns and market volatility add pressure on executives to perform, leading to increased stress and associated health risks. In such a climate, achieving a balance between work and personal life has become essential for fostering resilience and promoting overall well-being. A healthy work-life balance allows an individual to dedicate time towards self-care, family and community, which are vital for emotional recovery and stability. The shift to remote work and flexible schedules, prompted by the pandemic, has underscored the need for a re-evaluation of traditional work structures. If remote work offers flexibility, at the same time it has also blurred the lines between personal as well as professional life, leading to longer hours and increased stress.

It's the need of the hour for organisations to recognise this and promote policies that encourage employees to set boundaries, take breaks and prioritise personal time. Addressing the high death toll among executives in Indian companies for instance the Pune CA death followed by a reputed Indian working for NBFC and committing suicide on a similar ground- i.e. work pressure and mental distress from the seniors necessitates a multi-faceted approach. Organisations must prioritise mental health support, promote a healthier work-life balance, and create a culture that values employee well-being. By taking these steps, companies can not only help mitigate the risks associated with high-stress environments but also foster a healthier and more sustainable workplace.

By fostering an environment that values work-life balance, employers can enhance productivity and employee satisfaction, thereby leading to lower turnover rates and a more engaged workforce.

Achieving work-life balance is not solely a personal endeavour but it also has broader implications for society. When individuals can manage their work and personal lives effectively, they are more likely to engage in their communities, volunteer and support local initiatives. This communal engagement will foster social connections and strengthen the fabric of society, thereby making it more resilient in the face of adversity. By prioritising work-life balance, we as citizens of the nation will contribute not only to our well-being but also to the health of our communities.

(The writer is a motivator; views are personal)

The key to a sustainable and low-carbon future



ASHOK KUMAR

By adopting energy-efficient practices, the country not only cuts emissions but also saves millions of tonnes of oil equivalent, leading to a more sustainable future

Energy efficiency refers to the practice of using less energy to achieve the same level of output or perform the same task. It is one of the most impactful strategies for reducing energy consumption, cutting costs, and mitigating environmental harm. As global energy demand continues to rise, enhancing energy efficiency has become critical in the fight against climate change, resource conservation, and ensuring a sustainable future. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the global rate of energy efficiency improvement has averaged around 2 per cent per year, with some variations during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, global energy consumption reached approximately 15,000 million tons of oil equivalent (MTOE), as reported in the Enerdata Yearbook 2024. A 2 per cent improvement in efficiency would save about 300 MTOE—an amount greater than India's entire industrial energy consumption, which stands at around 270 MTOE in 2022-23. In 2022-23, sectors such as industry, buildings, and transport consumed 552 MTOE out of India's total primary energy consumption of 850 MTOE. The industrial sector accounted for 49 per cent of this total, while transport and buildings (residential and commercial) contributed 12 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. India is one of the few nations with a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for energy conservation.

The Energy Conservation Act of 2001 and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the Ministry of Power are pivotal in driving energy efficiency programmes across various sectors. India's flagship programmes include the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme for energy-intensive industries, initiatives for energy-efficient buildings, vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and the star rating and labelling scheme for household appliances and industrial equipment. In 2022-23, these programmes collectively saved around 51 MTOE, equivalent to reducing carbon emissions by approximately 306 million tons of CO₂. This energy efficiency contribution accounts for about 10 per cent of India's annual emissions, which stands at around 3 billion tons of CO₂. Energy efficiency is projected to play a crucial role in global climate action.

It is estimated that nearly 40 per cent of the emissions reductions needed to reach net zero by 2050 must come from energy efficiency measures, many of which offer short payback periods ranging from 3-5 years. Often dubbed the "first fuel," energy efficiency is seen as a vital tool in maintaining a sustainable, low-carbon future. Given the constrained carbon budget outlined in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment, energy efficiency is more important than ever in controlling global temperature rise.

The Importance of Energy Efficiency: It is a cornerstone of sustainable development, offering multiple advantages such as cost savings, environmental protection, energy security and resource conservation. Energy-efficient technologies reduce consumption, which, in turn, cuts utility bills for individuals, businesses, and governments. Reduced energy use decreases greenhouse gas emissions and helps combat global warming. It also diminishes pollutants that harm air and water quality. Additionally, energy efficiency decreases overall demand, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEARLY 40 PER CENT OF THE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS NEEDED TO REACH NET ZERO BY 2050 MUST COME FROM ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, MANY OF WHICH OFFER SHORT PAYBACK PERIODS RANGING FROM 3-5 YEARS

strengthening energy security, especially for countries heavily reliant on imports. It also reduces the need for new power plants and industrial facilities, conserving natural resources and limiting environmental impact.

Key Sectors and Strategies industry: The industrial sector is the largest global energy consumer, driven by processes such as manufacturing, mining and machinery use. Enhancing energy efficiency in this sector involves optimising processes, recovering waste energy, and implementing energy management systems. Upgrading equipment, improving production methods, and utilising efficient motors and pumps can significantly reduce energy consumption. The National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), launched in 2011, targets energy-intensive industries.

Under its PAT Scheme, industries are assigned specific energy-saving targets (energy use per unit of product), and the market-based approach allows trading of excess energy savings. This initiative has resulted in substantial energy savings, leading to a reduction of approximately 110 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions. As of August 2024, the PAT scheme covers 1,333 energy-intensive industries and establishments across 13 sectors, including steel, cement, aluminium, fertilizer, petroleum refineries, thermal power plants, and others. As India develops its carbon market mechanism, many of these sectors will participate as "obligated entities" with specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets.

The carbon market will facilitate this transition by implementing a market-based approach to pricing GHG emissions. This mechanism encourages both public and private entities to engage in decarbonisation efforts across various sectors. Entities that reduce emissions below their targets can earn Carbon Credit Certificates, while those that do not must purchase credits to comply.

Additionally, the mechanism will have a voluntary component, allowing non-obligated entities to register projects focused on reducing, removing, or avoiding GHG emissions to obtain carbon credits.

The Standards & Labeling (S&L) Programme: launched in 2006, rates appliances based on their energy efficiency, from 1 to 5 stars. This program covers 38 appliances, with 16 falling under mandatory regulations. As of August 2024, the programme has saved 82 billion units of energy, equivalent to cutting 58 million tons of CO₂ emissions.

The UJALA Scheme and the Street Light National Program (SLNP) have also been successful in replacing inefficient lighting with LED solutions, leading to significant energy savings and emission reductions. As of September 2024, approximately 370 million LED bulbs and 7.2 million LED tube lights have been distributed through the UJALA scheme. This has resulted in an annual reduction of 39 million tons of CO₂ emissions.

Buildings: Buildings are another major energy consumer, particularly through heating, cooling, and lighting. Energy-efficient building design, proper insulation, and smart energy management systems can dramatically reduce energy use. The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), introduced in 2007, mandates minimum energy performance standards for commercial and residential buildings. Recent updates, such as the Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code (ECSBC) and the Eco Niwas Samhita (ENS) for residential buildings, aim to further reduce energy consumption in large buildings by up to 18 per cent.

Transportation: It is a major contributor to global energy use, primarily from fossil fuels. Improving fuel efficiency in vehicles and promoting electric and hybrid vehicles are key strategies.

The Indian government has implemented fuel efficiency standards for

passenger cars and heavy-duty vehicles and aims to expand the electric vehicle ecosystem including charging infrastructure. As of 2024, India's charging stations are expected to increase to 100,000 by 2030, supporting the growing number of electric vehicles. To create awareness of the benefits of Electric Vehicles (EVs), the "Go electric" Campaign was launched in Feb 2021. This involves radio jingles, poster/leaflets distribution, awareness through social media platforms, street plays, etc.

Electricity Generation and Transmission: Upgrading power plants and incorporating renewable energy sources such as solar and wind are vital for reducing emissions in electricity generation. Under the PAT Scheme, India's thermal power plants have improved their efficiency, contributing to a reduction of 30 million tons of CO₂. As of August 2024, 46 per cent of India's installed power capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources, surpassing the commitment made at the Paris COP 21 summit.

Challenges: Despite its benefits, the adoption of energy efficiency measures faces challenges like high upfront costs, limited awareness, and policy gaps. These barriers can be addressed through financial support mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of comprehensive, flexible policies. Conclusion Energy efficiency is an essential driver of sustainable development, offering significant economic, environmental, and social benefits.

As technology improves and policies strengthen, energy efficiency will remain crucial in reducing energy demand and mitigating climate change. By adopting energy-efficient practices in our homes, industries, and transportation systems, we can contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

(The writer is DDG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency; views are personal)

Surya Ghar Yojana: A sustainable alternative to free electricity politics

Unlike conventional freebies, this scheme boosts long-term savings, infrastructure investment and promotes sustainable energy production

In response to the growing trend of political parties offering free electricity to secure votes, the Narendra Modi government has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana. This initiative aims to promote solar energy adoption by providing homeowners with a subsidy ranging from Rs 30,000 to Rs 78,000 for installing one to three kW solar panels. The scheme is designed to reduce dependence on government subsidies while offering households the benefit of free electricity for up to 25 years.

Solar Power for Households Under this scheme, a consumer will spend around Rs 40,000 to Rs 70,000 to install a two to three kW solar panel. This investment allows households to generate up to 300



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

units of electricity per month, covering a significant portion of their energy needs. At the current rate of Rs 8 per unit, this translates to a monthly saving of Rs 2,400. Over 25 years, the total savings per household would amount to approximately Rs 7.20 lakh, ensuring that the initial cost of installation is recovered within one to two years. The government has also made provisions for consumers to finance

the remaining amount at a concessional interest rate of 7 per cent.

Addressing the Politics of Free Electricity

In recent years, several political parties have leveraged the promise of free electricity as a means to gain political support. States like Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have implemented such schemes, offering free or subsidised electricity to a significant portion of their populations. In Delhi, for instance, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government provides up to 200 units of electricity for free and a 50 per cent subsidy for those consuming between 201 and 400 units. However, the cost of these schemes has placed a significant burden on state budgets. In Delhi, Rs

3,250 crore was allocated for electricity subsidies in the 2023-24 budget, out of a total budget of Rs 78,800 crore. Under AAP's rule, the capital expenditure growth rate has declined from 19.6 per cent during the previous Congress government's tenure to 9.2 per cent. Consequently, infrastructure development in Delhi has slowed, with fewer new projects being launched.

The situation is similar in other states where free electricity has been promised. Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh are all grappling with mounting debts, making it increasingly difficult to sustain free electricity schemes. In some cases, states have had to scale back or abandon these initiatives due to financial constraints.

**A Viable Alternative**

The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana offers a more sustainable solution. By encouraging households to generate their own electricity through rooftop solar panels, the scheme reduces the long-term burden on government finances. The total investment required by households under the scheme is Rs 1.5 lakh,

including the government subsidy. With one crore households expected to participate, this would result in an additional capacity of 30 GW of solar power, significantly boosting India's renewable energy output.

Unlike traditional free electricity schemes, which are funded by annual government subsidies, the Surya Ghar Yojana provides long-term benefits without placing a strain on the budget. By generating their own electricity, households will no longer be dependent on yearly subsidies and will contribute to reducing the country's carbon footprint. This aligns with India's broader goals of increasing renewable energy production and achieving net-zero emissions.

