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Assembly Elections 2024

FLYING SQUAD AND CHECKNAKA TEAMS RECEIVE CRUCIAL TRAINING

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR



In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Election 2024, a comprehensive training program was organized for the Flying Squad, Checknaka Team, and Video Viewing Team (VVT) as per the directives of District Election Officer Ananya Mittal. The session, aimed at equipping the teams with the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure a smooth electoral process, was held at the district headquarters.

The training session featured key addresses from PD ITDA Deepankar Chaudhary and ADM Law and Order Aniket Sachan, who provided vital guidelines to the

trainees. They emphasized the importance of conducting the elections in a clean, fair, and fear-free environment. Deputy Election Officer Mrs. Priyanka Singh was also in attendance to support the ini-

tiative. During the training, the Flying Squad Team (FST) received detailed instructions on monitoring and controlling expenditures under the Election Expenditure

Account Control. The team was also briefed on the Model Code of Conduct, ensuring that all electoral practices adhere to established regulations. Additionally, the use of the C Vigil App was highlighted as a critical tool for reporting and addressing electoral malpractices.

The Checknaka Team was trained to closely monitor cash transactions during the election period, with a focus on identifying and addressing large amounts of cash that could indicate illegal activities. They also received guidance on recognizing anti-social elements carrying illegal weapons, along with protocols for taking appropriate action during checkpoints.

Furthermore, the VVT was briefed on their responsibilities, with specific guidelines outlined for the successful execution of their election-related tasks. The training aimed to ensure that all teams are fully prepared to uphold the integrity of the electoral process and maintain law and order during the elections.

With these measures in place, the district administration is committed to facilitating a transparent and peaceful electoral experience for all citizens. The collaboration and dedication of the various teams involved will be crucial in achieving this goal as the Assembly Elections draw near.

Navratri Beats 2024: Celebrating unity in diversity

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR



XITE Gambaria hosted a vibrant and joyous Navratri Beats celebration on 5th October 2024, just before the commencement of the Puja holidays. The event, organized in collaboration with LIVE PUKKA Events, was a night filled with Garba, Dandiya, music, and delicious food, bringing together students and faculty to celebrate the festive spirit.

The evening was led by skilled Garba and Dandiya instructors, ZIN Usha Gope and ZIN Deepshikha, who energized the crowd with their captivating performances and guidance. The lively beats of the DJ kept everyone on their feet, ensuring the celebration was nothing short of spectacular.

The event was graced by the presence of Dr. (Fr.) E. A.

Francis, SJ and Dr. (Fr.) Mukti Clarence, SJ, who added their blessings to the celebration. The entire event was carefully planned and executed by Ashish Singh from the Branding & Communication Department, along with a dedicated team of student organizers, making it a seamless and unforgettable experience.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Riya Agarwal, while Riya Kumari anchored the

event with grace and enthusiasm. The event showcased unity in diversity, emphasizing respect for all religions and communities, truly representing the spirit of Xaviers. With the success of Navratri Beats, XITE has once again demonstrated its commitment to celebrating diverse cultures while promoting harmony and togetherness. The event marked the start of the Puja holidays on a high note, leaving everyone in high spirits.

DIC BSL B.K. Tiwari inspires with powerful address at PAS Bokaro's Annual Cultural Program



R SHARMA : BOKARO

The much-anticipated annual cultural program of Pentecostal Assembly School (PAS) in Bokaro captivated audiences with a vibrant showcase of student talent and a tribute to India's diverse cultural heritage. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Birendra Kumar Tiwari, Director-In-Charge of Bokaro Steel Plant, and Anita Tiwari, President of Mahila Samiti, Bokaro, as Guest of Honour.

The program commenced with a heartfelt prayer led by the school's founders, Dr. D.N. Prasad and Rita Prasad, followed by a warm welcome from Principal Dr. Karuna Prasad. The evening embraced the theme "Dekho Apna Desh," highlighting the importance of preserving India's vast and colorful traditions.

In his keynote address, DIC Tiwari captivated the audience with his powerful message, urging students to "dream with open eyes" and view failure as a key to success. He emphasized the importance of perseverance, hard work, and the avoidance of shortcuts.

Quoting former President Dr. Abdul Kalam, he reinforced the idea that true dreams are those which don't let you sleep. Anita Tiwari also spoke on the significance of such community events, which foster unity and nurture the talents of young minds.

A total of 157 students from Classes VI to XII delivered breathtaking performances, starting with a melodious Swagat Geet and a graceful welcome dance. The students exhibited a dazzling array of folk dances from across India, including Bihu from Assam, Ghoomar from Rajasthan, and Jharkhandi, all celebrating the country's cultural richness. Laughter echoed through the hall during the Hindi skit Chikitsa ka Chakkar, while the award-winning patriotic dance Akhand Bharat ignited a sense of national pride.

An unexpected challenge arose during the program when one side of the stage curtain got stuck. However, the quick action and teamwork of the ground staff led by Admin. Daniel Prasad ensured the performance continued seamlessly, exemplifying the event's theme of resilience and collaboration.

Along with the cultural showcase, academic excellence was honored. Shweta Kumar, Senior Secondary Section In-Charge, received the prestigious Guru Vashishta Best Teacher Award 2024 for her exceptional contribution to education. Forty students were awarded star medals for their stellar performance in the 2023-24 CBSE exams, while students from Grades 6 to 11 were recognized for their academic achievements.

The grand finale, a vibrant fusion of dance forms from various states, brought the evening to a spectacular close, celebrating the unity in diversity that defines India. The event concluded with the National Anthem, leaving everyone in attendance with a profound sense of pride and togetherness.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY - SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG TRIBALS: A CAUSE OF SUB-SPECIATION OF HOMO SAPIENS



BY DR SUBHAS SOREN

The concept of carrying capacity refers to the maximum population size that a given environment can sustain, based on available resources such as food, water, and habitat. The Earth's human carrying capacity has been widely debated, with estimates ranging from 2 billion to 40 billion people, depending on lifestyle and resource consumption. Currently, the global population is over 8 billion, which raises concerns about whether we are nearing or exceeding the Earth's limits. Historical estimates, such as Antony van Leeuwenhoek's 13.4 billion in 1679, highlight the complexity of determining a definitive figure, with modern estimates converging around 8 billion.

Human carrying capacity is influenced by technology and lifestyle. A more resource-intensive lifestyle reduces the Earth's carrying capacity, while a sustainable way of living can support a larger population. Once the population exceeds the Earth's carrying capacity, the first to suffer are typically the most vulnerable communities. In this context, addiction can be seen as one of nature's mechanisms to limit population growth, along with disease, famine, and other natural challenges.

Theories of population growth, like those proposed by Thomas Malthus and Pierre Verhulst, are crucial to understanding human expansion. Malthus suggested that populations grow exponentially when resources are abundant, but once resources become limited, population growth slows in a logistic manner, as Verhulst argued. Today, while the global population continues to grow, the rate has slowed from 2% in the 1960s to 0.87% in 2024. However, for true sustainability, societies must control birth rates, or nature will impose restrictions through disease, wars, or other crises.

