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Ratan Tata designed two iconic homes in Jamshedpur

PARVINDER BHATIA : JAMSHEDPUR

Two iconic houses in Jamshedpur, designed decades ago, tell the story of a young visionary who would go on to lead one of India's most respected conglomerates—Ratan N. Tata.

Long before Ratan Tata became the legendary chairman of Tata Sons, he was a young architect with a degree from Cornell University, New York, eager to apply his skills in a city that already bore the mark of his family's visionary efforts. Upon returning to India and joining Tata Motors (formerly TELCO) as a trainee, Ratan Tata brought with him not only his leadership potential but also his love for architecture. This passion resulted in two

stunning houses on Road No. 10, Circuit House Area (East), Jamshedpur—houses that remain a tribute to his creative genius.

Designed in the American Prairie style, which emphasizes harmony with the environment, open spaces, and a seamless blend of indoors and outdoors, these homes stand out as elegant symbols of sophisticated yet simple architectural principles. The distinctive horizontal lines, flat roofs, and large windows reflect Ratan Tata's modernist influence, a result of his exposure to international design philosophies during his time abroad.

What many Jamshedpur residents don't realize is that these two houses, now landmarks on Road No. 10, were conceptualized by none other than Ratan Tata himself. The simplicity and



beauty of these structures are characteristic of the man who designed them—modest yet deeply impactful.

Dr. T Mukherjee, former deputy managing director of Tata Steel, is one of the fortunate owners of one of these houses. Residing at 6A, Road No. 10, Mukherjee recalls the unique charm

that drew him to the property. "Yes, it is true that the house where I stay was actually designed by Ratan Tata," Mukherjee confirms. "I purchased my portion in 2007. I liked the design as it has open spaces, enough light, and places to sit out," he fondly recalls.

The architectural layout



of the house perfectly aligns with Ratan Tata's vision—spaces that encourage tranquility, natural light, and connection with nature. Mukherjee's home, like the other property on the same street, retains much of its original structure, preserving the authenticity of Tata's vision. It's a perfect blend of

modern functionality and classic elegance.

The houses have interesting historical connections, further linking them to the Tata legacy. One of the homes was originally owned by Soli Devitre, the brother-in-law of Tata Sons director Jehangir Ghandy, and the other belonged to Cawas

Mehta, a senior executive at Tata Steel, and his wife Perin C. Mehta, who played a pioneering role in founding Jamshedpur Women's College.

These houses are more than just residential spaces—they are steeped in the history of Jamshedpur's intellectual and industrial elite. They represent an era when the city was expanding, and when individuals who would go on to shape India's future lived and thrived in close-knit communities. Ratan Tata's connection to architecture extends beyond these homes in Jamshedpur. Mukherjee recounts how Tata, during a casual conversation, mentioned that he had designed a house for his mother and his own beach bungalow in Alibaug, Mumbai, which faces the Arabian Sea. Both

homes were crafted with the same care and precision that marked his earlier work in Jamshedpur.

These personal touches highlight Ratan Tata's deep connection to architecture and design, something that was evident even during his early years at Tata Motors. His ability to translate aesthetic vision into reality is just another example of the multifaceted talent of the man who would later transform the Tata Group into a global powerhouse.

Today, the houses on Road No. 10 have been divided between two owners—Dr. Mukherjee and a Sakchi-based hotelier. Both have taken care to preserve the essence of the original structures, ensuring that Ratan Tata's architectural legacy remains intact for future generations to appreciate.

New road inaugurated at Sector 11, Bokaro

PNS : BOKARO

A newly constructed RCC (Reinforced Cement Concrete) road from Shiv Mandir to the Railway Crossing in Sector 11 was inaugurated today by Rajan Prasad, Executive Director (HR and Works - Additional Charge), BSL. This road lies on the Bokaro-Dhanbad route, and its construction is expected to provide better and safer commuting options for local residents, easing travel and saving time.

Similarly, an RCC road has also been constructed from Bokaro Nivas to Chira Chas in Sector 5, addressing long-standing transportation issues faced by the public. Plans are already in place to start construction of another RCC road from Sector 4 to Kalibari after the upcoming festive season, ensuring continuous improvements in the city's infrastructure.