Economic and**Environmental Impact**

The Surya Ghar Yojana has far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. First, it provides households with a reliable source of free electricity for 25 years, ensuring significant savings on energy bills. This also reduces the government's reliance on costly subsidies, freeing up funds for essential infrastructure development.

Second, the scheme is expected to generate large-scale employment, with over one lakh people required to be trained to install and maintain solar panels. This will not only create new jobs but also develop a skilled workforce in the renewable energy sector. Third, by increasing solar energy production, the scheme will help India reduce its

dependence on fossil fuels, contributing to the country's efforts to combat climate change. Rooftop solar panels are an environmentally friendly alternative to coal-based power plants, and their widespread adoption will significantly reduce carbon emissions. By encouraging households to invest in solar energy, the scheme not only reduces the burden on state budgets but also contributes to India's renewable energy goals. The widespread adoption of rooftop solar panels has the potential to transform the energy landscape, providing households while helping India move closer to achieving its environmental objectives.

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi; views are personal)

FBI arrests Afghan man for planning Election Day attack in US

AP ■ WASHINGTON
The FBI has arrested an Afghan man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organisation and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the US, the Justice Department said on Tuesday. Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City told investigators after his arrest Monday that he had planned his attack to coincide with Election Day next month and that he and a co-conspirator expected to die as martyrs, according to charging documents. Tawhedi, who arrived in the US in

September 2021, had taken steps in recent weeks to advance his attack plans, including by ordering AK-47 rifles, liquidating his family's assets and buying one-way tickets for his wife and child to travel home to Afghanistan, officials said. The arrest comes as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over the possibility of extremist violence on US soil, with Director Christopher Wray telling The Associated Press in August that he was "hard pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once". "Terrorism is still the FBI's number one priority, and we will use every resource to

protect the American people," Wray said in a statement on Tuesday. An FBI affidavit does not reveal precisely how Tawhedi came onto investigators' radar, but cites what it says is evidence from recent months showing his determination in planning an attack. A photograph from July included in the affidavit depicts a man investigators identified as Tawhedi reading to two young children, including his daughter, "a text that describes the rewards a martyr receives in the afterlife". Officials say Tawhedi also consumed Islamic State propaganda, contributed to a charity that functions as a front for the militant group and communicated with a

person who the FBI determined from a prior investigation was involved in recruitment and indoctrination of people interested in extremism. He also viewed webcams from the White House and the Washington Monument in July. Tawhedi's alleged co-conspirator was not identified by the Justice Department, which described him only as a juvenile, a fellow Afghan national and the brother of Tawhedi's wife. After the two advertised the sale of personal property on Facebook, the FBI enlisted an informant last month to respond to the offer and strike up a relationship. The informant later invited them

to a gun range, where they ordered weapons from an undercover FBI official who was posing as a business partner of the informant, according to court papers. Tawhedi was arrested Monday after taking possession of two AK-47 rifles and ammunition he had ordered, officials said. The unidentified co-conspirator was also arrested but the Justice Department did not provide details because he is a juvenile. After he was arrested, the Justice Department said, Tawhedi told investigators he had planned an attack for Election Day that would target large gatherings of people. Tawhedi was charged with conspiring and

attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State, which is designated by the US as a foreign terrorist organisation. The charge is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. He appeared in court Tuesday and was ordered detained. An email to an attorney listed as representing him did not immediately return an email seeking comment. It was not immediately clear if he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf. A for-sale sign stood in the yard outside a modest, two-story brick home listed as being connected to Tawhedi's family in the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore.

केनरा बँक Canara Bank **CANARA BANK JANAKPURI, BRANCH**

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

Ref: CB 19054/SARFAESI/ALBATROSS/2024/1 Date: 09.10.2024

To,
1. M/S ALBATROSS PARCEL EXPRESS PVT. LTD. (BORROWER)
ADD:- 4B/33, 1st FLOOR, TILAK NAGAR NEW DELHI-110018
2. Mr. TUSHAR GUPTA S/O KAILASH GUPTA (GUARANTOR)
ADD:- J-21, GANGA RAM VATIKA TILAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018
3. Mrs. MEENA GUPTA W/O KAILASH GUPTA (GUARANTOR)
ADD:- H. NO. RL 26, FIRST FLOOR, GANGA RAM VATIKA TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI, DELHI-110018

Dear Sir / Madam,
Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, JANAKPURI Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That M/S ALBATROSS PARCEL EXPRESS PVT. LTD. (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement(s) in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreement(s).

That Mr. TUSHAR GUPTA AND Mrs. MEENA GUPTA (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of **Rs. 2,40,50,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)** with interest thereon. You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, From June 2024 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to **Rs 87,27,930.53 (Rupees: Eighty Seven Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paise Fifty Three Only)**, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies have come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on **02.10.2024** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor **within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice**. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of **Interest as mentioned in Schedule C** per annum together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of **Rs 87,27,930.53 (Rupees: Eighty Seven Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paise Fifty Three Only)**, together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt.

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

SCHEDULE A
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Sl No	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1.	90541400000212	ODDB LIMIT	31.12.2022	1,48,00,000.00
2.	170002471050	GECL (EXTENSION)	30.11.2021	22,50,000.00
3.	90547830000136	SYND MORTGAGE	11.03.2016	25,00,000.00
4.	90549160000311	GECL	05.09.2020	45,00,000.00
		TOTAL		2,40,50,000.00

SCHEDULE B
[Details of security assets]

IMMOVABLES

Sl No	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	NAME OF TITLE HOLDER	CERSAI DETAILS
1	All the part & parcel of the Residential Flat, Measuring 138.91 sq. mtr. Entire 1 st Floor (Without Roof Rights), Built on Property Bearing Plot No. 39, Block-B, Known As B-39, Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 Boundaries:- East:-9.00 Mtr. Wide West:-Property No. B-38 North:-Service lane South:-9.00 Mtr. Wide	Mrs. Meena Gupta W/O Mr. Kailash Gupta	Asset Id- 200013299074 Security Interest Id- 400013327106
2	All Part & parcel of the Property located at 1 st Floor Flat (Duplex Floor), Flat No. RL26 Chaukhandi Village, Ganga Ram Vatika, Najafgarh Road, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 Measuring:- 125.42 sq mtrs Boundaries:- East:-Service Lane West:-Road/Park North:-Property No. RL-28 South:-Property No. RL-27	Mrs. Meena Gupta W/O Mr. Kailash Gupta	Asset Id- 200003667636 Security Interest Id- 100001713202

MOVABLES

Sl	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON DATE 02.10.2024	RATE OF INTEREST
1.	90541400000212	ODDB LIMIT	58,08,193.15	13.85% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
2.	170002471050	GECL (EXTENSION)	18,48,965.72	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
3.	90547830000136	SYND MORTGAGE	8,50,347.77	11.70% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
4.	90549160000311	GECL	2,20,423.89	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
		TOTAL	87,27,930.53	

SCHEDULE C
[Details of security assets]

Sl	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON DATE 02.10.2024	RATE OF INTEREST
1.	90541400000212	ODDB LIMIT	58,08,193.15	13.85% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
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4.	90549160000311	GECL	2,20,423.89	9.25% P.A. + (Penal Interest)
		TOTAL	87,27,930.53	

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Three share Nobel prize in chemistry

AP ■ STOCKHOLM
The Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded Wednesday to David Baker, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for their breakthrough work predicting and designing the structure of proteins, the building blocks of life. Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honoured research that made connections between amino acid sequence and protein structure. "That was actually called a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in biochemistry, for decades. So, it's that breakthrough that gets awarded today," he said. Baker works at the University of Washington in Seattle, while Hassabis and Jumper both work at Google DeepMind in London. Baker designed a new protein in 2003 and his research group has since produced one imaginative protein creation after another, including proteins that can be used as pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nanomaterials and tiny sensors, the Nobel committee said. "The number of designs that they have, produced and published, and ... the variety is

UK auction house withdraws sale of 'Naga Human Skull' amid outcry

PTI ■ LONDON
A UK auction house has withdrawn a 'Naga Human Skull' from its lots for a live online sale on Wednesday following outcry in India over the issue. The Swan auction house at Tetsworth in Oxfordshire had a series of skulls and other remains originating from around the world as part of 'The Curious Collector Sale, Antiquarian Books, Manuscripts & Paintings.' The '19th Century Horned Naga Human Skull, Naga Tribe' was slated as Lot No. 64 and resulted in protests in Nagaland, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Riu who sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to stop the hurtful sale. "The news of the proposed auction of Naga human remains in the UK has been received by all sections in a negative manner as it is a highly emotional and sacred issue for our people. It has been a traditional custom of our people to give the highest respect and honour for the remains of the demised," said Riu in his letter. He urged the minister to take up the matter with the High Commission of India in London so that steps are taken to ensure that the auction of the skull can be stopped after the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) raised concerns over the matter. "This piece would be of particular interest to collectors with a focus on anthropology and tribal cultures," reads the description of the auction lot, listed for an opening bid of GBP 2,100 (Rs 23 lakh approximately) with the auctioneer's estimate expecting it to fetch as much as GBP 4,000 (Rs 43 lakh approximately). Its provenance is traced back to the collection of 19th century Belgian architect Francois Coppens. The FNR asserted that the auction of the human remains contravenes Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which says: "Indigenous Peoples have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information." FNR then contacted the auction house directly to condemn the sale and to call for the object to be repatriated to Nagaland. The organisation is one of many indigenous groups from across the world that is currently in dialogue with the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford about artefacts held in the museum's collection. Laura Van Broekhoven, director of the museum, told the BBC she was "outraged" at some of these items going up for auction. "The fact these objects were taken is really painful, and the fact that they were being put on sale is really disrespectful and inconsiderate," said Broekhoven. "We're conscious that the remains would have been collected in the 19th and 20th centuries, but for them to be on sale in 2024 was quite shocking," she said.