The increase in prevalence of the addiction and non-communicable diseases mainly depends on the moral development or ethical development of human beings. If the interactions of people with environment remain ethical, the human population will have improved quality of life and the prevalence of addiction and non-communicable diseases will decrease. Other-wise, these problems will increase and tend to divide the human population into two categories (i) one who are intelligent and adopt the fine skills for survival and (ii) other who will continuously lose the skills and eventually become socially and reproductively unfit to be selected by the nature.

The second group includes tribals, undernourished poor people and people who are undisciplined and do not respect the code of conduct of society. The second group will accumulate the maladaptive behaviours including behaviours related addiction and over the generations, cladogenesis will result in where new species of Homo sapiens

appears which cease to interbreed with first group. The non-interbreeding may be due to social reason, i.e., the members of second group may be rejected for marriage, and may be due to infertility induced by substance use/alcohol use. The second group will be weaker enough to compete with the first group and prone to extinct. The extinction of second group is the mechanism of decreasing the population on the earth.

Can we imagine the role of addiction in sub-speciation of second group? In addition to alcohol, other substance like ganja/bhang, brown sugar, dandrines/whiteners, are on rise to affect the mass of the Jharkhand. Many school children and college students with problems of addiction who are brought to RINPAS, Kanke, Ranchi for detoxification and treatment. The children or students with addiction reveal that the illicit drugs like brown sugar, cocaine etc, are very easily available at every corner of Ranchi. There have been the patients of addiction from renowned engineering colleges/universities who report the stress as reason for addiction. Initially they started substances to increase efficiency of study and later on they became stress-inducing substances if the students abstain from the substances. Most of the addicts prefer taking substance in group. Most of the tribal addicts were unaware of the negative consequences of the substances. Their family members do not have idea about how could have been prevented their children from being addicted / dependent on the substance.

National Mental Health Survey, 2015-16 reports that the substance use disorders/addictions are affecting 22.4 % population in India. The detrimental effects of addiction may be on the victims of the addiction, their family, the societies where they live in, and on the government health care system. Medical and psychiatric problems, financial loss, family bankruptcy, loss of the peace in the family, stressed relationship between family and neighbours, divorce/separation of spouses, school/college drop-out, unemployment and increasing crime rates are negative consequences of addiction.

Why are the tribal communities prone to addiction? A tribal community has same composition of its members as the non-tribal communities do, so proportion of teenage members is also same. Most of the people with addiction coming to RINPAS, OPD, Kanke, Ranchi reveal that they start taking substance usually alcohol at their teens when they are in group. The tribals have inherent traits of taking decision in group. They enjoy the group activities like hunting and working in group. This trait also encourages the tribal youths not to resist the decision of taking alcohol imposed on him by their peer group. Tribal teens have similar onset of problems but they are more exposed to easy availability of substances, cultural sanction of substance use and peer pressure for substance use. Such predisposition has been augmented by the improved purchasing power due to recent liberalization and globalization. Food security provided by the government has further increased the tribal addicts to maintain and continue their drinking habit. It was the time 40 years back, in a typical tribal village, when a tribal in fact would start the drinking in his teenage but he did not have the money to continue his drinking. Thus, his habit was self-limiting. As a result, only few people were dependent on alcohol. Now, the number of tribal people, who continue the use of alcohol as well as other substances like ganja, has increased.

The tribal youths have yet not realized the positive impacts of lib-

eralization and globalization. The liberalization and globalization have increased temporarily the purchasing power of tribal people whose lands have been acquired by the companies and who have been compensated with money and colonies. The tribals who live in such colonies report that the grand-fathers who consented for land acquisition by companies could not save money and their children remained unskilled, uneducated and unfit to be accommodated in today's globalized society. The conditions of grand-sons have further deteriorated. Now they are marginalized and live in a ghettoized society where all kinds of stress compel them to addiction. The addiction maintains vicious cycle of degradation of their behaviors.

Similar phenomenon takes place in the villages around the townships of Jharkhand. Jharkhand is rich in minerals which attracts the businessmen from other part of the countries. The value of land of such villages has gone up and most of the lands belong to tribal people. The tribal people sell lands and they are not able to utilize the money they get in lieu of their lands. This is my personal observation about the villages around Dumka, the second capital of Jharkhand. In these villages, very few males live beyond the age of 40 years. It is comparable to Hazdabe tribe of African countries whose life expectancy at birth is 31.9 years. This is more or less story of the villages around all small and large town of Jharkhand.

Over past 30 years, behaviours of teenage tribals of Jharkhand have changed a lot. Tribal adolescents were shy but creative by nature; they were less argumentative; they would not have their own thesis; they were hesitant in expressing their views in public. Whatever be the reasons, be it genetic, educational, economic or social; some changes have appeared in their behaviours. Now they are bold; they are not harm avoidant; they experiment with new substances other than alcohol. Their objects of abuse have extended.

Can we imagine how alcohol is damaging our generation from their conception in womb? Most of tribal people live in rural areas. National Family and Health Survey-5 reveal that 7.4 % rural women in Jharkhand consume alcohol which is more than national percentage (1.2%) of rural women. 38.7 % rural men in Jharkhand consume alcohol which is more than percentage (19.9%) of rural men of India. It is obvious that tribal men and women are indulged in alcohol abuse in Jharkhand. It has also been reported in reputed journals that most of the women, who use alcohol before pregnancy, are likely to use alcohol during pregnancy. The detrimental effect of alcohol to which tribal babies is exposed while they are growing in womb. An embryo needs repairing and remodeling (differentiation) while developing into a fetus/baby. The alcohol affects SHH gene that is responsible for repair and development of fetus. The deficiency of vitamins is also common in alcohol addicts which adversely affects the development of fetus. As a result of addiction, the fetus which develops with anomaly, may get aborted or may survive till delivery. In case, the fetus is delivered live, it may have many physical and mental deficits which make him/her as adult weak enough to withstand the health problems, social challenges and environmental adversities. Alcohol also affects sperm count and sperm motility adversely in males.

Is there any adequate mechanism in place in Jharkhand to prevent a certain community from addiction? The government programs and policies are based on two principles: (i) Complete abstinence

e.g., Dry state like Bihar (ii) Harm reduction/control drinking e.g., Jharkhand. There are rules for illicit drugs which government narcotic department which is trying unsuccessfully to restrict the supply. It also has few de-addiction centers where the persons with addiction are detoxified and counselled for relapse prevention.

Both approaches have failed. The first approach would have been successful to some extent if they were implemented simultaneously in all states /UTs. The successful implementation of second approach depends on level of morale of the government officials, mental health professionals, availability of substances, non-availability of alternative recreational facilities and the positive and active participation of general population. How is the dry state exploited by general population, officials, or other stake-holders? My village with 100 households is located near the border of Bihar, a dry state. Before Bihar was declared a dry state, my village has only 3-5 families who were engaged in distillation of mahua. In 2016, Bihar has banned sale and consumption. Since 2016, my village alone has 10-15 families who distil mahua and they supply mahua 70-90 liters daily to border of Bihar. Administration of border of Bihar is very active in supporting the people involved in such supply.