Women advised to avoid wearing expensive jewellery during Durga Puja

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

As the district gears up for Durga Puja 2024, District Magistrate cum Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal has extended warm wishes to all residents, urging them to celebrate the festival with joy while ensuring full cooperation with the district administration to maintain law and order. With thousands of devotees flocking to brightly adorned puja pandals, the district administration has put in place stringent safety measures, emphasizing the need for public vigilance and adherence to guidelines for a peaceful and seamless celebration. In his message to the citizens, Mittal emphasized the importance of community spirit, encouraging everyone to participate in the festival in a harmonious atmosphere. He reminded the public that while festivities should be

enjoyed, it is crucial to prioritize safety and follow the protocols established by the administration to prevent accidents and ensure smooth proceedings. "The district administration has made extensive preparations to facilitate a safe and joyful Durga Puja, and we expect the full cooperation of all citizens in maintaining order and adhering to the issued guidelines," he stated.

The administration has shared a list of do's and don'ts for the public. Parents accompanying small children to the pandals are advised to place slips with contact information in their children's pockets to ensure quick reunions in case of separation. Vehicle owners are instructed to park only in designated areas, ensuring their vehicles are double-locked to prevent theft. Additionally, devotees are

expected to queue up at the designated entry gates for an orderly entry into the pandals, avoiding unnecessary congestion.

In the interest of public safety, citizens have been asked to report any suspicious objects found in the vicinity of the pandals directly to the police, rather than handling them. Lost items or missing persons should be reported to the information centers set up at the pandals to prevent panic and facilitate swift resolutions.

Several restrictions have been placed to ensure a smooth festival. Bringing plastic items to the pandals is prohibited, and devotees are urged to stay away from electrical equipment or wiring. Motorists are advised to avoid speeding and refrain from using pressure horns, especially near crowded areas.

Iran Must Be Contained



BY BANSHIDHAR RUKHAIYAR

Iran has maintained its dominance in the Middle East by using its proxies operating in the area as terrorist outfits under several names. These have been used against Israel for a long time and the UN and world leaders have turned a blind eye to them leaving Israel to fend for itself. Israel has been fighting them with ceasefires now and then by the intervention of the US led West and the UN, which are synonymous. These ceasefires have given time to these non-state actors to regroup and revitalize their finances, arms and ammunition and create a stronger defence architecture than before. This has gone on for years emboldening them to attack Israel with intensified vehemence. The missile attack of Hamas on Israel last year was a game changer. The paradigm shift, however, came when Iran directly attacked Israel in April and October this year. The first was an informed attack, more to address the domestic audience than to effectively hurt Israel. Hence, Israeli response was limited and it attacked the batteries of S 300 deployed to protect Iranian nuclear facility. The Iranian attack this time was not only unprovoked but intended to inflict severe damages which could be contained because of the multilayered Israeli defence system and the US support.

The Israeli statement of strong retaliation was logical but the way Khamenei has responded after the Israeli threat suggests that something dangerous is brewing up behind the scene. It is possibly the promised Russian and Chinese support to Iran. Russia is weak at present and China is not known for standing by its friends in times of need. So far Pakistan is concerned, it is expected to toe the American line as it did in the case of Afghanistan. However, the West supporting Israel has developed differences as is evident from the statement of the French President Emanuel Macron who declared an arms embargo on Israel. France has invested heavily in Lebanon and it wants immediate ceasefire to protect its economic interests there. But this amounts to backstabbing Israel inviting a harshly worded condemnation of Macron by Netanyahu, who said, "Shame on you."

Iran has blatantly come out in the defence of the non-state actors and it should not be acceptable to the world which must take up this challenge head on, hitherto put under the carpet time and again. The economic and energy interests of India are heavily at stake but containing Iran would give a stern message to the non-state actors of Pakistan operating against India. Enough is enough and it is time for decisive action against terror for action against Iran is action against terror.

What are the options? The first is to paralyse the Iranian economy by bombing its oilfields. This would be a wastage of natural resources and hardship to the people of Iran and the world. The second is to destroy the nuclear facilities of Iran. It would make Iran spineless and the Iranian leadership would become thoroughly

unpopular. This option is the most difficult one fraught with grave dangers. It would lead to an existential crisis for Iran which would counter attack the Israeli nuclear facilities leading to nuclear meltdown in the region. The third option is to effect a regime change in Iran, which the people of Iran also want. This is the safest and long lasting solution for the region. It is difficult but not impossible given the US dexterity in this game. The pager blast not only killed many terrorists and broke their line of communication but also frightened and demoralised them. That fear is still in the mind of Iranian leadership. If such a master stroke is still left in the arsenal of Israel, Iran would be tamed without much bloodshed.