45th ASEAN SUMMITS AND RELATED
9 OCTOBER 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR
From left to right) Myanmar's Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippine's President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Laos' Prime Minister Thongloun Sisolouth, Laos' Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Indonesian Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, and East Timorese Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao hold hands during the opening ceremony of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Wednesday. AP/PTI

Time to evacuate is running out as hurricane closes in on Florida

AP ■ TAMPA (US)
Hurricane Milton churned Wednesday toward a potentially catastrophic collision along the west coast of Florida, where some residents insisted they would stay after millions were ordered to evacuate and officials warned that strangers would face grim odds of surviving. The Tampa Bay area, home to more than 3.3 million people, faced the possibility of widespread destruction after avoiding direct hits from major hurricanes for more than a century. The National Hurricane Center predicted Milton, a Category 5 hurricane during much of its approach, would likely weaken but remain a major hurricane when it makes landfall late Wednesday or early Thursday. "Milton has the potential to be one of the most destructive hurricanes on record for west-central Florida," the center warned. Milton was centered about 485 kilometers southwest of Tampa early Wednesday with maximum sustained winds of 260 kph, the hurricane center reported. It was moving northeast at 22 kph early Wednesday and was expected to continue moving in that direction with an increase in its forward speed through Wednesday night, with landfall expected late Wednesday or early Thursday morning. It was expected to turn toward the east-northeast and east on Thursday and Friday. Heavy rain was beginning to spread across parts of southwestern and west-central Florida ahead of Milton early Wednesday, and weather conditions were expected to deteriorate across parts of the Florida Gulf Coast throughout the day, the center said. Six to 12 inches of rain, with localized totals up to 18 inches, were expected across central to northern portions of Florida through Thursday, bringing the risk of catastrophic and life-threatening flash and urban flooding, and moderate to major river flooding. Several tornadoes were likely Wednesday across parts of central and southern Florida. Forecasters predicted the storm will retain hurricane strength as it crosses central Florida on Thursday on a path east toward the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane's precise track remained uncertain, as forecasters Tuesday evening nudged its projected path slightly south of Tampa. Thousands of fleeing cars clogged Florida's highways ahead of the storm, but time for evacuations was running out Wednesday. Tampa Mayor Jane Castor noted that up to 15 feet of storm surge forecast for her city would be deep enough to swallow an entire house. "So if you're in it, basically that's the coffin that you're in," Castor said. Milton targets communities still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida along its devastating march that left at least 230 dead across the South. In the bayside town of Punta Gorda, about 160 kilometers south of Tampa, streets were still filled Tuesday with 5-foot piles of soggy furniture, clothing, books, appliances and other trash dragged from damaged homes. Many homes sat vacant, but accountant and art collector Scott Joiner remained on the second floor of the New Orleans-style home he built 17 years ago. Joiner said bull sharks swam in the flooded streets and a neighbor had to be rescued by canoe when Helene passed and flooded the first floor of his home. "Water is a blessing to have," Joiner said, "but it is very deadly." Joiner said he planned to go another round and ride out Milton, despite the risk. Authorities have issued mandatory evacuation orders across 11 Florida counties with a combined population of about 5.9 million people, according to US Census Bureau estimates. Officials have warned that anyone staying behind must fend for themselves, as first responders are not expected to risk their lives attempting rescues at the height of the storm. In Riverview, south of Tampa, several drivers waiting in a long line for fuel Tuesday said they had no plans to evacuate.

INDAG RUBBER LIMITED
(CIN: L74899DL1978PLC09038)
Regd. Office: Khemka House, 11, Community Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017.
Phone: 011-26963172/73 Fax No.: 011-26856350
E-mail Id: info@indagrubber.com, Website: www.indagrubber.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Section 201(2)(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act"), Indag Rubber Limited (the "Company") intends to make an application to the Central Government under Section 196 read with Schedule V and other applicable provisions of the Act for seeking its approval for re-appointment of Mr. Nand Lal Khemka (DIN: 00211084), a Non-Resident Indian, as the Chairman cum Managing Director of the Company, for a period of 5 years effective from 1st April, 2025. This notice shall also be available on the website of the Company at www.indagrubber.com and on the website of Stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited.

By order of the Board
For Indag Rubber Limited
Sd/-
Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: October 9, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Flat Unit No 12046 Floor 4th Tower - 12 Happy Trails, Greater Noida (West) was booked in the name of Mr. Shashi Bhushan Prasad S/o Late Chandra Bhushan Prasad and Nirmala Devi, S/o Ram Lakhman Sahu. Mrs. Nirmala Devi expired on 18/01/2021 Regarding mentioned property, the name of Nirmala Devi Who is also co-allocotee of this property is being noted as Primary allottee in M/s Shridhara InfraTech Pvt. Ltd. records in respect of captioned unit. If anybody has any objection to this, he or she may approach M/s Shridhara InfraTech Pvt. Ltd. within 21 days of publication of this notice at address, ATS Tower, Plot No. 16, 2nd Floor, Sector-135, Noida 201305 Ph. 91-120-7111500

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Krishna Sharma Alias Mr. Kishan & Mr. Deepak Sharma, are the owner of RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 60 SQ. YDS, I.E. 50.16 SQ. METRS. OUT OF KHARSA 296, SITUATED AT MANSAROKAR PARK, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE SHAHPUR BAMBHERA, PARGANA DASNA, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GUJARAT U.P. by virtue of Regd. Sale Deed dated 09.06.2014, regd. as Doc. No. 432, executed by Mrs. Sanjay Devi and Mr. Satya Pal Singh, and The Original Sale Deed dated 04.04.2014, regd. as Doc. No. 350. Joint and FIR has been registered with the LAR No. 2024000819836, pertaining to the said above said property, and same to be financed by SBI India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Mrs. Prason Lata & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Road Paza Vahiba, Shantipur, Ghaziabad (U.P.) E-mail: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 70117254, 0120444300

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Krishan Sharma Alias Mr. Kishan & Mr. Deepak Sharma, are the owner of RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 432 SQ. YARDS I.E. 362 SQ. METRS. OUT OF KHARSA NUMBER 392 AND 393, PART OF KHATA NUMBER 202, SITUATED AT VILLAGE-DATAWALLI, PARGANA & TEHSIL DADRRI, DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P., by virtue of Gift deed dated 26.09.2024, regd. as Doc. No. 45768 & Gift deed dated 30.10.2023, regd. as Doc. No. 51203, respectively, and same to be financed by SBI India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Mrs. Prason Lata & Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF 18, Lotus Road Paza Vahiba, Shantipur, Ghaziabad (U.P.) E-mail: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 70117254, 0120444300

PUBLIC NOTICE
Reg: Property bearing No. C-412, adm. 50.16 sq.mtrs, i.e. 60.00 sq.yrds, out of Kharsa No. 843 & 838, situated at Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar in the abadi of Chokha, Gali No. 13, Usmanpur, Hapur, Shahdara, Delhi (hereinafter called the said property). Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Akhilesh Jha (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intends to purchase the said property from Mrs. Archana Gupta W/o Mr. Pawan Gupta (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that she is the sole and absolute owner of the said floor. The seller has further informed the purchaser that the said floor was owned by Mrs. Taranjeet Kaur Batra and Mr. Baldev Singh Sachdeva vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 8825 on 02.05.2011 (SR-II Janakpur). Later on, Mr. Baldev Singh expired and his share in the said floor devolved on his legal heirs viz., Mr. Sukhvinder Singh Sachdeva and Mrs. Taranjeet Kaur. Subsequently, Mr. Sukhvinder Singh relinquished his share in the said floor in favour of Mrs. Taranjeet Kaur Batra @ Taranjeet Kaur vide Relinquishment Deed registered as Document No. 2024/22/112819 in Book No. 1, Volume No. 290/4, pages 85-96, registered on 27.08.2024 (SRO - West Basai Darapur). Thus, Mrs. Taranjeet Kaur Batra @ Taranjeet Kaur (present seller) became the sole and absolute owner of the said floor. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Banks, Financial Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever in or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of the publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intelective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

North Korea vows to block border with South, build defence structures

AP ■ SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)
North Korea said Wednesday it will permanently block its border with South Korea and build frontline defence structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and US forces, while not announcing an expected constitutional revision to formally designate South Korea its principal enemy and codify new national borders.

While the moves were likely a pressure tactic, it's unclear how they will affect ties with South Korea since cross-border travel and exchanges have been halted for years. North Korea's military said it will "completely cut off roads and railways" linked to South Korea and "fortify the relevant areas of our side with strong defence structures," according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency. The North's military called its steps a "self-defensive measure for inhibiting war and defending the security" of North

Korea. It said that "the hostile forces are getting ever more reckless in their confrontational hysteria." It cited what it called various war exercises in South Korea, the deployment of US strategic assets and its rivals' harsh rhetoric.

South Korea's military said later Wednesday that it won't tolerate any attempt by North Korea to change the status quo. It said South Korea will "overwhelmingly punish" North Korea if it launches provocations. A South Korean military statement said North Korea's nuclear and missile programs have threatened peace on the Korean Peninsula. South Korean officials earlier said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers and reinforcing roads on its side of the border since April in a likely attempt to boost its frontline security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea. In a report to parliament on Tuesday, South Korea's Unification Ministry said that North Korea has been removing

ties on the northern side of cross-border railways and near-by lamps and planting mines along the border.

KCNA earlier Wednesday said the Supreme People's Assembly met for two days this week to amend the legal ages of North Koreans for working and participating in elections. But it didn't say whether the meeting dealt with leader Kim Jong Un's order in January to rewrite the constitution to remove the goal of a peaceful Korean unification, formally designate South Korea as the country's "invariable principal enemy" and define the North's sovereign, territorial sphere.

At the centre of outside attention was whether North Korea makes new legal claims on the waters currently controlled by South Korea off their west coast. The poorly marked western sea boundary is where three bloody naval skirmishes and two deadly attacks blamed on North Korea happened in the past 25 years.

Some experts say North Korea

might have delayed the constitutional revision but others speculated it amended the constitution without announcing it because of its sensitivity.

Kim's order stunned many North Korea watchers because it was seen as breaking away with his predecessors' long-cherished dreams of achieving a unified Korea on the North's terms. Experts say Kim likely aims to diminish South Korea's voice in the regional nuclear standoff and seek direct dealings with the US. They say Kim also likely hopes to diminish South Korean cultural influence and bolster his rule at home.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years, with North Korea continuing a run of provocative weapons tests and South Korea and the US expanding their military drills. KCNA said North Korea on Tuesday tested a long-range artillery system that observers say pose a direct threat to Seoul, the South Korean capital, which is only an hour's drive from the border.

Ishiba dissolves Japan's lower house

AP ■ TOKYO

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba dissolved Japan's lower house of parliament Wednesday to set up an October 27 early election and seek the voters' mandate for his 9-day-old government.

Ishiba took office last week as Fumio Kishida resigned after three years leading the governing Liberal Democratic Party as it was dogged by corruption scandals. With the early election, Ishiba is seeking to secure his governing party a house majority while he is still fresh and before the congratulatory mood fades. The move has been criticised as prioritising an election rather than policies and for allowing little debate. But Japan's opposition has remained too fractured to

push the governing party out of power.

Ishiba announced his plans for an election even before he won the party leadership vote and became prime minister. His Cabinet planned later Wednesday to formally announce the election date and the start of campaigning next Tuesday. Ishiba and his Cabinet will stay in office until they win the election and are reappointed. The speaker of the house, Fukushima Nukaga, announced the dissolution of the lower, more powerful of the two parliamentary chambers at a plenary session. All 465 lawmakers stood up, chanted "banzai" and rushed out of the assembly room. Official campaigning begins next Tuesday.

"We will act fairly and

squarely in order to win the people's endorsement for the current administration," Ishiba told reporters.

"Even while the lower house is dissolved the Japanese government must fully function" in tackling national security, disaster response and deflation, he said. "We will devote all our body and soul for the people."

Ishiba is to explain the election plans at a news conference late Wednesday, just before heading to Laos to make his diplomatic debut at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

Opposition leaders have criticized him for rushing to hold an election allowing only three days of parliamentary debate on his policies and before achieving any results.

Even though opposition

parties are too fractured to topple the governing party's almost uninterrupted postwar rule, the first public support ratings for Ishiba as prime minister were around 50% or even lower, the lowest levels for a new leader, according to Japanese media. Ishiba is increasingly seen as backpedaling on a number of proposals he previously advocated so he won't create controversy ahead of the election.

In his first policy speech at parliament Friday, he did not touch on his goal of establishing a stronger regional military framework and a more equal Japan-US security alliance, a dual surname option for married couples, and other issues seen as controversial or opposed by conservatives within the governing party.

US plans to end Google monopoly

AP ■ WASHINGTON
The US Department of Justice is considering asking a federal judge to force Google to sell parts of its business in order to eliminate its online search monopoly.