Do we realize the individual's wellbeing totally depends on his adaptation to the environment? Institutions like state or country are established to regulate the behaviors of its citizens but have failed to regulate especially the behavior related to substance or alcohol intake. This is because such behaviors related to alcohol are intimately related to positive emotion. Human being has a tendency not to forget things or objects which are emotionally related and he cries or craves for them whenever the objects get away from him. So, one should realize that the environment i.e., things or people around, would not change much, it is you who could bring about change in your behavior. The programs and policies regarding control of substance abuse are kind of guidelines that you can follow to improve yourself. They would not force you to improve your behavior. Your interactions with people around or things like alcohol, around will make you miserable or happy.

In conclusion, addiction seems to divide the population in two groups: (i) One group of people who abuse substances who would not realize and acknowledge that substance use is a problem. They would adopt the culture of substance use. Over the generations, they use substance and damage their sperm and ovum and zygote (fetus) in the uterus/womb. Their offspring would receive inadequate genetic heritage to withstand the challenges posed by increasing population and globalization. They would lose the intra-species competition and eventually get extinct. This group seems to include the tribals and poor people. (ii) Another group would sense the consequences related to substance abuse. They would avoid such bad substances and adopt good life style and food habit. Thus, not only they preserve their genetic heritage but they also would improve their genetic material. Their children would be more competitive than that of the first group. They would give moral teachings to their children. Their children will be more confident to face the challenges in their life. They would have better social fitness and reproductive fitness to be selected by nature.

THE WRITER IS ADDITIONAL PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, RINPAS, KANKE, RANCHI, JHARKHAND.

Vedanta ESL Steel Ltd honored with 9 Awards at QCFI's 32nd Convention

PNS : BOKARO

Vedanta ESL Steel Limited showcased its excellence in quality initiatives by winning 7 Par-Excellence and 2 Excellence Awards at the 32nd Chapter Convention on Quality Concepts 2024 (CCQC), organized by the Bokaro Chapter of the Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI). The company made a strong impression with all 9 of its entries receiving awards, including a debut Par-Excellence in the Quality Circle Forum category.

The two-day event, held at the Bokaro Club and Bokaro Steel Plant's Learning & Development Centre, was themed "Investing in people, Building a better future." The convention emphasized QCFI's mission of nurturing human potential through empowerment and development. The event attracted a large number of participants, including Institutional, Life, Individual, and QC members from various sectors.

Vedanta ESL's performance came amidst tough



competition, with 60 teams from leading organizations like Tata Motors, BSL, Gabriel, and ITC participating. The company's quality initiatives and innovative projects were recognized with top honors, highlighting its industry leadership. Meenakshi Sabharwal, Chief Quality & Business Excellence Officer, and A Lavanya, Head of the Central Planning Cell at ESL Steel, were invited as judges, further underscoring Vedanta ESL's prominence in the field of quality management.

Reflecting on this achievement, Sabharwal remarked, "Vedanta ESL's success at the convention is a testament to our unwavering commitment

to excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement. These awards reinforce our mission to lead through quality initiatives, aligning with our vision of becoming a global leader in the steel industry." The company's participation in CCQC 2024 was a collaborative effort, with multiple departments submitting their projects for evaluation. Under the guidance of Sabharwal and Vinay Bhushan Kumar, Head of Business Excellence, the top 9 entries were carefully selected for the convention. Special recognition was also given to Shalu Priya, Lead of Innovation, for her seamless coordination in preparing the teams for their presentations.

NTPC among the Forbes World's Best Employers 2024

PNS : RANCHI

NTPC Limited, India's largest power utility, has been recognized as one of the "World's Best Employers 2024" in the Forbes World's Best Employers 2024 List released on 8th October, 2024. NTPC is among the Top 500 companies in the world in this prestigious World ranking and is the only Indian Maharatna CPSE to figure in the list. The World's Best Employers are chosen each year (by Forbes in partnership with market research firm Statista), based on globally administered independent

surveys completed by employees in over 50 countries around the world. The top employers are identified based on over 300,000 employee evaluations. The above is a recognition of NTPC's "People before PLF (Plant Load Factor)" approach, its excellence in the development and management of its Human Resources through continuous process improvement, creating a caring, learning and engaging workplace, focusing on employee well-being and care, and creating a meaningful, collaborative employee experience by putting the

needs of employees first and adopting people practices aligned strategically to business needs. It is a celebration of NTPC's constantly evolving and holistic talent strategy and people practices that are in line with business and workforce requirements and work to create a meaningful environment that fosters business excellence. NTPC has been at the forefront of adopting and institutionalizing progressive and best HR practices in a proactive manner, which have been recognized by various prestigious forums at national and international levels.

OPINION 6
REVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY
AMIDST CALLS FOR STATEHOOD

WORLD 8
THREE SHARE NOBEL
PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY DECLINES AS RBI
CHANGES STANCE TO NEUTRAL

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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

PNS ■ 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 eyeing 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.

RBI maintains repo rate at 6.5 per cent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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.

The panel, however, unanimously decided to change the policy stance to 'neutral' - the first since June 2019 - from 'withdrawal of accommodation' amid signs of a slowing economy. Interest rates were last changed in February 2023 when they were hiked to 6.5 per cent from 6.25 per cent. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the committee changed the stance but will remain unambiguously focused on the durable alignment of inflation to target while supporting growth. Food inflation, he said, may ease in coming months, while the core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy costs, appears to have bottomed out. India's economic growth outlook remained intact, with private consumption and



investment growing in tandem. The change of stance signals a possible move to cut interest rates in forthcoming MPC meetings, the next being due in early December. The RBI will join other central banks in a policy pivot that was led by the US Federal Reserve easing rates last month. Annual retail inflation eased below the central bank's target of four per cent for a second consecutive month in September and will, as per RBI expectation, rebound again this month, largely due to base effects. The RBI kept its inflation forecast unchanged at 4.5 per cent for the 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) fiscal year. It also kept its GDP forecast unchanged at 7.2 per cent. Das said the prevailing and expected inflation-growth balance has created conditions for a shift in the monetary policy stance as there now is greater confidence on the last mile of disinflation.

Detailed story on page 10

Missing soldier's body recovered

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

While several parts of Kashmir were witnessing celebrations to mark the victory of the National Conference (NC) candidates in the recently held Assembly polls, a pall of gloom descended upon the residence of a missing soldier hailing from the Nowgam area of Anantnag. His bullet-ridden body was recovered from the forest area of Pathribal on Wednesday. The soldier went missing during a counter-terrorist operation launched in the forest area of Kokernag in Anantnag on October 8.



In a post on social media platform X, Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said, "Based on intelligence input, a joint counter-terrorist operation was launched by the Indian Army along with Jammu and Kashmir Police and other agencies in Kazwan Forest in Kokernag on October 8."