The traditional method of diffusing the crisis by diplomacy and backdoor dialogues is still there. Iran has requested India to barter peace by using its good relationship with both Iran and Israel. America is preparing for elections and Biden is not in a position to take a tough call. Trump's call for atomic action against Iran is more an election propaganda than a well thought out statement of a matured politician. If this threat was to be given to Iran, it should have been in private so that it could act without bruising its face. The situation is extremely difficult and a solution with the least harm is only possible if the leaders and diplomats of the world rise to the occasion and come out with some out of box thinking. Diffusing the crisis is important, but equally important is the fact that these Non-state actors must not be given a chance to regroup and revitalise themselves.

THE WRITER IS A NOTED ACADEMICIAN AND POLITICAL COMMENTATOR. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE ARTICLE ARE PERSONAL.

An Oasis or a Mirage- The Cold Start Doctrine



BY PRANJAL PANDEY

Even Rome's greatest general and warmonger, Scipio would have remained nameless and easily forgotten had he not seen the value in studying his adversaries and in employing a versatile and flexible war strategy. Moreover he knew the limitations of his own resources and worked towards victory by guaranteeing that the battles would be fought on his terms where he could manipulate the circumstances to his advantage. Scipio's tactics and success are testament to the fact that without completely understanding one's own limitations, victory remains a pipe dream. While the science of war has transformed immensely in modern times the fundamental tenets of warfare remain almost constant. While it is prudent for a sovereign state to appear more capable than it is, the state itself must take caution to not overestimate its own abilities. This dissonance between the claims the state makes with regards to its military might and its actual capability to deliver on those claims cannot be too disproportionate.

India and its various empires have not been exceedingly expeditious, choosing to instead maintain a defensive stance towards warfare. With the exception of Ranjit Singh and his conquests none of the empires had particularly bothered to expand the borders significantly.

Until the Parliament attacks in the winter of 2001, India had deployed its armed forces in a series of holding corps at the Pakistan border. The corps did not possess any offensive capabilities of note and were largely meant to hold a defensive formation. The chinks in the armor of

such a set up were glaring as the strategy was highly inflexible and the army was slow to respond and also predictable in its movement. The primary offensive force was too distant from the border to mount a timely retaliation. Operation Parakram, aimed as a response to the terror attacks took an unacceptable 27 days to gain momentum. A sloth like reaction time and strategic inflexibility spelt ruin on all fronts.

In 1962, the war with China could have been avoided had India already been a nuclear power instead of focusing on Nehru's unreliable Forward Policy. In the 1971 war with Pakistan, India would have probably suffered greatly had the Soviets not come to her aid. The 7th Fleet of the United States Navy had dispatched its task force in the Bay of Bengal to support Pakistan. The U.S. task force was robust and more than sufficient to turn the tide of the battle with its aircraft carrier, nuclear submarine and multiple destroyer class warships. The Soviets countered the manoeuvre of the Americans by mobilizing their own Pacific fleet which caused the Americans to backpedal. The 1966 war and the aftermath of Pokhran II clearly showcased that India's only truly reliable allies in the global north are France and Russia. Both nations have continued to support India with their trade of military equipment and technology. Furthermore while the Americans decried the second Pokhran tests and even placed sanctions on India, only France and Russia stood by India's side.

Only in 1974, did India become a nuclear superpower courtesy of Mr. Sethna's wisdom and Ms. Gandhi's zealous attitude towards developing the nation's nuclear capabilities. This development changed the complexion of the power dynamics as India finally had enough to deter China, the greatest military power in the region, from making any overly aggressive moves. However, it should be known that the only extant superpower today is the U.S.A. For a sovereign state to qualify as a superpower it must possess enough influence that

none of the great powers may make a move of global significance without considering the attitude of the superpower on the particular situation. Neither India nor China can press their claim to such categorization.

Recently, India claims to have adopted a Cold Start doctrine that suggests a transformative change in military strategy. The doctrine dictates that the different branches of the armed forces would operate in unified battle groups where they would be able to respond to threats from Pakistan within 24 hours. The battle groups are meant to serve as both, a holding as well as a conventional offensive force. However it seems difficult to believe that the current set up and infrastructure can properly support that translation of the doctrine into reality. As India obtains its military technology from a variety of sources there is low interoperability amongst the defense systems. More pertinently, the lack of inter service synergy among the army, air force and navy is a greater cause for concern. The cold start doctrine impinges on coordination between the different branches of the military if the unified battle groups are to be effective. The issue of synergy is further compounded by the fact that only a single integrated tri-service command exists, namely the ANC, the Andaman Nicobar Command. The ANC has limited resources and does not function as a specialized theatre command to deal, specifically with the threat of our northern neighbors.