In a late court filing on Tuesday, federal prosecutors also said the judge could ask the court to open the underlying data Google uses

to power its ubiquitous search engine and artificial intelligence products to competitors.

"For more than a decade, Google has controlled the most popular distribution channels, leaving rivals with little-to-no incentive to

compete for users," the antitrust enforcers wrote in the filing. "Fully remedying these harms requires not only ending Google's control of distribution today, but also ensuring Google cannot control the distribution of tomorrow."

To that end, the department said it is considering asking for structural changes to stop Google from leveraging products such as its Chrome browser, Android operating system, AI products or app store to benefit its search business.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EM/PEP-29/2024
No. EM/PEP/TECH-09/2024/399 Date: 03/10/2024
Name of the Project: Replacement of piping, structure of Tower Monitors and replacement of silencer pipe of Diesel Pumps & DG set at North Jetty. Estimated cost: Rs.1,29,43,109/-
Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.27/10/2024 up to 18:00hrs.
Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-I, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/42/2024-2025 dt.07.10.2024

CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL
Tender No. DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-32-24-25 Dated: 08-10-2024.
E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Name of work: At Maligaon (HQ)- Construction of PCEE Conference Hall at Ground floor of West Block.
Tender Value: ₹7,39,754/-, Earnest Money: ₹14,800/-, Date & time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 30-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in
By: CEE/PS/MLG/HQ
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Rakhi, w/o Dinesh Kumar, R/o B-102, Street No. 10, Shashi Garden, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091, solemnly affirm and declare that 'Rakhi Arora' and 'Rakhi' is one and the same person.
DSTE, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION
E-Tender No.: SNT-03-LMG-2024-25-RT; Dated: 07-10-2024; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; Name of work : Reliability improvement by means of Repair, Replacement and Restoration of Electronic Interlocking system of 04 stations (Sighat Town, Dhanisri Jn.-Shokhukh & Chongajan) under the jurisdiction of Sr. DSTE/Lumding. Tender Value: ₹1,08,88,332/-; Bid Security: ₹2,04,500/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 30-10-2024. For details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Rajnesha claiming to be owner of Property bearing No. 215-A, area measuring 270 sq.yds., out of Khasra No. 128/152, situated in the area of Village: Nangoi, in the abadi of Near Post office, Nangoi, Itaga Shandara, Dohli State Dehra, vide G.P.A. ATIS & Will dated 18.07.1988 executed by Mr. Lal Singh. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who wants to obtain a loan from our client against the said property. If any body has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/transfer/assignment, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants), 200, Ind Floor, 23, Shwaji Marg, Mohi Nagar, N. Delhi-15, Ph: 91-11-2227-29, Regd@knalegal.com

VACANCY
Various Posts of Teaching, KVK Scientists & Supporting staff through direct recruitment are advertised. For details please visit University Website i.e. www.uuhf.ac.in
Registrar

E-AUCTION FOR SARUPATHAR PF-2 SIDE PARKING CONTRACT OVER LUMDING DIVISION
E-Auction for Sarupathar PF-2 side parking contract over Lumding Division. Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee. Trips/Days. 1095.
Auction Catalogue No. PARK-LMG-SZR-03
Seq No. Lot No./Category Description
AA1 Parking-LMG-SZR-MX-32-24-2 (Parking-Mixed) Parking Lot for Two Wheelers and Four Wheelers at location SARUPATHAR PF 2 SIDE in Lumding Division
Auction Start Date & Time: 11.00 hrs. of 24-10-2024. Auction Close Date & Time: 11.30 hrs. of 24-10-2024. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
DRM (C), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Short Notice Inviting re-tender
No. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/276 Dated 8th October, 2024
The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam re-invites bids for "Supply & installation of chairs for conference hall & Vidya Samiksha Kendra at State Mission Office, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19", from authorized dealers of reputed furniture brand.
Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in from 09-10-2024 upto 16-10-2024 (1400 hrs).
The bidder must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in
Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

PPGGL
Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B1 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301
Plant Address: PO-Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj (Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107
Phone: +91-120-6102000/6102009 CN: U40101UP2007PLC032835
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible bidders for Project of Supply, Installation and Commissioning of continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAQMS) of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India. Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL- www.ppggl.co.in/tenders.php Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee of issue of bid document latest by 20th October 2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Stores Tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 dt. 17.09.2024 at S.No. 01.
Sub:- Supply of Metal Cutting Gas.
Ref:- Tender No. 14240839 Due on 09.10.2024 published vide tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 at S.No. 01.
The following Amendment is issued against the subject tender
Due date to be read as 18.10.2024 instead of 09.10.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3117/24

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Sh. Jatin Chauhan S/o Sh. Manish Chauhan owner of a Residential Two Storey House, area measuring 200 sq. yds. i.e. 167.22 sq. mtr., out of plot No. 235, situated in Village Chhagraali Banger Paniga Dabri, Tehsil & District Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, U.P. Through Registered Gift Deed Dated 25.10.2023 executed by Mr. Gaeela Chauhan W/o Sh. Manish Chauhan in favour of Sh. Jatin Chauhan S/o Sh. Manish Chauhan vide Reg. No. 27937 at Sr. Greater Noida U.P. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karandooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karandooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811218181

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/CT(FM) 10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments and Parcel Vans (on round trip basis) for a period of two years as per detail and schedule given below:-

S. No.	Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1	10.10.2024 at 10:30 am	12005 (F1), 12038 (F1), 12055 (F1), 12057 (F1), 12148 (R1), 12212 (F1), 12418 (F1), 12481 (F1, F2 & R1), 12630 (F1), 12780 (F1), 14006 (F1), 14714 (F1), 22421 (F2 & R1), 22995 (F1)
2	11.10.2024 at 10:30 am	01 LVPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train - 12226/12225, 12236/12235, 12264/12263, 12284/12283, 12425/12426, 12432/12431, 12442/12441, 12445/12446, 12454/12453, 12488/12487 (Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), 12488/12487 (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday), 20408/20407, 22429/22430, 22460/22459 & 01 VP (23 tonnes) on round trip basis in train number: 22418/22417
3	14.10.2024 at 10:30 am	12060 (F1) (Monday and Tuesday), 12284 (F1), 12428 (F1) (Monday), 14014 (F1), 14303 (F1 & R1), 14305 (F1 & R1), 14331 (F1, F2 & R1), 22168 (R1)
4	15.10.2024 at 10:30 am	12011 (F1), 12017 (F1), 12029 (F1), 12040 (F1), 12148 (F1 & F2), 12455 (F1), 14041 (F1), 14053 (F2), 22454 (F1, F2 & R1)
5	16.10.2024 at 10:30 am	04304 (F1, F2 & R1), 12013 (F1), 12015 (F1), 12031 (F1), 12034 (F1), 12432 (F1), 12448 (F1), 12459 (F1), 14316 (F2), 15035 (F2), 22414 (F1), 22472 (F1, F2 & R1), 22654 (F1)
6	17.10.2024 at 10:30 am	12045 (F1), 12265 (F1), 12754 (F1), 14053 (R1), 14152 (F1), 14164 (F1), 14681 (F1), 20938 (F1 & R1), 22401 (F1)
7	18.10.2024 at 10:30 am	12190 (F1), 12302 (F1), 12406 (F1), 12463 (F1), 12468 (F1), 12584 (F1), 14018 (F1), 14035 (F1, F2 & R1), 14521 (F1, F2 & R1), 15128 (F1), 18428 (F1), 22210 (F1)
8	21.10.2024 at 10:30 am	12191 (F1 & F2), 12457 (F1, F2 & R1), 12918 (F1), 12963 (F1), 14507 (F1, F2 & R1), 15035 (F1 & R1), 19338 (F1), 20914 (F1), 20946 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22463 (F1)
9	22.10.2024 at 10:30 am	02564 (F1), 12050 (F1), 12066 (F1), 14041 (R1) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday), 14041 (R1) (Sunday) 14087 (F1, F2 & R1), 14089 (F1, F2 & R1), 14303 (F2), 14305 (F2), 14731 (F1 & R1), 15060 (F1 & R1), 20473 (F1 & R1), 20488 (F1), 20938 (F2) 22168 (F1 & F2), 22542 (F1), 22950 (F1), 22986 (F1)

Important notes: 1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html (e-Auction leasing section). 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No.: S/22/2024-25; Dated: 08-10-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
SN. 1; Tender No. 60/23/5049A/OT/178/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 14-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1) Combined Airless Centrifugal Shot Blasting and Shot Peening Plant for coil spring and laminated spring coil. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-654401390010. (2) Cost of concomitant accessories according to tender specifications. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-65440140. (3) Cost of any other accessory which in the opinion of supplier is essentially required for making the machine fully functional. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-65440141. (4) Optional accessories with break up of individual items as specified in clause 4.4 of Section-IV. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-65440144. (5) Spares for 2 years normal operation and maintenance as per clause 5 of Section-V. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-65440145. (6) Consumables as per clause 6 of Section-V with break up of individual items as applicable. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-65440146. (7) Cost of comprehensive AMC for five years after the warranty as per clause 17. AMC will be started as required by consignee. [Warranty Period: years, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10% Start After Year:2]. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: AMC]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-65440139.
SN. 2; Tender No. 30/24/1329/OT/179/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 15-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Set for control arm for LHB bogies consisting of (1) Control Arm Lower Left, Drg. no. FIAT 1267716 ver 00R2 or latest. (2) Control arm upper to FIAT Drg No. 1277122 Ver-01R3 or latest Mat Spec:- 17.334 100 06/107/01, Amnd.01, MDS-166 Rev-02, IS-1865-91 SG 400/18L. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. (i) Qty- 140 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR, (Assam). (ii) Qty: 60 Nos for Pandu, GSD, NFR (Assam) (iii) Qty: 1632 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). (iv) Qty: 20 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). (v) Qty: 13 Nos for Kathihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.-33500137.
SN. 3; Tender No. 60/24/5059/OT/180/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 16-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1) Electric Driven Screw Air Compressor (500cfm) 10 Kg/cm2. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-650500072377. (2) Cost of Comprehensive AMC for five years after the warranty as per clause 17. [Warranty Period: 2 years, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10%, Start after year:2] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: AMC]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050004. (3) Cost of concomitant accessories according to tender specifications. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050007. (4) Cost of any other accessory which in the opinion of supplier is essentially required for making the machine fully functional. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 65050008. (5) Cost of turnkey charges viz. foundation, installation & commissioning etc. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Service]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P/L No.- 65050009. (6) Cost of Preventive Maintenance during 1st and 2nd year of warranty period. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Service]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 65050010. (7) The power consumption cost for 4400 hrs. of operation (Considering 2200 hrs./year i.e. for 2 years at full rated capacity) as per clause 2.2. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Service]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam). (8) Optional accessories with break up of individual items as specified in clause 4.3 of Section-IV. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 6505012.