Delhi Chief Minister's bungalow awaits new occupant

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister's official bungalow, rather the lack of one at the moment, has sparked yet another verbal clash between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Delhi Chief Minister's official residence at 6 Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines is now an issue over which both parties are launching allegations and documents to support their case. In yet another round of Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vs CM,

the Chief Minister's Office on Wednesday alleged that "Delhi Chief Minister's residence was forcibly vacated at the behest of the BJP as Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who wants to allot to BJP leader. The bungalow was sealed by the Public Works Department on Wednesday," the CMO stated. The Public Works Department (PWD) said that after Arvind Kejriwal vacated the residence, the keys were supposed to be given to it, instead they were directly given to Atishi. Earlier, the CMO alleged that



India's Nitish Kumar Reddy plays a shot during the second T20 International cricket match between India and Bangladesh at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, in New Delhi, Wednesday



Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena got all the belongings of CM Atishi removed from the official residence at Flag Staff Road bungalow at the behest of the BJP as he wants to allot it to a saffron party leader. Reacting to the CMO's allegations, sources at Raj Niwas said that the bungalow was never earmarked for the official residence of the Chief Minister of Delhi. "The 'owner' of this house is the PWD. The PWD only takes possession of the house when it becomes vacant, makes its inventory and then

duly allocates it" sources said. "Former CM Arvind Kejriwal pretended to vacate the house but did not give possession of the house to the PWD. What were you hiding? This house has not been allotted to CM Atishi yet and her allotted residence is still 17 AB Mathura Road. How did the two houses get allotted? CM Atishi herself kept her belongings in that house without allotment and then removed it herself. This bungalow will be allotted to the CM immediately after duly preparing the inventory," the sources added.



In Central Delhi, traffic jams have a ripple effect

When the main roads become clogged, traffic trickles into the service lanes

A surge in heavy public movement due to the ongoing Navratri festival was supplemented by the T 20 match between India and Bangladesh at Arun Jaitley cricket stadium on Wednesday. Adding to the vehicular traffic were sport fans who trekked on foot to reach the stadium on time, as well as early bird vendors who set up small stalls before the match began. When the main roads became clogged, traffic trickled into the service lanes.

arterial roads, in most parts of the capital mostly in South, Central and East Delhi during the day. Traffic was affected during the peak hours on Rajghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Tilak Bridge, Mandi House, IP flyover crossing, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, Darya Ganj, Netaji Subhash Marg, Kashmir Gate, Asad Ali Road, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg and Shanti Van marg due to India - Bangladesh T 20 cricket match at Arun Jaitley stadium, till late on Wednesday night. In its advisory, the traffic police had asked commuters to avoid the

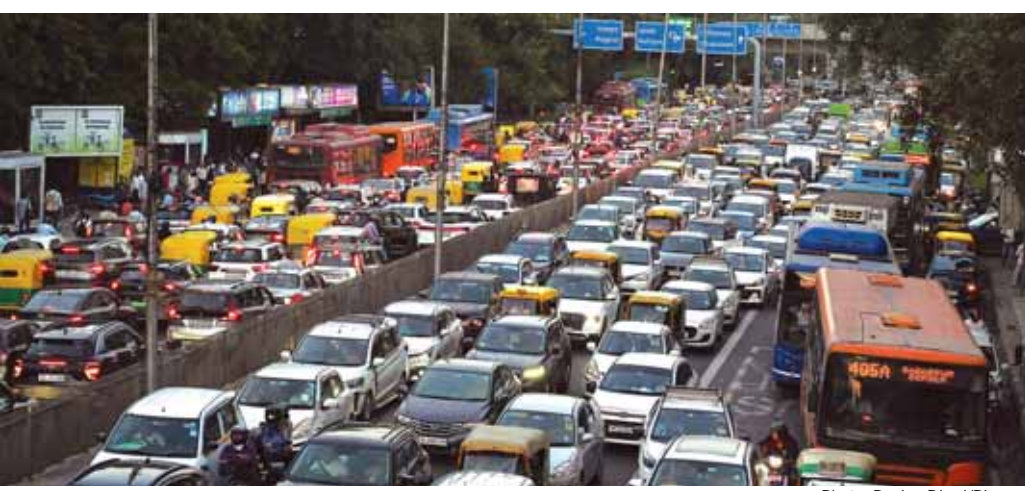


Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg from Delhi Gate to ITO Chowk and JLN Marg from Rajghat to Delhi Gate from 5 PM to 11:30 PM IST. Besides, breakdown of buses during the peak hours and constructions on roads have added to the congestion on several stretches. Repair work carried out by the Indraprastha Gas Limited on Ring Road in the carriageway from ISBT towards Hanuman Setu near Nigam Bodh Ghat also added to the commuters' woes. Meanwhile, traffic continued to be affected on Rohtak Road in the carriageway from Nangloi towards Tikri Border and vice versa due to potholes and water

logging. "Moreover, a loaded trolley has also overturned under Mundka Metro Station in the carriageway from Tikri Border to Peeragarhi. Kindly avoid Mundka and take alternate routes accordingly", traffic police posted an advisory on X. A cluster bus broke down on MB Road in the carriageway from Pul Prahladpur towards Badarpur near Railway Bridge which caused traffic snarl during the peak hours. Slow-moving traffic is also seen at other key locations, such as Mahipalpur, Vasant Kunj, Kapashera and Dhawla Kuan, due to ongoing construction.

JMM seeks ECI permission to launch 'JMM Samman Yojna'

Delegation submits memorandum to CEO against 'Go Go Didi' scheme

PNS : RANCHI

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) has formally sought permission from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to launch its flagship program, the 'JMM Samman Yojna,' ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Jharkhand. The party's initiative comes as part of its strategy to strengthen its political footing and counter the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) latest outreach program, the 'Go Go Didi' scheme.

On Wednesday, the JMM submitted a detailed memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer of Jharkhand, expressing concerns about the legality of the BJP's 'Go Go Didi' scheme. According to the

JMM, the scheme violates the ECI's directives. The party urged the Commission to investigate whether the 'Go Go Didi' scheme complies with electoral regulations. Additionally, it sought permission to proceed with its own 'JMM Samman Yojna' if the BJP's scheme is found to be lawful.

The JMM's 'Samman Yojna' proposes a direct financial transfer to women across Jharkhand. As outlined by the party, women would receive Rs 2,500 at the beginning of each month, amounting to a total annual benefit of Rs 30,000. The JMM has positioned this scheme as a means of providing financial relief and empowering women economically.