Consequently, the doctrine remains, realistically, in its experimental stage and at best, a deterrent. It would be unwise for India to advertise the decoupling in its claims and the actual power she possesses. There is no shame in recognizing the limitations of the state as long as the political administration and the leadership of the armed forces are willing to work towards righting the situation.

THE WRITER IS A LAWYER BY PROFESSION. VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE PERSONAL.

Adani Foundation greening Godda: A step towards a sustainable future



PNS : RANCHI

In an era where environmental concerns are at an all-time high, the Adani Foundation is taking significant strides to address the pressing issue of deforestation and pollution. Through a comprehensive tree plantation campaign in Godda, Jharkhand, the foundation has planted over 50,000 saplings this year, contributing to a greener and healthier Godda.

Involving local community, Adani Foundation has planted more than 50,000 saplings this year in the areas near the power plant located in Godda, Jharkhand through a comprehensive tree plantation campaign. In this, 15,500 trees of timber trees like teak and 12,000 trees of mahogany have been planted. At the same time, 15,000 mango trees have been planted among the fruit trees. Apart from this, 3,000 guava, 2,200 lemon plants and more than 13,500 shady plants like jamun, peepal, banyan, neem, gulmoohar, Ashoka and saptaparni have been included. In this, priority has been given to the farmers of villages like

Motiya, Dumariya, Baksara, Petvi and Patwa of Godda Sadar block near the power plant as well as several villages of Podiyahat, Mahagama, Thakurgangi and Sahebganj district in the tree plantation drive. These trees not only provide environmental benefits but also offer economic opportunities for local farmers. Empowering Local Communities Adani Foundation has been instrumental in involving local communities in the tree plantation drive. By providing training and support, the foundation has empowered farmers to participate actively in the initiative. This has led to the creation of new employment opportunities, particularly for those living in rural areas. One of the most significant outcomes of the campaign has been the increased income for farmers. The mango trees planted in the region have yielded substantial returns, providing a reliable source of livelihood. Farmers like Ajay Mandal and Manohar Yadav have transformed their barren lands into thriving mango orchards, thanks to the support of Adani Foundation.

Cultural in-house program organized at the PVUNL

PNS : RANCHI

A vibrant cultural in-house program was organized at the PVUNL township on the auspicious occasion of Navratri. The event featured a beautifully decorated Durga Pandal set up in the township ground, creating a festive and spiritual atmosphere. The celebration began with an inspiring address by CEO of PVUNL, RK Singh who extended his warm wishes to all present, acknowledging the efforts of

employees, their families, and the community.

The evening was filled with cultural performances, starting with graceful dances and melodious singing by the wives of PVUNL employees, students of Srijan, and the talented wards of PVUNL employees. Their performances reflected the essence of devotion and celebration associated with Navratri. A highlight of this segment was the energetic Dhanuchi dance, which captivated the audience with its traditional



charm and spirit. The show-stopper of the evening was the mesmerizing Chhau dance, a renowned folk dance from Purulia district in West Bengal, known for its dramatic martial movements and vibrant masks.

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The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 9 of the security interest enforcement rules, 2002 on the date mentioned hereunder. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount mentioned in the notice and unapplied interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.		
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OPINION 6

WHY TECHNOLOGY CAN'T EASE PEOPLE'S SUFFERING

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UPI TRANSACTIONS SURGE IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

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

Late City Vol. 17 Issue 278
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RANCHI, FRIDAY OCTOBER 11, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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FAREWELL BHARAT'S RATAN

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



As the nation mourned the passing away of the legendary industrialist Ratan Naval Tata, hundreds and thousands of Mumbaikars on Thursday bade an emotional goodbye to the former Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, as his mortal remains - wrapped in national tri-colours - were taken on a 12 km final journey from the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) to Worli crematorium for his last rites. After solemn prayers and rituals performed as per the Parsi traditions at a brief ceremony, Ratan Tata's body was consigned to a combustion chamber at the Worli electric crematorium, amid full-State honours and a fun salute accorded by the Maharashtra government. The funeral held at an electric crematorium reflected the changing traditions in the Parsi community members living in Mumbai who in the past would make it a point to consign the remains of their loved ones to the Tower of Silence, or Doongerwadi at Malabar Hill in south Mumbai. Ratan Tata breathed his last at the Breach Candy Hospital at around 11.30 pm on Wednesday night, following age-related health conditions, after a week of media speculation about his worsening medical condition. A bachelor all his life, Tata was 86 at the time of his death. Given that he had touched the people from all walks of life across the country, the news of Ratan Tata - who despite having built a Rs 3,800 crore Tata group's