SN. 4; Tender No. 61/24/5326/OT/181/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 17-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 1-in-12 BG 60 KG Weldable CMS Crossing (WCMS) on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSOs standard drawing No. T-64132 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber sole plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6204 to RDSO/T-6211, RDSO/T-6843 to RDSO/T-6846), excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E.R Clips, insulating liner etc. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 1]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 190 Set for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 60060270.
SN. 5; Tender No. 61/23/5285A/OT/182/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 17-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Wide Base curve sleepers RT- 8979 to RT - 8982 (T-8621 to T-8624). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, I Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1328 Nos for SSE/P.Way/SOUTH/Kathihar, NFR (Bihar). P.L. No.- 60060517.
SN. 6; Tender No. 61/24/5310/OT/183/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 17-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: "Manufacture & Supply of PSC Mono-Block Concrete Sleeper for 1 in 12 Turn Out (Pre-Tension Type) for BG (1673 mm) FOR Works Station Works Siding as per RDSO Drawing No. T/4218 Alt.8 (for General Layout) and part drawing there of to suit 60 Kg UIC Rail (Fan Shaped) & IRS Specification No. T-45.96 (4th revision March '21) duly amended in accordance with the recommendations made by Track Standard Committee as amended from time to time." [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 4 Set for SSE/P.Way/Buniadpur, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No.- 600501100101.
SN. 7; Tender No. 61/24/5287A/OT/184/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 18-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1 in 8.5 WCMS) 1-in-8 ½ BG 60 Kg Weldable CMS Crossing on PSC sleepers in accordance with RDSOs standard drawing No. T-6441 including supply of 6mm thick grooved rubber sole plates (drawing no. RDSO/T-6203, RDSO/T-6800, 6800/1, 6801, 6801/1), excluding standard fish plates, fish bolts and nuts, E.R. Clips, insulating liner etc. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 1]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 145 Set for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 60060281.
SN. 8; Tender No. 61/24/5225/OT/185/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 18-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: T/O 1 IN 1660 KG, RDSO DRG. NO. T-5691.(Fabricated switches [Description -11200mm O/R(Curved) Fan shaped Switch for 1 in 16 T/O for BG 60 KG (UIC) on PSC Sleepers to RDSO DRG. No. T/5692 Alt.03 as per IRS Specification IRS-T-10-2023 complete with stock rails, tongue rails and all parts with fittings including check rails as listed in the RSDO drawing but excluding Liner, Elastic rail Clip, Fish Plate & Fish Bolts, & PSC Sleeper.] and CMS Xing body [Description - CMS Crossing 1 in 16 BG for 60 Kg Rails on PSC Sleepers as per RDSO Drg.No. T/5693 (Alt.02) complete with fittings as per specification No. IRS T-29 (Revised 2022). List of fittings to be supplied with is enclosed as Annexure-A.] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty-6 Set for Sr. Section Engineer/P.Way/New Halflong, NFR (Assam). 2) Qty- 7 Set for SSE/P.Way/Hill/Lumding, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 60220077.
SN. 9; Tender No. 61/24/5343/OT/186/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 21-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 60 KG 1 IN 12 SLEEPERS T-4218 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 1) 35 Set for Sr. DEN/C/Kathihar, NFR (Bihar). 2) Qty- 78 Set for DRM/W/Alipurduar Jn., NFR (West Bengal). 3) Qty- 19 Set for DRM/W/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 600301340013.
SN. 10; Tender No. 30/24/1281/OT/187/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 21-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Safety Wire Rope Assembly, LHB to Drg. No. LW05105 Alt-Nil Mat. Spec.-As per Drawing. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. 1) Qty- 4483 Nos for Dibrugarh town/ Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). 2) Qty- 226 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam). 3) Qty- 6845 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). 4) Qty- 44 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal). 5) Qty- 88 Nos for Kathihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 33500277.
SN. 11; Tender No. 61/24/5381/OT/188/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 23-10-2024
Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Manufacture & Supply of Pre-stressed Mono-Block Concrete Sleeper for 1 in 12 Turn Out (Pre-Tension Type) for BG (1673 mm) FOR Works Station/Works Siding as per RDSO Drawing No. T/4218 Alt.8 (for General Layout) and part drawing thereof to suit 60 Kg UIC Rail (Fan Shaped) & IRS Specification No. T-45 (4th Revision March '21) duly amended in accordance with the recommendations made by Track Standard Committee as amended from time to time [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. [Item Type: Goods]. Qty- 24 Set for SSE/P.Way/East/Kathihar, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 600400410017.
NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

REPAIR OF CLS PANEL OF DIFFERENT MAKE & CAPACITIES
E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/14_2024/K/808; dated: 07-10-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. 14_2024; Name of work: Repair of CLS Panel of different make & capacities at different locations over Kathihar Division. Tender Value: ₹8,40,788.00; Earnest Money: ₹16,900.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 30-10-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 30-10-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DEE/G & Chg./Kathihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3116/24

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

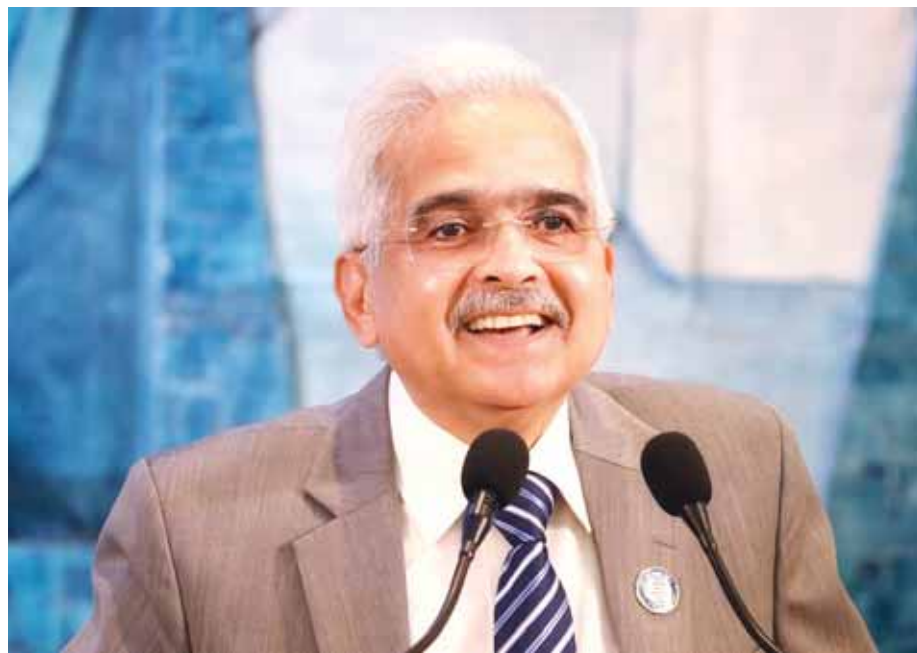
Not appropriate to speak on rate cut now: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the confidence in inflation cooling down in the near future, resulting in a better balance between growth and price rise, led the central bank to change the policy stance to neutral.

He, however, made it clear that there are "significant risks" to inflation like the ones arising out of geopolitical tensions, and it is "not appropriate" to talk about a rate cut for now. On whether the change in stance to 'neutral' from earlier 'withdrawal of accommodation' should be seen as the RBI's pivoting, he said that it is for others to assess.

"We have changed the stance at the moment because we see that growth and inflation, they are well poised, the balance is well poised. So, the MPC (monetary policy committee) considered it appropriate, the timing is appropriate to shift the stance to neutral," he told reporters at the customary post-policy review. "We have now greater



confidence that inflation is moderating, but we are acutely aware that there are significant risks," he said, adding that the change in stance gives greater flexibility and optionality to the rate-setting panel to manoeuvre in the future on rates. Earlier in the day, the RBI

held its interest rates for the tenth consecutive time but changed the stance, igniting hopes of a decrease in rates. There was "no point" and "justification" in continuing with the earlier, as the RBI has achieved what it wanted to, Das said, adding that the future is full of

"uncertainties". "These uncertainties and the risks cannot be underestimated. It will not be appropriate to specifically sort of talk in terms of timing of a rate cut," he said. Using the horse bolting out

from the stable analogy deployed earlier to illustrate the inflation fight, Das said the RBI needs to be "very careful" about opening the gate of the stable.

When asked if we should look forward to a rate cut at the next policy review in December or even earlier, Deputy Governor Michael Patra said the whole attention is focused on the near-term hump in inflation, wherein the RBI expects the October number to come at over 5 per cent.

The RBI will focus on the near-term hump on the inflation before even thinking of the "next move", Patra said. The central bank has decreased its estimate on crude oil prices to USD 80 per barrel from USD 85 per barrel earlier because of the softer medium-term outlook on the commodity.

The DG said the oil-producing countries have committed to continue with supply at higher levels into 2025, expectations of lower demand made by the International Energy Agency and growing reliance on renewable energy sources.

Sensex, Nifty declines as RBI changes stance to neutral

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared early gains to settle lower on Wednesday due to late selling in index major Reliance Industries, ITC and HDFC Bank even as the RBI took its first step towards a rate cut in its monetary policy review.

Erasing its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 167.71 points or 0.21 per cent to close at 81,467.1. During the day, it surged 684.4 points or 0.83 per cent to hit an intraday high of 82,319.21.

The NSE Nifty dropped 31.20 points or 0.12 per cent to end at 24,981.95. In the intraday trade, it jumped 220.9 points or 0.88 per cent to hit a hit of 25,234.05.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its key interest rate unchanged on Wednesday but took the first step towards a rate cut as it eased its relatively hawkish policy stance to 'neutral'.

The monetary policy committee, which included three RBI officials and an equal number of new external members, voted five-to-one to keep the benchmark repurchase or repo rate - which governs the interest rate of home, auto, corporate and other loans - at 6.5 per cent for a 10th straight policy meeting.



Among the 30 Sensex companies, ITC, Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, Larsen & Toubro and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

On the contrary, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, State Bank of India, Maruti Suzuki India, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers.

European markets were trading higher in mid-session deals. "An upward revision in Q3FY25 inflation reiterates that the sticky inflation continues to remain a concern for the RBI and led investors to book profit towards the close. The volatility in input prices and the impact on margin dragged the FMCG stocks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. The change in RBI's stance to neutral was favourable and

expected, but the commentary is not pointing for a rate cut in the near term, Nair added.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 5,729.60 crore on Tuesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,000.68 crore, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Seoul settled in negative territory while Tokyo quoted in the positive territory. Global oil benchmark Brent Crude climbed 0.87 per cent to USD 77.85 a barrel in futures trade.

US markets ended with gains in overnight deals on Tuesday. On Tuesday, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 584.81 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 81,634.81. The NSE Nifty jumped 217.40 points or 0.88 per cent to finish at 25,013.15.

New PLI scheme for drones to boost industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government plans to come out with a new Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the drones sector that will be more effective in terms of implementation, documentation and other aspects.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlung Vualnam on Wednesday said the government is looking at moving to the next PLI scheme for the drones sector. The first PLI scheme for drones, introduced in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 120 crore for three financial years starting from 2021-22, has ended.

While acknowledging that some procedures under the first scheme were onerous on startups and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the drone sector, the civil aviation secretary said the government will look at a more efficient PLI scheme in terms of implementation, documentation and the processes that are adopted. According to Vualnam, the drone sector has to be segregated into three segments those for civilian use, security/defence forces use, and the



rogue or unregulated use of drones. "We have to be very clear about how we approach the three areas," he said and highlighted that certain incidents of rogue use of drones could become impediments when youngsters, startups and women self-help groups are to use more drones. "We have to be cognisant of that Counter drone technologies are being developed," he said, while speaking at a conference organised by industry body Ficci. In a discussion paper, Ficci

suggested that the government should bring counter drone systems and components under the next phase of the PLI scheme. The outlay under the new scheme should be increased to Rs 1,000 crore to support startups and new entrants to develop drones with more indigenous components and sub-systems. The civil aviation secretary also said tenders are ready for procuring 3,000 more drones under the Namu Drone Didi Scheme. The scheme seeks to provide agricultural drones to rural women and 15,000 drones will

be given to women-led self-help groups. The first set of 1,000 drones have been acquired and distributed. The tenders for 3,000 drones under the scheme are ready and will be issued by the agencies concerned soon, Vualnam said. Additional Director General at the Army Design Bureau Major General C S Mann stressed on the importance of indigenisation. "We need to have truthfulness in the claims of indigenous capabilities. Only then will we be able to address the challenges.