In its memorandum, the JMM

also demanded that the Chief Minister halt the enrollment process for the BJP's 'Go Go Didi' scheme, asserting that it violates electoral regulations. The party warned that if the BJP continues to register beneficiaries under the program, the JMM may adopt similar tactics to promote its own scheme in the coming days.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, in response to the issue, has directed all Deputy Commissioners in Jharkhand's districts to take strict action against individuals violating the ECI's guidelines. He also instructed them to file First Information Reports (FIRs) against anyone found to be breaching the rules. Despite these directives, BJP's



JMM General Secretary Vinod Pandey hands over a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar at the Election Commission of India office, Dhurwa in Ranchi on Wednesday. PNS

state president Babul Marandi openly challenged the CM's orders by helping women fill out forms for the 'Go Go Didi' scheme on Tuesday, escalating the political confrontation between the two parties. This clash follows the success of the 'Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Mainiya Samman Yojana,' a welfare program launched by the JMM-Congress coalition government in August. Under this scheme, over 45 lakh women in the state have already received three installments of Rs 1,000 each every month. Looking at the popularity of this initiative among women voters, the BJP promised in its election manifesto to enhance the financial benefits provided under the Mainiya

Samman Yojana. The BJP has proposed increasing the monthly amount from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,100, while also pledging to launch its own 'Go Go Didi Yojana' if it comes to power.

In a counter-move, the JMM has now proposed increasing the monthly amount even further to Rs 2,500 through its 'JMM Samman Yojna' and has sought ECI approval to distribute the benefits. The JMM has labelled the BJP's 'Go Go Didi' scheme as fraudulent, claiming it is being used to mislead voters. The party insists that if the scheme continues, it could undermine the fairness of the electoral process, and thus, it should be stopped immediately.

Marandi alleges 'scam' in withdrawal of Rs 109 crore from JUSNL account

PNS : RANCHI

BJP state president and former Chief Minister Babul Marandi today took a dig at the state government. Marandi, while putting the Chief Minister cum Energy Minister of the state in the dock, said that in the Hemant government, there has been a fake withdrawal of Rs 109 crore from the account of Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Limited (JUSNL), which is a serious economic offence.



He said that by registering a case against some officials, the state government is pretending to conduct a CID investigation in the fake withdrawal case. Marandi alleged that the credibility of the CID investigation in the Hemant government has always been under doubt and question? Is the government trying to save the big fish by conducting a CID investigation?

The BJP leader said that the state government should immediately hand over the investigation of the said case to the CBI to unearth the fraud of billions of rupees and its links with other states.

Marandi said that in the state, the corrupt people in connivance with bank employees and officials have carried out corruption in a planned manner in the electricity department on a large scale. This is not a new case in Jharkhand, but even before this, a similar scam has come to light in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. He said that in informal talks with the officials, it is being found out that government property worth more than Rs. 500 crores is likely to be embezzled by scamsters and corrupt people, which is the result of the corrupt policies and poor administration of the state government.

The BJP leader said that if

we look at the entire incident in a systematic manner, it is clear that similar scams must have happened in other departments of Jharkhand which are yet to come to light. Bank officials, employees and people from other states are also involved in this, so its investigation is not in the hands of CID or Jharkhand Police.

Marandi said that being the minister of the department, the Chief Minister cannot run away from his responsibilities. He said if the Chief Minister does not get this case investigated by the CBI immediately, then it will be clear that the government itself is trying to suppress this scam and save the culprits. He alleged that without any delay, the investigation of this case should be transferred to the CBI so that the people involved in this conspiracy along with the scamsters can be exposed.

It is also becoming clear that this is also a case of money laundering. Therefore, the Director of ED is requested to take up this matter and start investigation immediately, Marandi claimed.

Govt focus on strengthening health facilities in State

PNS : RANCHI



The state cabinet led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren has opened the government's treasury for improvement in the health sector and infrastructure. Schemes worth more than Rs 738 crore have been approved for the construction and renovation of buildings in the RIMS campus alone. Along with this, approval has also been given for the construction of modular OT in all hospitals. Modular OT will be constructed in medical colleges and other hospitals with Rs 35.69 crore.

CT scan and MRI machines will be purchased in Ranchi Sadar Hospital. A total of 81 proposals were approved in the cabinet meeting. Paying special attention to the elderly, the cabinet has also extended the scope of Indra Gandhi Pension Scheme to the elderly above 80 years of age. They will get one thousand rupees as pension every month. Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel informed the media about all the decisions.

The cabinet has also approved the estimate of Rs 303.88 crore for the construction of houses for the MLAs of Jharkhand. In the cabinet meeting, everyone unanimously agreed to this proposal. It is proposed to build these houses at Site-1 of Core Capital Area located in HEC campus.

Along with this, approval of Rs 76.35 crore has been given for construction and renovation work of new building in Government Polytechnic, Jagannathpur to develop it as a state of the art institution. Along with this, approval was given to amend the water rate with retrospective effect under the notification of the then Bihar government. The cabinet approved amendment in the implementation of Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme.

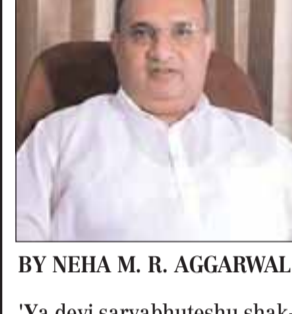
After the decision of the cabinet, now students of class 9 to 12 in government schools of Jharkhand will get a diary, on which their regular activities can be recorded. This diary will work as a bridge between teachers and parents. On the other hand, 2051 small Anganwadi centers will be converted into Saksham Anganwadi centers.

Under the Indira Gandhi Widow and Old Age Pension Scheme, the age limit has been made 80 years and under this the beneficiaries will get one thousand rupees every month. The cabinet has also approved the construction of a cultural center in Garhwa. The dependents of the policemen killed in Naxalite violence in the state will get jobs on compassionate grounds. The cabinet has decided to give 1.50 acres of land to St. Xavier's School Doranda on a 30-year lease.

The proposal to build Bar Council buildings in all the districts of Jharkhand has also been approved. It has been decided to open a degree college in Margomunda block in Madhupur, Deoghar at a cost of Rs 33 crore 10 lakh. The number of students going abroad for studies every year has been increased. Under the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship Scheme, now 50 students can go abroad for studies. At present, the government used to give scholarships to 25 students for studies abroad.

Maa Durga's Glory ... attempted by Shree Guru Rajan Ji

PNS : RANCHI



Nigamananda attained Durga's blessings. Navratri is a nine-day festival celebrating Durga's victory over Mahishasura, with the tenth day, Vijaydashmi, marking his defeat. During these nine days, devotees worship her nine forms: Sailaputri (daughter of the Himalayas), Brahmacharini (the ascetic), Chandraghanta (moon-bearer), Kushmanda (creator of the universe), Skanda-Mata (mother of Kartikeya), Katyayani (incarnated to aid the Devas), Kalaratri (dark as night), Mahagauri (Shiva's consort), and Siddhidatri (giver of mystical powers).

The Devi Mahatmyam in the Markandeya Purana narrates the story of Mahishasura, the demon king who sought invincibility through a boon from Lord Brahma. Brahma granted him protection from defeat by men and Gods, but Mahishasura overlooked the possibility of a woman defeating him. Empowered by this boon, Mahishasura led the demons to conquer the Gods, prompting them to seek help from Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu. Their combined energies created Goddess Durga, who, armed by the Gods, fought and killed Mahishasura after a nine-day battle, restoring peace. This story symbolizes the power and empowerment of women.

Bharat Mata and Goddess Durga ride a lion/tiger and personify glory in a smiling face.