business empire remained a humble man till the last day - plunged the nation into a state of mourning, with people grieving his demise and speaking in glorious terms about his contributions to Indian industry and also nation-building. While thousands of people turned out at the NCPA to pay their homage to the legendary industrialist, more than a couple of lakhs of people had lined up along the 12 km funeral procession route from the NCPA to Worli crematorium or bade adieu from atop the buildings located along the route. Hours before his funeral, the Maharashtra Cabinet adopted a resolution at a special meeting, recommending to the Centre to confer Bharat Ratna, country's highest civilian award, posthumously to Ratan Tata, who was bestowed with Padma Vibhushan by the Indian government in 2008. As a sign of State mourning, the national Tricolour on government offices in Maharashtra were flown at half-mast on Thursday.



Jamshedpur mourns its man of steel

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ JAMSHEDPUR

It was not only the more than one lakh workforce of Tata Group of companies, its subsidiaries and ancillaries which mourned Ratan Tata's passing, but a pall of gloom descended in each and every household of the Steel City of Jamshedpur which Tata was so fond of. From spending time on Shop Floor Management of the then TELCO, rechristened as Tata Motors by Ratan Tata himself, for a global



pursuit to make it a point to be part of the famous March 3 Foundation Day (anniversary of JN Tata) celebrations at Jubilee Park near Sakchi Market, Ratan frequented

the lovely city where the Tatas dreamt from making salt to software, tea to trucks and from car to business czar since early 1900s. The city of Jamshedpur is also known as 'Tatanagar', and the fondness of the Tatas for the city made the Jharkhand government declare a day of State Mourning as a mark of respect for industrialist Ratan Tata. As a young trainee, Tata resided in Room No. 11 of the Dealer's Apprentice Hostel at TELCO.

the pioneer Tribute

Goodbye, Mr Tata

Ratan Naval Tata, the Rdoyen of Indian industry, inheritor of one of the greatest corporate names in India passed away peacefully on October 9, and was laid to rest on Thursday. Even though he was 86 years old and had been suffering health issues for the past few years, his passing has been mourned across the board. But it is surprising just how much the general public in India has mourned his passing, especially in a country where capitalists are still not celebrated. Ratan Tata's immense contributions to philanthropy, his love of dogs including strays, have endeared him to Indians like few others have managed, with the possible exception of his uncle, JRD Tata, whom he succeeded as Chairman of Tata Sons. Following the horrendous 26/11 attacks when the flagship Taj Mahal hotel was desecrated by terrorists, he not only ensured that all employees who had lost their lives or loved ones did not lose hope and he paid compensation to all and he was determined that the India rise again to the top, which it has. Ratan Tata is a poster child of post-liberalisation India. Under his leadership, the expansion of Tata group's ventures began aggressively. Whether it was the success of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in the Information Technology space, the acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover and Tetley Tea, the global reach of Tata Steel as well as the growth of Tata Motors in the Indian passenger car space starting from the late-1990's with the Tata Indica. The fact that Indian Hotels, operators of the Taj Group is today India's largest hotel chain is in no small part thanks to his leadership and the fact that he surrounded himself with extremely capable managers.



Omar Abdullah elected legislative party leader



National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, Vice President Omar Abdullah and others during the party's Legislature Party Meeting after Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election result, at the headquarters Nawa e Subha in Srinagar, Thursday

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Thursday set into motion the process of government formation by 'unanimously' electing its Vice President Omar Abdullah as leader of the legislative party. The announcement was made by the senior Abdullah and party chief Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Addressing the media after the National Conference MLAs met at its

headquarters to elect the leader of the legislature party Dr Farooq Abdullah stated that the pre-poll alliance partners (National Conference, Congress, CPI-M, Panthers Party) will meet on Friday to take the government formation process forward. Omar Abdullah thanked the National Conference (NC) legislators for electing him their leader so that he could stake claim to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir. "You are aware of

the decision that was taken. A meeting of the NC legislature party took place, the legislature party has decided on its leader and I am thankful from the bottom of my heart to the NC legislators that they have reposed their faith in me and given me a chance to stake a claim for government formation," Abdullah told reporters after he was elected the leader of the legislature party here. On the question of the timing of the government formation, Omar said, "Talks are on with the Congress. They have been given a day to decide. Once they give us a letter of support, I will stake a claim for government formation." In another significant development, four independents (all from the Jammu region) expressed their support to the National Conference on Thursday. Pyare Lal Sharma, Satish Sharma, Choudhary Mohammed Akram, and Dr Rameshwar Singh - who won the Interwal, Chhamb, Surankote, and Bani seats - have backed the NC.