Mercedes-Benz India sees record sales growth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

German luxury car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz on Wednesday said its car sales in India grew over 13 per cent year-on-year to 14,379 units in the first nine months of 2024, registering the best-ever performance in January-September period. The company further said the September quarter delivered over 21 per cent more cars at 5,117 units, in comparison to the corresponding quarter of the last year. "With 14,379 new Mercedes-Benz delivered year-to-date in

January-September (+13 per cent) including 5,117 units (+21 per cent) in Q3 '24 alone; Mercedes-Benz continues to buck the industry trend," the company said in a statement. Mercedes-Benz India said the battery electric vehicle (BEV) sales logged 84 per cent growth at 800 cars in the January-April period of the year, over the same period of 2023, which was the highest than any other luxury brand in the domestic market. At the same time, the top-end vehicles grew by 18 per cent, it stated.

Karnataka CM offers IT growth support to Maldives



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday offered to facilitate the growth of the information technology industry in Maldives, and expressed keenness to promote the state's handicraft and handloom products to tourists visiting the island nation.

Addressing a delegation led by Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who was accompanied by his wife Sajidha Mohamed, at Raj Bhavan here, he said Karnataka, known as the Silicon Valley of India, has developed an ecosystem for start-ups. Artificial Intelligence, global capacity building centres and innovation. "I am given to understand that the government of Maldives is interested in having partnerships with the leading IT industry of

Bengaluru," he said. "We will be very happy to facilitate the growth of the IT industry in Maldives," he said.

Siddaramaiah said he was pleased to note that Sajidha Mohamed was a student in Bengaluru. He said the State would be happy to have trade ties with Maldives to promote the marketing of its handicrafts and handlooms to reach out to a large number of tourists visiting the island nation. Karnataka, the Chief Minister said, is known for its diversity of nature, culture and rich heritage.

Siddaramaiah noted that the state's tourism tagline is: "One State, Many Worlds". "Apart from almost 300 km of coastline, we have the world's second largest 'Shola Forest' hosting Tiger and Bird Sanctuaries. We look forward to a partnership with Maldives to promote educational and cultural exchange," he added.

RBI enhances UPI Lite wallet limit to ₹ 5,000

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday announced the increase of the UPI Lite wallet limit to Rs 5,000 and per-transaction limit to Rs 1,000, in order to encourage wider adoption of the popular instant payment system through mobile phones. A limit of Rs 500 per transaction and an overall limit of Rs 2,000 per UPI Lite wallet, is presently applicable, with the facility of auto-replenishment. Unveiling the October bi-

monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das also said the per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay will be enhanced to Rs 10,000 from the current Rs 5,000. UPI123 was launched in March 2022, with a view to enable feature-phone users to use UPI. This facility is now available in 12 languages. In another customer-friendly initiative, Das announced a beneficiary account name look-up facility for Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and National

Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems will be introduced. Payment Systems like UPI and IMPS provide a facility to the remitter to verify the name of the receiver (beneficiary) before initiating a payment transaction. There have been requests to introduce such a facility for RTGS and NEFT systems, the Governor said. "Accordingly, to enable remitters in RTGS and NEFT to verify the name of the beneficiary account holder before initiating funds

transfer, it is now proposed to introduce a 'beneficiary account name look-up facility'," he said. Remitters can input the account number and the branch IFSC code of the beneficiary, following which the name of the beneficiary will be displayed. This facility will increase customer confidence as it would reduce the possibility of wrong credits and frauds, Das said. The Central bank will also create 'Reserve Bank Climate Risk Information System (RB-

CRIS)' amid climate change emerging as one of the significant risks to the financial system. Das said it is crucial for regulated entities to undertake climate risk assessments for ensuring stability of their balance sheets and that of the financial system. Such an assessment requires, among other things, high quality data relating to local climate scenarios, climate forecasts, and emissions, he said. The available climate-related data is characterised by

various gaps such as fragmented and varied sources, differing formats, frequencies and units. To bridge these gaps, Das said the Reserve Bank proposes to create a data repository RB-CRIS comprising two parts. The first part will be a web-based directory, listing various data sources, (meteorological, geospatial, etc.) which will be publicly accessible in the RBI website. The second part will be a data portal consisting of datasets (processed data in standardised formats).

Tata Power-DDL urges citizens for safe festivities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) has urged citizens of Delhi to refrain from burning effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna, and Meghanada near electrical installations and overhead power lines during Dussehra celebrations. The company highlights that such activities pose serious safety risks, including potential fire hazards, power outages, and disruptions to essential services, which could cause widespread inconvenience. The discom is conducting a comprehensive safety drive for its consumers and field staff to minimize the risk of electricity-related mishaps during the festive season. Tata Power-DDL is continuously working towards ensuring a safer festive season. In this quest, the discom has checked more than 2.28 Lakh installations including plain cement and concrete (PCC) poles, street light, stray wires, towers, rail poles, fencing of sub stations, feeder & service pillars, PWD Poles, MCD Poles, ATMs and lights installed in parks for any unsafe situation/hazard & rectifications thereof.

Deepaknath appointed DDG of BAI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deepaknath PJ on Wednesday has been appointed as the Deputy Director General of the Brewers Association of India (BAI), the apex body of the beer industry representing India's largest beer makers such as the AB InBev, Carlsberg, and the United Breweries (a Heineken company). Deepaknath would be based out of Bengaluru and would drive public policy advocacy for the beer industry in the South and West regions of India, besides co-ordinating some pre-designated pan-India initiatives. He has a strong background in beer and public policy advocacy. "With his vast experience in beer, public policy advocacy, and a deep understanding of the regulatory policy on both beer and spirits, I am sure he would add great value to the BAI and play a key role in shaping up public discourse and regulatory policy towards beer, a more responsible and sustainable alcoholic beverage choice," said Mr Vinod Giri, DG, BAI.

INBRIEF

NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE 2024 CONCLUDES

GURGAON: The NASA Space Apps Challenge 2024, a 48-hour hackathon, was successfully conducted on the 5th and 6th of October at the Innovation Incubation Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC), 2nd floor of CB, VIT AP University, Amaravati.



VIT CHANCELLOR CALLS ON SHRI NARA LOKESH

Dr. G. Viswanathan - Hon'ble Chancellor along with Shri Sankar Viswanathan - Vice President, VIT University called on Shri Nara Lokesh - Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications and HRD of AP to greet him. Dr.S.V.Kota Reddy - Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP University was also present on the occasion.



Flyzy to invest ₹ 10 crore in new product

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flyzy on Wednesday announced an investment of INR 10 crore in tryvisa, their new product. This platform streamlines online visa applications. Flyzy has already disrupted the traditional B2B travel industry. With this investment, the brand is expanding in the B2C space and aims to make this product into India's largest 'Made in India' visa solutions provider, at par with global standards. At present, the visa



processing sector is dominated by either international players or small scale companies. Tryvisa is a unique, Made in India product which will be a game changer in Indian travel-tech. With this investment, Flyzy will provide a dedicated visa support team for documentation ensuring that the tryvisa users have a hassle free experience. It will offer the best in class customer support, a service, Flyzy is renowned for. With the launch of this new product, Flyzy is forecasted to disrupt the travel-tech sector.

US Ryder Cup captain Bradley says security will be watching

AP ■ NEW YORK

US Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley has offered a warning about Bethpage Black that does not need a special sign by the first tee: Organisers will have security inside the ropes to make sure the New York crowd doesn't get out of control. Bradley and European captain Luke Donald met in Manhattan for a news conference on Tuesday signally (roughly) a year out from the September 26-28 matches at Bethpage Black, the public course on Long Island with a reputation for rough crowds. "I have total faith in the fans of New York to cheer on their team, proudly and loudly," Bradley said. "I don't want them to cross the line, to do anything that would affect the course of play. But it's going to be a tough atmosphere. It's going to be tough for both teams." Bradley said there would be security "monitoring the situation." "It's really important to us - the US side - that it's a fair place to play for both teams," he said. "Nobody on either team wants this to get uncomfortable or weird out there. But listen, you come into Yankee Stadium, you come into Madison Square Garden, you come into these places, it's a tough place to play, and Luke and the boys know that.

"The PGA of America is going to do a great job making sure everything's right." Bethpage State Park has a sign on the first tee that says, "Warning: The Black course is an extremely difficult course which we recommend only for highly skilled golfers." The skill level won't be an issue. Bradley said he is keeping the same criteria for the American team - six qualifiers through the points list, six captain's picks - and he and Donald said they wouldn't hesitate to take players from Saudi-backed LIV Golf if they are eligible. The crowd is as notorious as the difficulty of Bethpage Black, the first truly public golf course (excluding high-end resorts) to host the Ryder Cup. It previously held the US Open in 2002 and 2009, and the PGA Championship in 2019, when Brooks Koepka heard it from the crowd as he was letting a big lead slip away before holding on to win. Sergio Garcia was heckled so badly in the 2002 US Open, when he was constantly regripping the club, that the Spaniard answered with the middle finger. And now there are American and European flags involved at the most patriotic event in golf. It's tough on the opposing team regardless of which side of the Atlantic Ocean the matches are played, but American crowds



stand out. Europe at least will have fans, unlike the last time on US soil at Whistling Straits when the COVID-19 pandemic made it almost an entirely US fan base. "The Ryder Cup is special because it is spirited. Passions are high.

Energy is high," Donald said. "You want to see that amongst the players. You certainly don't want to see the spirit of the Ryder Cup endangered in any way. "But again, the PGA of America have things in place. If there's outbursts or if there's anything

deemed inappropriate, they will deal with that." Bradley, who won the BMW Championship in August and delivered the winning point for the Americans in the Presidents Cup last month, has said he would give up his captaincy to play the Ryder

Cup team only if he made the team on points. That's so far out that he said it's not on his mind, though he would have assistant captains in place to take over if that's how it plays out. Koepka was the only LIV player on the American team that last lost

year at Marco Simone outside Rome. Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton had not yet defected to LIV. Donald said those two, or any other European-born player with LIV, could be considered as long as they met rules for being a European tour member. As for the US points system, it rewards 1 point for every dollar earned at majors and The Players Championship in 2024, and 1 point on the dollar for every tournament in 2025 (except opposite-field events), and 1.5 points on the dollar at the 2025 majors. Xander Schauffele, a double major winner this year, has a narrow lead over Scottie Scheffler, who won the Masters and The Players Championship. Schauffele performed better in the other two majors he didn't win. Europe has won 10 of the last 14 times dating to 1995, though winning on the road is becoming more difficult ever since Paul Azinger persuaded the PGA of America to change its qualifying system to be based off money when he was the winning captain in 2008. Europe's last road win was in 2012 at Medinah, when it staged a stunning rally. "The last few times we've played away, the results have been one-sided towards the US," Donald said.