The active principle of Paramatma is the source of all creation and is beyond gender. Viewed as masculine, Paramatma resembles deities like Shiva, Vishnu, or Krishna. As feminine, it manifests as Maha Kali, Durga (Maha Lakshmi), Maha Saraswati, or Adi Mata. Durga, as a protective mother, guides creation through

cycles of birth and death toward Self-Realization (Moksha).

This cosmic play, or 'Leela' is carried out by Paramatma with the help of Mahamaya, who creates 'Maya' (illusion). Only those who transcend desires, greed, and ego, with Mahamaya's grace, can break free from the cycle and attain liberation. These enlightened souls are yogis, rishis, and other spiritually evolved beings.

According to the Rig Veda, we can get three names of Devi Durga. They are 'Visva Durga', 'Sindhu Durga' and 'Agni Durga'.

Mahisasuramardini protects Her devotees from ten sides (We have to remember that the total number of sides (i.e north, south etc is ten). This is reflected in the deity of 'Dashabhuj' (Devi with ten hands).

Durga, the embodiment of divine energy, is known by many names in the Vedas, including Aditi, Saraswati, and Ratri, and takes forms such as Parvati, Uma, Gauri, and Ambika. The Durga Purana portrays her as the eternal, formless source and end of the universe. As both powerful creator and compassionate protector, she is the enlightened deity to whom even the male gods turn for help. Known as Ashtangi, she wields eight arms bearing weapons, and in her form as Mahisasuramardini, she protects devotees from all ten directions. She appears in every age to protect her devotees and vanquish evil.

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RMC intensifies efforts to ensure cleanliness during Durgostav

Pandals to be judged under 'Swachh Puja Pandal Competition 2024' from Oct 9 to Oct 13



DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

The Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) has chalked out a detailed plan to ensure cleanliness in the City amid Durga Puja celebrations.

With most of the pandals now open to the public, devotees in huge numbers have been thronging to get a glimpse of the Goddess. For this, a special cleaning drive is being run by the civic body in all the puja pandals, the surrounding areas and also on the roads leading to the venue.

For this safai karmis of the nigam have been stationed at the office during the festival and are being deployed from there in three shifts- 6 am to 2 pm, 2 pm to 10 pm and from 10 pm to 6 am. As many as 400 more workers have been appointed by the body to carry out the work of garbage collection and sweeping the roads.

On Tuesday evening, Municipal Commissioner Sandeep Singh visited the major Durga Puja pandals including Bihar Club, Durgabari and Chandrashekhar Azad Durga Puja Committee and inspected the cleanliness of the areas. "Zone-wise teams

have been formed to provide better facilities in all the 160 Puja Pandals under the corporation area, through which cleanliness, drinking water, mobile toilets and availability of stone dust is being ensured," said the official.

Singh has also directed the officials of the Swachhata Shakha to ensure all the drains are cleaned and that the open drains are covered with slabs to avoid any inconvenience or mishap.

It has also been decided that Ranchi Municipal Corporation Connect Center will be active 24 hours during the festival and common people as well as Puja committees can register their complaints by contacting on the number 1800 570 1235. With the present weather condition, a 'Quick Response Team' has also been formed where citizens can file complaints related to water logging issues.

Municipal Commissioner has also appealed to Ranchites to not throw any garbage here and there but to only put it in the designated dustbin so the corporation team can collect garbage easily and the cleanliness of the City

can remain intact.

To ensure that puja pandal organising committees maintain cleanliness in their premises, RMC has also organised a 'Swachh Puja Pandal Competition 2024'. The cleanliness of the pandals under the civic body will be judged by a team constituted by RMC from October 9 to October 13 on a total score of 200 points.

Pandals can score up to 40 points with Zero Waste management which includes arrangement for proper disposal of the waste generated during the event. As many as 20 points can be earned with a complete ban of Single Use Plastic including plastic bags and water bottles.

Another 20 points can be gained with the arrangement of sufficient green and blue dustbins as per the size of the pandal, its use by visitors, segregation of waste and timely cleaning while 20 more with the broadcast of the Swachhata jingle by RMC periodically through the loudspeakers to enlighten the public.

Innovative work done for cleanliness, handing over of non-biodegradable materials such as plastic and thermacol to the body for disposal, the use of biodegradable materials for advertising or LED screens, display of advertisement boards related to de-addiction, use of materials made from paper, leaves, jute at the premises, ensuring the use of reusable or paper glasses, volunteers with proper ID cards and following the protocol for idol immersion-adhering to these points pandals can score 10 reward points for each criteria.

The pandal with the maximum points will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 25,000 while Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000 will be awarded as the second and third prize respectively.

'DURGOSTAV 2024'

Maa ke Anek Roop at RR Sporting Club to attract pandal hoppers

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

This Durga Puja, leisure buffs of the City will get an opportunity to witness a myriad of theme based puja pandals. From a facsimile of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya to the Adiyogi in Coimbatore from a Rajasthan Raj Darbar to the sacred Kashi Vishwanath's Dashashwamedh Ghat, puja pandals have left no stone unturned to attract revellers.

Another major centre of attraction for Ranchites is the RR Sporting Club which over the years has made a significant mark amongst the devotees for its unique presentations and traditional themes.

Depicting the various forms of Goddess Durga worshipped during Navratri, the RR Sporting club puja pandal is based on the theme called 'Maa ke Anek Roop' and is built in the form of a huge doll.

The pandal also pays a rich tribute to the freedom fighters who fought for the Indian Independence and other elated personalities. The passage leading up to the sanctum sanctorum has posters of Mahatma Gandhi, Birsu Munda, Subash Chandra Bose and Mother Teresa to name a few.

The idols of Goddess Durga and the other deities will be seen in various yoga postures signifying that just how India has given yoga to the world with a message of unity and peace, the Goddess is



also urging her devotees to stay united and in harmony. The idol of the Goddess Durga is about 18 feet tall while the centre dais is around 15 feet broad.

The entire pandal is primed up at a budget of Rs 45 lakh. The structure is about 120 feet high and 70 feet broad and is made using cane wood with handmade paintings. As many as 50 artisans have been involved in constructing the structure. To attract devotees gates with special lights effects have been placed on the road leading the way to the main structure.

"The coming generations are highly influenced by the western culture and are also gradually adapting to it. Performing our traditional pujas has greatly reduced. With the puja pandal being set up, we want to give the young generation a glimpse of our traditions and culture and also learn from it," said Rahul Yadav, president RR Sporting Club.

The RR Sporting Club committee has been celebrating the festival in a grand way since 1951. "In the last decade, theme based pandals are being made in Ranchi to celebrate Durga Puja whereas earlier small structures on the lines of a temple were generally made," added Yadav.

The venue is located to Durga Mandir in Ratu Road and offerings to the deities of puja, puri and sabji are made every day of the Navratri festival which is then distributed amongst the worshippers by the committee members. On Dashmi - October 9 a special bhog of khichdi and kheer will also be made.