Rafael Nadal bids adiós

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

Tennis Legend Rafael Nadal announced his retirement at the age of 38 after winning the 22 Grand Slam events in his career, the era where he competed with his big rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. The Spanish legend broke the news via a heartfelt video on social media, expressing his gratitude for the support throughout his career he had. Nadal's Davis cup finals will be his last stint in tennis court in Malaga, this November). "Really, everything I have experienced has been a dream come true," Nadal stated on social media, adding "I leave with the absolute peace of mind of having given my best, of

having made an effort in every way. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end, and I think it's the appropriate time to put an end to a career that has been long and much more successful than I could have ever imagined." Leaving the court and his decision to retire from the sport, due to injury problems which he was suffering from the first match of the Paris Olympics where he last featured at. The Davis Cup will be his first appearance after the Olympics. Spain will face the Netherlands in the quarter-finals between November 19 and 21, with Nadal added to the squad after recovering from an injury that kept him out of play in the group stage.

Delhi govt spent more than it earned?

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



For the first time in its fiscal history, Delhi is on the brink of a severe financial crisis in the current fiscal, with its expenditure likely to cross the limit of receipts. Data from the Finance Department show its earnings through non tax revenues, tax revenues may drop to Rs 62 415 cr as against the budgetary estimate of Rs 64142 cr by the end of fiscal year 2025.) Delhi has historically been a revenue-surplus state and this would be the first instance of a deficit since the reconstitution of the Legislative Assembly in 1993. Notably, data shows a continuous streak of fiscal surplus from the fiscal year 2017-18 through the projected budget of 2024-25. As per the data, Revenue expenditure is expected to rise from Rs 60911 cr to Rs 63911 cr. The revenue receipts have consistently been higher than the revenue expenditure starting with a surplus of Rs 4913.25 crores in 2017-18, which further increased to a significant surplus of Rs 14456.91 crores in 2022-23. Even for the fiscal year 2023-24, a healthy surplus of Rs

6462.29 crores is anticipated. However, the forecast for 2024-25 presents a potential challenge: while the initial Budget Estimates (BE) show a surplus of Rs 3231.19 crores, the possible inclusion of additional demand could lead to a deficit of Rs 1495.48 crores. Notably, the Arvind Kejriwal government is giving free ride to women in DTC buses, free water up to 20,000 litre per family, free electricity up to 200 units per family, free pilgrimage to senior citizens to the people of Delhi. Lambasting the Aam aadmi Party (AAP) government, Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President, Virendra Sachdeva, alleged that this Arvind Kejriwal government has pushed the national capital into a financial crisis through ten years of economic mismanagement. He pointed out that despite claims of surplus budgets, the city is now facing its first deficit budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. Sachdeva highlighted that during the BJP-led government under Madan Lal Khurana in 1994-95, Delhi had its first surplus budget, a legacy that continued until 2022-23. He claimed, "The result of Arvind Kejriwal's 10 years of economic mismanagement is that due to the slippery economic condition in 2023-24, the budget of 2024-25 has now become the first deficit budget in the legislative history of Delhi.



Where time, and traffic stand still

Nothing posh about the massive jams of South Delhi

BY RAHUL DATTA

Press Enclave Marg connecting Sheikh Sarai at Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg with Sri Aurobindo Marg in South Delhi, has become a traffic nightmare. Flanked by Saket district courts, three shopping malls and two private hospitals besides Khirki and Hauz Rani villages, the nearly four km-long road tests the patience of all be it motorists, two-wheeler drivers or DTC buses. The situation takes a turn for the worse during festival season as it happened on Wednesday late evening when long queues were witnessed at about 8.30 pm. Police had to regulate the traffic by manually operating the traffic signals in order to ensure smooth flow. Similar scenes are seen from