PBG Alaskan Knights one win away from GCL final

PTI ■ LONDON

PBG Alaskan Knights were placed at the top spot with 18 match points and a win away from securing their place in the final of the Global Chess League (GCL) here. The Knights have so far registered six victories in seven matches and are six points ahead of Triveni and Alpine SG Pipers. With three matches left before the knockout stage, the Knights are in the pole position to seal a spot in the final. Despite their comfortable standing, the Knights' Anish Giri, on top board, was cautious about his team's position. "It's not done yet, we still need to get to the final and win. But so far it's going well and I'm happy with everything, that's for sure," he said. In a stunning upset earlier on Tuesday, the Mumba Masters defeated the favourites Alpine SG Pipers.

On board one, Magnus Carlsen was left reeling after a blunder in a combination allowed Maxime Vachier-Lagrave to claim victory. Visibly upset, Carlsen stormed out of the venue. The Mumba Masters capitalised on this momentum to secure a dominant 14-5 win and deliver a major blow to the Pipers' chances of closing in on the league's leaders. In the second match of the day, the winners of season one, Triveni Continental Kings were defeated by American Gambits 14-5. The match saw Alireza Firouzja lose the first game in the tournament - blundering in an even rook endgame against the world No 2 Hikaru Nakamura. The day closed with the Knights confidently defeating Ganges Grandmasters 15-4. Playing as Black, the Knights started with a defeat but quickly took control of the match, winning on three boards.

Nepal's Nima Rinji Sherpa becomes youngest to scale 14 tallest peaks

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's 18-year-old Nima Rinji Sherpa has become the youngest climber ever to scale each of the 14 tallest mountains (over 8,000 meters) in the world with his successful summit of Mt Shishapangma in China. Nima and his partner Pasang Nurbu Sherpa reached the summit of the Shishapangma, which stands at 8,027 meters above sea level, shortly after 6:00am (China Standard Time), which is 3:30am in IST, on Wednesday, the youngest announced on his Instagram page. "Today, as I stand atop my 14th 8000-meter peak, I dedicate this world record to my project, #SherpaPower," he posted. "This summit is not just the culmination of my personal journey, but a tribute to every Sherpa who has ever dared to dream beyond the

traditional boundaries set for us. Mountaineering is more than labor; it is a testament to our strength, resilience, and passion. Nima said he wants to show the younger generation of Sherpas that they can rise above the "stereotype of being only support climbers." "We are not just guides; we are trailblazers. Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, the power in our heritage, and the limitless possibilities in our future," he said. Hailing from a family of mountaineers, Nima began his quest to scale each of the 14 tallest peaks in the world at the age of 16 and 162 days when he reached the top of Mt Manaslu (8163m) in September 2022. It was his passion for photography of the mountains that brought Nima into climbing but it soon turned out to be a passion for him to tell the



story of the Sherpa community. "Slowly, I realised, the Sherpas, my community, we have always been in the shadows and all the international athletes that you see, no one is from Sherpa community (in the front), but we are always the ones backing them up," he told PTI in an interview in May this year.

"We're always carrying their equipment, carrying their food, the load, fixing the ropes, looking after the weather condition, looking after their safety, looking for the rescue things." "All those things are being looked after by us, but our names are always somewhere down the line. That's when I decided (that) I want to climb more for this, for my community more, rather than for myself," said Nima, who prefers to go without oxygen support for the first 7,000 metres. Perhaps the biggest achievement for the young mountaineer came when he scaled Mt Everest (8848.86m) and Mt Lhotse (8516) in a span of a mere 10 hours when he was a little over 17 years, in May 2023. Like he did when he scaled Mt Manaslu, Nima became the youngest to climb the Nanga Parbat (8125m) in June 2023.

In his bid to become the youngest ever, Nima went on to climb Mt Gasherbrum I (8068m), Mt Gasherbrum II (8035m), Mt Broad Peak (8047m) and Mt K2 (8,611m) in July 2023 while he reached the peak of Mt Cho-Oyu (8188m) in October 2023. Nima had a successful year 2023 scaling the Mt Dhaulagiri (8167m) in September but took a break after four climbers died an avalanche at Shishapangma. "One of them was very close to me, we had climbed five mountains together in Pakistan. He was like a hero to me and a very strong Sherpa. But to know that he got caught in the avalanche and passed away, that was very tough for me," he said. Nima returned to scaling the peaks earlier this year reaching the top of Mt Annapurna I (8091m) in April and the top of Mt Makalu (8485m) in May 4.

Lakshya Sen enters second round of Arctic Open after opponent concedes match

PTI ■ VANTAA (FINLAND)

India's star shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles round of 16 at the Arctic Open Super 500 tournament after his opponent Rasmus Gemke withdrew from the opening round match here on Wednesday. Sen, who lost out on a maiden Olympic medal in Paris after defeat in the bronze medal play-off contest, will be up against the winner between seventh seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei and qualifier Arnaud Merkle of France in the next round. Qualifier Kiran George is the only other Indian in action on Wednesday. He will take on Tzu Wei Wang of Chinese Taipei later in the day. Earlier on Tuesday, rising Indian shuttler



Malvika Bansod continued her impressive form this year, pulling off a stunning upset against world No 23 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei to advance to the women's singles pre-quarterfinals. The 23-year-old southpaw, who clinched

her first title in over two years at the Azerbaijan International in February, showed her resilience in a hard-fought match, winning 21-19, 24-22 in 57 minutes. However, the challenge will intensify in the next round as the Nagpur shuttler prepares to face a former world champion in Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand in the second round. Another promising Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda defeated Brazil's Juliana Viana Viera 21-16, 23-25, 21-17 to set up an encounter against Michelle Li of Canada. Rising Aakarshi Kashyap had also progressed to the round of 16 on Tuesday night, beating Germany's Yvonne Li 21-19, 21-14. She will be next to be up against second seed Yue Han of China.



Kush Maini eyes for F1

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

Indian racer Kush Maini, a rising talent in the motorsport world, continues to make headlines with his impressive performances in the 2024 FIA Formula 2 Championship. Driving for Campos Racing, Maini has shown remarkable consistency throughout the season, cementing his place as a strong contender in the highly competitive racing series. In an event IAMGAME CONCLAVE 2024, Maini shared the future of Motorsports in India what challenges one can face if anyone wants to pursue a career in Motorsports talking about himself he shared "he was 12 when he left the country to pursue his career in Motorsports World and his family was supportive enough to make his dreams come true." Currently He is contesting the competition in F2 and a member of the Alpine Academy and also prominent as a reserve driver for Mahindra Racing in Formula E. He started his season off by

getting a pole position and qualifying in third place in Bahrain. In a conversation with Maini on asking about preparation before the racing event maini shared about tackling the climate when it comes it hot race it requires cardio, lot of cycling, sauna, and do neck flexion and extension to counter the G-Force, Personal trainers are there to update the daily training patterns and look after the racers physical condition events after events. Talking about F2 to F1 future Maini stated He'll be in England next week to practicing in F1 simulator hopefully in some way we'll be able to see him in F1 grand prix not on grid but in some way, talks are going well let's see what's going to happen. Kush Maini's journey continues to inspire aspiring racers in India, and his ongoing success in Formula 2 marks him as a driver to watch in the coming years. With dedication and consistent performances, he is well on his way to carving out a place for himself in the upper echelons of motorsport.

Surprised at your decision to retire: Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya writes to Karmakar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday wrote to Dipa Karmakar conveying his surprise at her decision to retire, a couple of days after the trailblazing Indian gymnast called time on her career. The 31-year-old Karmakar, who became the first Indian woman gymnast to represent the country at the Games in the 2016 Rio Olympics and finished fourth, announced her retirement on Monday. "I got to know about your retirement from gymnastics. While your decision surprised me, I have full faith that you have taken this decision keeping in mind your priorities in life and the experiences that you have had. I completely respect your decision," Mandaviya wrote in a letter to Karmakar. "Your journey in gymnastics, which began at the age of six, has been inspirational. You have scaled the highs in the sport and made the country proud despite facing so many difficulties." "Being awarded with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel



Ratna Award and the Padma Shri is the indication of your unique contribution," he added. Mandaviya said the whole country is proud of Karmakar, who routinely performed the highly-difficult Prodnova vault. "You added a new chapter in Indian gymnastics by

participating in the Olympics, which was not only the outcome of our hard work but it is a great matter of pride for the entire country," he added. Mandaviya said Karmakar's journey, who missed a medal at the Rio Games by 0.15 points, has inspired many young girls in the country.

"Your achievements have not only inspired those who love sports, but especially our daughters, who have got the strength to fulfill their dreams," said the union minister, hoping that Karmakar would be available to share her knowledge with the young athletes sometime in the future.

HI ropes in PFC as title sponsor for India versus Germany bilateral series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Wednesday roped in Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a state-owned company that provides financial assistance to India's power sector, as the title sponsor for the upcoming two-match bilateral series against Germany on October 23 and 24 in New Delhi. This series marks the return of men's international hockey to the national capital after a decade. The last international match played at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium was the Hero Hockey World League Final - men's round 4, back in January 2014. Under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, PFC, a public sector undertaking, plays a crucial role in driving growth in the energy sector. The two matches will be free for spectators and a free digital ticketing system will be introduced. Fans will need to visit the official ticketing link and register their details to receive a virtual ticket for

accessing the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. HI president Dilip Tirkey said, "We are delighted to welcome Power Finance Corporation (PFC) as the title sponsor for the highly-anticipated PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024." "This series, being played in New Delhi after a decade, is a significant milestone, not just for the city but for Hockey India as we promote the sport across the country. With the support of PFC, we look forward to creating a thrilling atmosphere at the iconic Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium." HI secretary general Bhola Nath Singh added, "We are thrilled to have one of the leading state-owned companies, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), as the title sponsor for the PFC India vs Germany bilateral hockey series 2024." "Their support will strengthen Hockey India's vision to grow hockey's presence in India. With PFC, we look forward to providing a top-notch experience for all hockey fans."