The pandal is open to revellers from Panchami - October 7 and has been inaugurated by the Chief Minister Hemant Soren while the idol immersion is scheduled to take place on October 13.

Rains to continue in State from October 9 to 13

PNS : RANCHI

Rain is showing its color in many parts of the country including Bihar-Jharkhand. According to a report by Skymet Weather, cyclonic circulation is formed over Lakshadweep and surrounding areas. It may continue till October 13 and it will also remain effective in Jharkhand till October 18.

A turf line extends up to 1.5 km above the mean sea level from the southwest Bay of Bengal to Tamil Nadu-South Kerala. Due to its effect, a low pressure area is expected to develop over Lakshadweep and adjoining southeast, east central Arabian Sea around October 9.

The cyclonic circulation is expected to move in the northwest direction. Due to this, there is a possibility of heavy rain in many states. As far as Jharkhand is concerned, heavy rain occurred in many areas of Jharkhand including Ranchi late on Tuesday evening. People faced a lot of trouble due to rain on the occasion of Durga Puja.

The Meteorological Department has said that the rain will continue in the coming days as well. The department has issued rain alert in many states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh. There is a possibility of light rain in Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Dindori and Anuppur in Madhya Pradesh. It has been said that the monsoon will return after October 12.

Heavy rain occurred in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. According to the Meteorological Department, there will be rain with thunder in 18 districts here. There will be lightning. Due to the return of the southwest monsoon, a change in the weather is being seen. Talking about Bihar, due to heavy rains in Nepal, flood situation has arisen in 30 districts in the last few days. Rivers like Gandak, Ganga, Kosi are in spate.

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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 wife

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 Realty (erstwhile Ritesh Properties Industries Limited or RPIL) -- and others like Hemant Sood and Chander 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 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... it is 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 critical 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

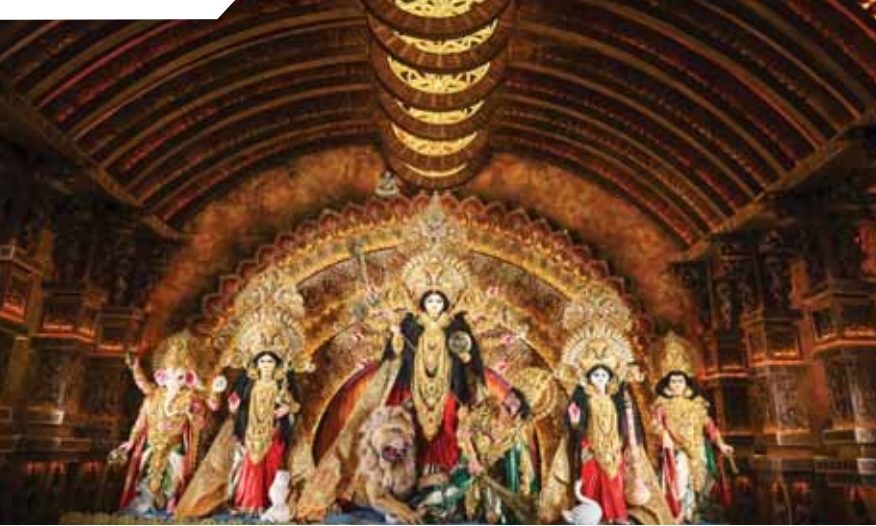
The BJP retains Haryana while the regional parties gain in J and K signalling paradigm shift in the valley

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 dimension 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 Sadasiva 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. In the airline industry, Alaska Airlines has harnessed AI to offer customised flight and travel suggestions based on customer preferences such as budget and timing, significantly elevating the booking experience. By personalising



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)

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur



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

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 in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

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 (B) 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	

Thanking you, Yours faithfully, AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Three share Nobel prize in chemistry

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

absolutely mind blowing. It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein with this technology," said Professor Johan Åqvist of the Nobel committee. Hassabis and Jumper created an artificial intelligence model that has been able to predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added. Linke said scientists had long dreamt of predicting the three-dimensional structure of proteins. "Four years ago in 2020, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature," Linke said. "Another dream of scientists has been to build new proteins to learn how to use nature's multi-tool for our own purposes. This is the problem that David Baker solved," he added. "He developed computational tools that now enable scientists to design spectacular new proteins with entirely novel shapes and functions, opening endless possibilities for the greatest benefit to humankind."

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

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

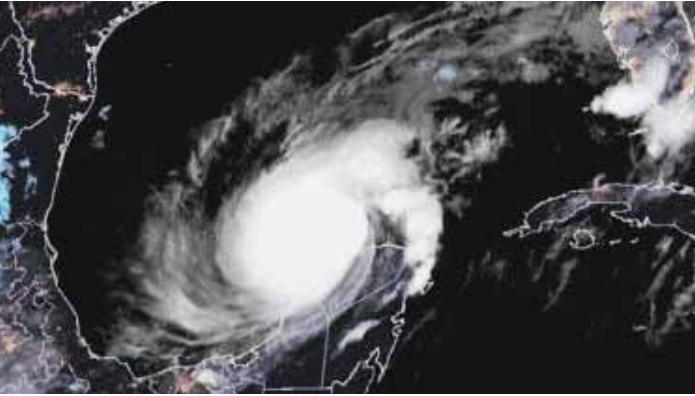
the remains of the demised," said Riu in his letter. He urged the minister to take up the matter with the High Commission of India in London so that steps are taken to ensure that the auction of the skull can be stopped after the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) raised concerns over the matter. "This 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.



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

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: 00211064), 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 Lakhan 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. Krishan Sharma Alias Mr. Krishan & 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 SHIBSARAI U.P. by virtue of Regd. Sale Deed dated 09.06.2014, regd. as Doc. No. 4323, executed by Mrs. Sanjay Devi and Mr. Satya Pal Singh, and The Original Sale Deed dated 04.04.2014, regd. as Doc. No. 3360. Joint and FIR has been registered with the LAR No. 2024000819836, pertaining to the said above said property, and same to be financed by SHRI India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any change of interest 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 Pad Plaza, Vahida, Shantigram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) E-mail: sgassociates@gmail.com, Ph: 70117254, 0120444300

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Krishan Sharma Alias Mr. Krishan & 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 SHRI India Credit Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any change of interest 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 Pad Plaza, Vahida, Shantigram, Ghaziabad (U.P.) E-mail: sgassociates@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 Ghonda, Gali No. 13, Usmanpur, Haridwar, Shahrada, 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, the title 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

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.

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.

ing 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.

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.

US plans to end Google monopoly

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.

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.

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.

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.

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."

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.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EM/PEP-29/2024

CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL Tender No. DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-32-24-25 Dated: 08-10-2024

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.

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION E-Tender No.: SNT-03-LMG-2024-25-RT; Dated: 07-10-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Rajnesha is claiming to be owner of Property bearing No. 215-A, area measuring 270 sq.yds.

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

E-AUCTION FOR SARUPATHAR PF-2 SIDE PARKING CONTRACT OVER LUMDING DIVISION Auction Catalogue No. PARK-LMG-SZR-03

PPGGL Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM Stores Tender Notice No. 52/2024-2025 dt. 17.09.2024 at S.No. 01.