December 25 to 31 each year, when huge crowds through the shopping malls and extra traffic deployment tries to manage the traffic. The jams on many days throughout the year are so bad that motorists wishing to join traffic from colonies like Press Enclave and two more adjoining residential complexes are not able to do so as it happened on Wednesday evening. Adding to the mess, the traffic junction at Malviya Nagar metro station has become a huge bottleneck. Erratic parking by auto-rickshaws on both sides of the station compounds the problem. Despite several drives by the police, no workable solution has emerged. Traffic snarls on Press Enclave Marg lead to spillovers into the connecting roads with Saket, the area is dotted with residential colonies. Given the sheer volume of



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

traffic, these roads are choked even during the so-called non-peak hours. A survey of the Press Enclave Marg indicates that the road sees a very high volume of peak-hour traffic, mainly due to unauthorised parking and encroachments. Peak-hour traffic on Press Enclave Marg is around 9,000 passenger car units (PCUs) in the morning and 10,000 PCUs in the evening, officials said. The Public Works Department (PWD) recently wrote to the traffic police and transport department and sought suggestions to decongest the perennially clogged Press Enclave Marg. Some solutions being considered include shifting the central verge at the Mandir Marg intersection in order to clear space for cars, and making the entire stretch signal-free, sources said.

One of the options proposed by PWD is to shift the central verge at the Mandir Marg intersection to allow more carriageway space for movement of vehicles. Another proposed solution includes removing all three traffic lights on the entire road to make it a signal-free stretch. The three traffic lights are at the intersection of Pramod Mahajan Marg, Mandir Marg and Shaheed Pankaj Bal Marg. However, the move requires approval from the traffic police and senior department officials. After the G20 Summit, the Delhi government in September last year decided to redesign and improve all major stretches across the city, starting with the Press Enclave Marg. Unlike other stretches, the traffic volume is high even during weekends due to the presence of malls, sources said.

CM seeks people's support to get Rs 1,36,000 Cr dues from Centre

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren today questioned the Central government as to when Jharkhand will get its dues? He said that we are not asking for a special package for Jharkhand but our dues. The CM questioned why the BJP is behaving like this with Jharkhand, we are asking for the money for the rights of our Jharkhand, but the BJP government at the center is silent.

On a post on X Soren said that now the people of Jharkhand will give the answer to this to the Bhartiya Jumla Party in the

upcoming elections. Today I need your support, friends. Have you ever wondered why no BJP leader asked for the outstanding amount of Rs 1 lakh 36 thousand crore of the people of the state?

Hemant further said, Jharkhand made BJP win 12/14, 12/14, 9/14 MPs in the last 3 Lok Sabha elections. Still why did they not ask for the rights of us Jharkhandis? I was put in jail in a bogus case because they wanted to silence me. They want me to stop demanding the rights of my state. Even if they put me in jail again, I will fight till death and demand my rights.



The CM said that today they have put all their power in Jharkhand, from the Center to the

Jharkhandis. "We are not asking for a special package like any other state, we are just demanding our rights. He said, that is why today I need the support of my brave Jharkhandis. If you do not demand your rights today, then other states will get special packages from our money and you will remain empty handed. The future of Jharkhand is in your hands," he said.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday Soren along with his wife MLA Kalpana Soren met Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi in Delhi to discuss the seat

sharing formula for Assembly polls in the State.

A meeting took place in Delhi with Rahul Gandhi, the party's National General Secretary KC Venugopal, and Jharkhand MLA Kalpana Soren, focusing on the seat-sharing agreement. According to sources, there was some disagreement between Congress and JMM over specific seats, but leaders discussed these issues and affirmed that the alliance will contest elections together in Jharkhand.

Sources also mentioned that the Congress' poor performance in the Haryana elections was a topic

of conversation, with leaders emphasizing that the INDI Alliance should learn from those results and ensure a stronger fight in Jharkhand to avoid a similar outcome.

Congress reportedly demanded 33 seats this time. Kalpana Soren is said to have persuaded Congress leaders that the priority should be winning the elections for the INDI Alliance as a whole, rather than focusing on individual parties or candidates. Top Congress leaders reportedly agreed with this view. State leaders will have further discussions before finalizing the seat distribution.

Ravan Dahan in City to mark the victory of righteousness

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

The nine-day festival of Navratri culminates on Dussehera or Vijaydashmi which commemorates Lord Ram's triumph over the demon king Ravan and Goddess Durga's victory over the asura Mahishasura. This year the festival is being celebrated on October 12.



A major highlight of the festival is the Ravan Dahan—a ritual that involves burning the effigies of Ravan, his brother Kumbhakaran and son Meghnad that are filled with firecrackers marking the victory of righteousness and the destruction of evil. Like every year the Punjabi Hindu Biradari will be organising this event in Morabadi Maidan.