ROOT SURPASSES COOK AS LEADING ENGLAND RUN-SCORER IN TEST CRICKET

AP ■ MULTAN (PAKISTAN)
 With an exquisite straight drive for four, Joe Root took another of Alastair Cook's records by becoming England's highest run-scorer in test cricket. Root surpassed the retired Cook's total of 12,472 runs by reaching 71 during England's first innings on Day 3 of the first test against Pakistan on Wednesday. The 33-year-old Root moved to fifth place on the all-time list of test run-scorers, behind India's Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Australia's Ricky Ponting (13,378), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (13,289) and India's Rahul Dravid (13,288). All four above Root are retired and within reach of a batter who said ahead of the tour to Pakistan that he had plenty left in the tank. "The only reason it (Cook's record) is on my mind is because people keep asking me about it, to be honest," Root said. "I see myself playing test cricket for a lot longer. It's not

like I'm going to get to a certain mark or a number and say, 'Right, I'm done now.' I just want to keep enjoying the game, keep playing." Root, who is technically excellent and owns pretty much all the shots, overtook Cook's record of 33 test centuries by an England batter last month when he made hundreds in both innings against Sri Lanka at Lord's. Ben Stokes, the England test captain who is sitting out the first match of the series because of injury, praised Root's character and achievement in a video released by the England and Wales Cricket Board. "The selflessness that he has is an incredible attribute for him," Stokes said. "He always puts the team first, and the fact that he's got so many runs is just a bonus for us. He's an incredible player. It's going to take a long, long time for someone to come in and break that record. Just a great bloke. And an unbelievable feat to score that many runs. "But the non-selfishness that

HIS NEXT BIG TARGET IS TENDULKAR



he possesses is one thing I think sets him above or sets him apart from anybody else who is going to play for England for a long time." Root waved to his teammates soon after reaching the milestone before he raised his bat in acknowledgement. He shook hands with Stokes and bowling mentor James Anderson as he walked off the field at the lunch break, with a 35th test century - and a first in Pakistan - in his sights. Root is playing in his 147th test and came into the Pakistan series averaging more than 50, whereas Cook made 161 test appearances and batted in 291 innings, averaging 45.35. They are England's third and fourth most-capped players, behind now-retired fast bowlers Anderson and Stuart Broad. Root has more runs against India than any other opposition - 2,846 in 30 tests. Next is Australia, against whom he has 2,428 in 34 tests, while his best average is against Sri Lanka at 62.54. Root was England captain from 2017-22. He averaged 52.80 before the captaincy, 46.45 during it, and he is back to his prior level since standing down. The most prolific year of his test career was in 2021, when he scored 1,708 runs. He has passed 1,000 runs in a year five times. He has settled at No. 4 in England's batting order and demonstrated during the recent summer tests against the West Indies and Sri Lanka that he has slightly reined in the bold and occasionally reckless approach he and his England teammates adopted early in the so-called "Bazball" era under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes. Those risky ramp shots are mostly gone — though he still got himself out attempting one against the Sri Lankans at Lord's — and he is harder to dismiss for it. Root's next big target is displacing Tendulkar — the "Little Master" — atop the all-time list and, injury permitting, he has a good chance of doing so.



NZ batter Williamson to miss initial part of Test series against India

PTI ■ AUCKLAND
 Senior batter Kane Williamson is set to miss the initial part of the upcoming three-Test series in India starting on October 16 due to groin strain, with New Zealand naming Mark Chapman as his cover in the 17-man squad here on Wednesday. Williamson, who is dealing with a groin strain, will delay his departure to India where New Zealand will play three Tests at Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. While senior batting all-rounder Michael Bracewell has been roped in only for the first Test in Bengaluru, spinner Ish Sodhi will be available only for the second and third Tests. Tom Latham will be leading the Kiwis after Tim Southee stepped aside from the leadership role a few days ago. "Williamson experienced groin discomfort during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle and will require a period of rehabilitation before joining the Blackcaps Test squad in India," New Zealand

Cricket said on their website. New Zealand selector Sam Wells said the decision to delay Williamson's departure to India was to give the former skipper more time to rest. "The advice we've received is that the best course of action is for Kane to rest and rehabilitate now rather than risk aggravating the injury," said Wells. "We're hopeful that if the rehabilitation goes to plan Kane will be available for the latter part of the tour. While it's obviously disappointing to not have Kane available from the start of the tour, it provides an opportunity for someone else to play a role in an important series," he added. Chapman averages above 42 in first-class cricket in 44 matches but is yet to make his Test debut. "We believe Mark (Chapman) is one of our best players of spin and has a proven track-record in the sub-continent," said Wells. "Mark has displayed an ability to play spin proactively in the international arena, and

combined with his excellent first-class record, we see him as someone who can succeed in the type of conditions we expect to encounter in India," he added. Bracewell will return home after the first Test for the birth of his second child and will be replaced by Sodhi. While the opening Test will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium from October 16-20, the second will be held at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Gahunje, Pune from October 24-28. The third and final Test will be held at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai from November 1-5. **New Zealand squad for Test series in India:** Tom Latham (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Michael Bracewell (1st Test only), Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi (2nd & 3rd Test only), Tim Southee, Kane Williamson, Will Young.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
 Two-time Olympic gold-winning American discus thrower Valerie Allman was on Wednesday named the international event ambassador of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon to be held here on October 20. Allman threw 69.50 meters in the Paris Games this year to set a new American record and win the gold medal. In the previous Tokyo Games, she had finished at the top of the podium with a throw of 68.98 meters. Her feat ended USA's wait for a gold in discus throw which they had last won in 2008. Allman, whose personal best is of 71.46 meters, is also a two-

Valerie Allman named Delhi Half Marathon's international event ambassador

time World Championship medallist, clinching the silver in 2023 and a bronze in 2022. "The start line is not just a race; it's a celebration of camaraderie, determination, and resilience, and a showcase of our ability to push limits and achieve new personal milestones," she said in a release issued by the organisers. Paris Olympic 10,000m champion Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei and Kenya's former world record holder Peres Jepchirchir will headline



a strong elite field in the men's and women's events of the Delhi Half Marathon, which is into its 19th year. Cheptegei is the reigning world record holder in 5000m and 10,000m events. He also holds the world's best time over the 15km distance. A three-time world champion in 10,000m, he made his international debut in India at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2014, finishing second. The event carries a prize purse of USD 260,000.

Tennis star France's Tiafoe aims tirade of expletives at umpire after loss at Shanghai Masters

AP ■ SHANGHAI
 US Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe aimed a torrent of expletives at the chair umpire after losing a match at the Shanghai Masters. Tiafoe targeted umpire Jimmy Pinoargote with about 10 expletives in a minute-long tirade after his 5-7 7-5 7-6(5) loss against 61st-ranked Roman Safiullin in a third-round match. The ATP rule book calls for fines of \$60,000 at Masters 1000 tournaments. A tour spokesman said no decision has yet been made on the matter. The 17th-ranked Tiafoe was angered by being docked his first serve for a time violation at 5-5 in the decisive tiebreaker. Pinoargote judged that Tiafoe was not making a genuine attempt to serve when he tossed the ball in the air at the baseline. Tiafoe at first protested before continuing to play. Two points later, the match was over and he congratulated Safiullin at the net before turning toward the umpire's chair and shouting the first expletives. Tiafoe passed to the other side of the net toward his chair and shouted that the umpire had messed up the match. The 26-year-old American said he had been battling on court for three hours for his livelihood, peppering his words with more expletives. Before leaving the court, Tiafoe added: "Never again." Tiafoe could face fines for verbal abuse of an official and for using obscenities. The tournament can take away some of his prize



money, and the case could also be sent to the ATP Member Fines Committee for further investigation. Safiullin advanced to face Novak Djokovic in the round of 16. Tiafoe had a stellar run of form in the summer reaching the final of the Cincinnati Open, where he lost to Jannick Sinner, then reaching the semifinals at the US Open where he lost in five sets to fellow American Taylor Fritz.

Arshdeep Singh enters top 10 among bowlers in ICC T20I rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI
 Riding on a string of impressive performances, Indian seamer Arshdeep Singh entered the top 10 among bowlers and was placed eighth in the ICC T20I rankings issued here on Wednesday. The left-arm seamer, who returned 3/14 in the opening T20I against Bangladesh in Gwalior last Sunday, jumped eight spots with 642 rating points to reach the eighth position. He is the only Indian bowler in the top 10. England's Adil Rashid continues as the top-ranked bowler in the shortest format followed by Akeal Hossain of the West Indies and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan at the second and third spots respectively. "Arshdeep is also a big winner in the latest rankings update, with the left-arm pacer rising eight places to equal eighth on the updated list for T20I bowlers and reaching a new career-high rating following his three-wicket haul against Bangladesh," the ICC said on its website. Hardik Pandya, who blasted a 16-ball 39 with five fours and two sixes, moved up seven



places to reach the 60th spot among batters. The ace Indian all-rounder also returned 4-0-26-1 and moved to the third spot as he rose four positions in the list of top all-rounders, which is headed by England's Liam Livingstone with Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee at the second position. Yashvir Jaiswal, who is not a part of the India squad for the three T20Is against Bangladesh, dropped one position to fifth and was leapfrogged by Pakistan's Babar Azam. Washington Sundar also improved his ranking as he got to 35th among T20I bowlers, moving up four positions.

Ishan Kishan returns as Jharkhand captain after controversial pullout last season

PTI ■ RANCHI
 India batter Ishan Kishan on Wednesday returned to the Jharkhand Ranji team as its captain, following his controversial pullout last season that led to his exclusion from the BCCI central contract. The explosive left-hander, who became a regular in India's white-ball squad after Rishabh Pant's road accident in December 2022, took a break during India's tour of South Africa last year. Post break, he did not participate in any official BCCI matches, which raised a few eyebrows as the board stressed on players prioritising domestic cricket when not on national duty. The 26-year-old resurfaced this February, playing in the privately organised DY Patil T20 Cup ahead of the IPL and sparking a debate over balance between franchise cricket and state commitments.



His absence from domestic cricket during this period contributed to his omission from the BCCI's 2023-24 central contracts. However, Kishan has since worked his way back into the BCCI's good books with strong performances in domestic

cricket, including a century for India C on his return in the Duleep Trophy last month. He also represented the Rest of India in the Irani Cup, scoring 38 in his only innings. Now, as captain of Jharkhand's 16-member squad, Kishan is set to lead a young squad with

finished third from the bottom in Group A, winning two, losing two, and drawing three of their seven matches. "Ishan is an experienced player and he has international experience," chairman of Jharkhand's selection committee Subroto Das was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "We have picked a very young team. Saurabh Tiwary, Shahbaz Nadeem and Varun Aaron had all retired after last season so we had to rethink our strategy. Ishan is capable of leading this young side and we're confident of doing well this Ranji season." **SQUAD:** Ishan Kishan (c), Virat Singh (vc), Kumar Kushagra (wk), Nazim Siddique, Aryaman Sen, Sharandeep Singh, Kumar Suraj, Anukul Roy, Utkarsh Singh, Supriyo Chakraborty, Saurabh Shekhar, Vikas Kumar, Vivekanand Tiwary, Manishi, Ravi Kumar Yadav and Raunak Kumar.



Anmoljeet takes 9 on 'debut' as India U19 complete clean sweep vs Australia

PTI ■ CHENNAI
 Debutant off-spinner Anmoljeet Singh and leg-spinner Mohamed Enaan picked 16 out of 20 Australian wickets as India U-19 comfortably won by an innings and 120 runs in the second Youth Test to complete a 2-0 series sweep here on Wednesday. Australia colts lost as many as 17 wickets on the third day after commencing on their overnight score of 142 for 3 in reply to India's massive first-innings total of 492. The visitors were all out for 277

in their first essay with skipper Oliver Peake (117 off 143 balls) and keeper Alex Lee Young (66) adding 166 for the fourth wicket. After Lee Young was dismissed, the last six wickets fell for 59 runs. Kerala boy Enaan (4/60 in 22.2 overs), who had once attended Saqlain Mushtaq's clinic in Dubai and Ludhiana's Anmoljeet (4/72 in 24 overs), who hero worships Harbhajan Singh, were the wreckers-in-chief. In four-day cricket, the follow-on can be enforced if the team batting second is trailing by

more than 150 runs. India U-19 had a lead of 115 runs. After being enforced to follow-on, Anmoljeet, who had taken an astounding 65 wickets in the Vijay Merchant (U-16) Trophy in the 2023 season, came back to get 5 for 32 in 13.3 overs as Australia were skittled out for 95 in 31.3 overs. Eight Aussie players failed to reach double digits and four of them didn't bother to trouble the scorers. While Anmoljeet had match figures of 9/104, Enaan wasn't left far behind with 7/97 to show for his efforts.