Short Notice Inviting re-tender No. SS/CW/RR/78/2023/276 Dated 8th October, 2024

REPAIR OF CLS PANEL OF DIFFERENT MAKE & CAPACITIES E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/14_2024/K/808; dated: 07-10-2024

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Assets to be auctioned

REPAIR OF CLS PANEL OF DIFFERENT MAKE & CAPACITIES E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/14_2024/K/808; dated: 07-10-2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Assets to be auctioned

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Assets to be auctioned

REPAIR OF CLS PANEL OF DIFFERENT MAKE & CAPACITIES E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/14_2024/K/808; dated: 07-10-2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Assets to be auctioned

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION Assets to be auctioned

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:-

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

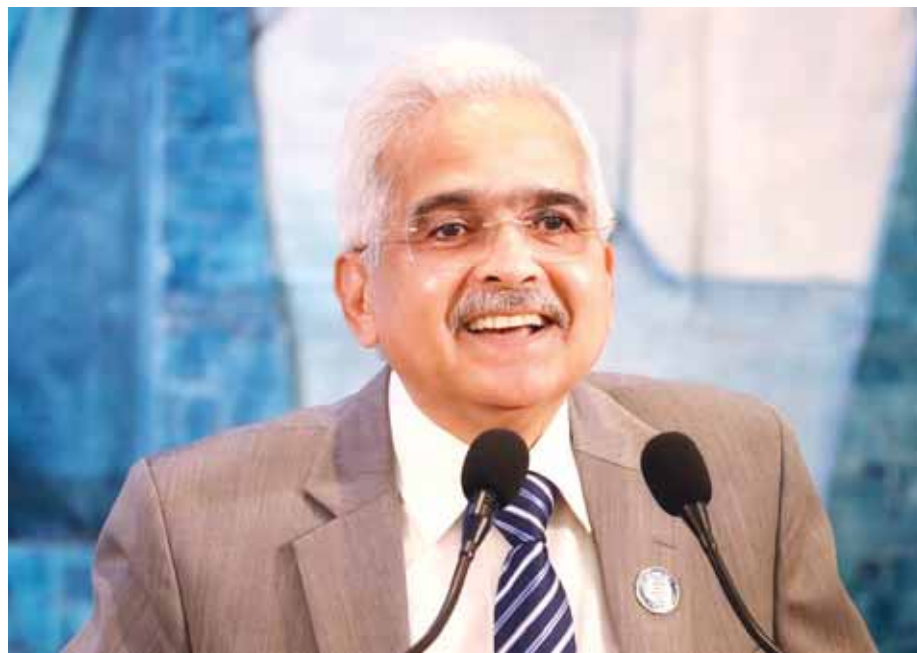
RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the confidence in inflation cooling down in the near future, resulting in a better balance between growth and price rise, led the central bank to change the policy stance to neutral.

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 be inappropriate, 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 the 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



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

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 Produnova 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 Bholu 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 sat 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.

Valerie Allman named Delhi Half Marathon's international event ambassador



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-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.

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 Akeel 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.

Yashasvi 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.

यूको बैंक UCO BANK ZONAL OFFICE
SAINIK MARKET, MAIN ROAD, RANCHI-834001, Ph. No. 0651-2330642

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
DATE OF E-AUCTION : 28.10.2024, between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM

E-Auction Sale notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 28.10.2024, for recovery of amounts due to UCO Bank from the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit amount are as mentioned in the table below :

Name of the Branch, Borrower & Amount Due	Details of Property	Reserve Price, EMD & Contact Person
RANCHI MAIN BRANCH Md. Jahangir Alam S/o Aaziur Rehman	All that piece and parcel of land and building being part of RS Plot No 749, measuring 2 kathas, situated in Hindpuri, Thana No 205, Sub plot No 749/C, Khata No 16, Mauza Hindpuri, Mojahid Nagar, Near Mecca Masjid Ranchi. Bounded : On the North by: Plot No 748, On the South by: 10 feet wide Road, On the East by: Plot No -Sub Plot No H, On the West by: Sub Plot No F	₹ 35,17,110.00 ₹ 3,51,720.00 Bid Increment: Amount : ₹ 10,000.00 Mr. Srikrant Singh, (Branch Head of Ranchi Branch) contact: 8294033690
₹ 22,43,527.70 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven and Seventy Paise Only) (plus interest and charges thereon)		

Encumbrances Known to Bank : None

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in <https://www.ebkraj.in> and www.ucobank.com

Date : 08.10.2024 | Place : Ranchi | Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India Bye Pass Road Chas Branch
Daga House, Bye Pass Road, Chas Bokaro - 827013
Contact no : 7389544493
E-mail ID. ubin0812129@unionbankofindia.bank

APPENDIX - IV - A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 29.10.2024, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Name of the Borrower	Amount Due
1. M/s Pakiza, Prop. Md. Mahfooz Alam, opp. To Govt. Hospital, Main Road, Chas, Bokaro - 827013, 2. Md. Mahfooz Alam, 50, Ansari Mohalla, Chas, District- Bokaro - 827013, 3. Mrs. Mosharrat Jahan, W/o MD. Mahfooz Alam, 50, Ansari Mohalla, Chas, District- Bokaro - 827013.	Rs. 14,16,994.79 with further interest and charges at the contractual rate from 12.12.2023

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Vacant land in Khata No. 136, Plot no. 239,257 & 258, within Chas Mouza & P.S. District Bokaro, with an area of 11.50 decimal, belongs to MD. Mahfooz Alam. Title Deed No. 3354 dt. 18-05-2005 & 3355 dt. 18-05-2005 and which is bounded by- North: Plot No. 240 & Road, South: 12' wide road and Plot No. 258, East: 12' wide road and Plot No.257,239 & 259, West: Plot No. 258.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 29.10.2024 at 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
Reserve Price : 28,75,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Seventy Five Thousand only)
Earnest money to be deposited : 2,87,500.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred only)
Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 30,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Thousand only)
Contact Person : Authorised Officer | 09556058141

Note : For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auaction-property/view-auaction-property.aspx> and www.unionbankofindia.co.in. For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://ebkraj.in> (Buyer Registration - link provided in the home page of the website).

Date: 09.10.2024 | Place : Dhanbad | Authorised Officer Union Bank Of India

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY : 10th OCTOBER, 2024

Government of India
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KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND, INDIA
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- Saturday: Headache, Tobacco Cessation, Deaddiction and Metabolic Clinic
- Every day: Child Guidance, OCD and Personality Development Clinic

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- Detoxification and Rehabilitation
- Advanced technical unit for Alcohol and drug Deaddiction

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- Rehabilitation/Sheltered Workshop
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Token Economy

Community Outreach Program

- West Bokaro (Ghato)
- Hazaribagh
- Chandankiyari, Bokaro
- School Mental Health Program

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- Organizing Workshops
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- PhD and MPhil in Clinical Psychology
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Cardiology Lab

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