Kumbhakaran and Meghnad have been made while a replica of the Golden Lanka will be about 30-feet by 30-feet. Ground and aerial fireworks will also be a major attraction of the programme.

"Ravan Dahan was started in Ranchi in 1948-75 years back when a 12-foot tall statue of Ravan was made. In 1960, with the increasing crowd assembling to witness it, the organisers considered Morabadi ground to be a more suitable location for the programme. Since then, the height of Ravan's effigy was increased and the community also got the golden Lanka along with the dummies of Kumbhakaran and Meghnad made. Punjabi Hindu Biradari also tries to involve different communi-

ties of the society in organising the Ravan Dahan programme," said chairman of Punjabi Hindu Biradari Sudhir Uggal.

Along with local artists of the region, folk artists from Uttar Pradesh will present a captivating cultural programme including a live statue of Shri Ramji and a live tableau of Ravan's killing. A display of fireworks by Pyro FireWorks from Mumbai and Kolkata as well as Bhangra dance by Paramit Singh and his group from Jamshedpur will add grandeur to the event.

Ambulance arrangements have been made by Gurunanak Hospital and Punjabi Hindu Biradari and drinking water has been arranged by Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Gurudwara, Ranchi and Marwari Yuva Manch.



An idol of Goddess Durga at Ranchi Railway Station Puja Pandal during the Durga Puja festival in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu



Devotees take part in a Phool Pati Yatra on the occasion of Maha Ashtami in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

ICAR-IIAB celebrates 13th Foundation Day

PNS : RANCHI

ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (ICAR-IIAB), Garkhatanga, Ranchi, celebrated its 13th Foundation Day on 9th October, 2024. Dr. P. L. Goutam, Former Chairman of PPV&FRA and NBA Chennai, and FIRM Vice-Chancellor of GBPUA&T was the Chief Guest of the function and Dr. S.C. Dubey, Vice-Chancellor of BAU was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director of the institute in his welcomed address highlighted the collaborative spirit among all ICAR establishments in Ranchi as 'One-ICAR'.

He highlighted the unique mandate of ICAR-IIAB to work at the interphase of plant, animal, fish, and microbial research. The institute is extensively involved in academic programme offering B.Tech. (Biotechnology), M.Sc. in five and Ph.D. in three subjects. The institute has rich diversity of students from different corners of the country. Till date 30 students have completed PG courses from the institute and 70 students are pursuing their courses.

Dr. S.C. Dubey under-



scored the importance of collaborative research between ICAR and BAU in Jharkhand towards climate-resilient agriculture, rainfed agriculture, functional genomics, and the utilization of soil microbial populations to enhance agricultural productivity. Dr. P.L. Goutam reflected on the challenges faced by the country during pre- and first few decades of post-independence era feeding its population. He emphasized the pivotal role of research in achieving self-sufficiency in food production, and not the country in food surplus. He highlighted the potential of robotics and artificial intelligence in shaping the future of agriculture and addressed the challenges posed by global warming.

Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Commissioner, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India addressed the meeting as the chief guest. He stressed upon the need to develop cost effective technologies for disease diagnosis, prevention and improving production in livestock sector. Fifteen representatives from 12 industries joined the programme.

Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIAB highlighted the need to address the issue of aflatoxin in a comprehensive manner as it has cross spectrum impact encompassing plants, animals as well as human health, and it is one among the most important component under one-health scenario.

RMC identifies 17 water bodies for idol immersion in City

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

The Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) has identified 17 reservoirs and ponds across the City for immersion of idols which is to take place post the festival of Dussehera.



water by the corporation," informed an official.

To ensure that the water bodies remain clean, the civic body has taken various steps. A jal kund which is the demarcated area for idol immersion has been made in all the water bodies using bamboo sticks and red ribbons while all puja committees have also been instructed to adhere to the guidelines. "The basic motto is to preserve the water body. To avoid any mishap, deep areas in the water bodies have been marked and barricaded and red ribbons have been tied to ensure that no one crosses the line. Nets tied to bamboo sticks are also used to demarcate the area so as to prevent the entire water body from getting polluted. It has also been decided that within 24 hours of the immersion process, the remains of the immersed idols will be taken out of the

The Durga Puja organising committees have been directed to collect clothes, artificial jewellery and garlands used to adorn the idols and hand them over to the supervisors and workers present at the site. A Multi-Purpose Supervisor appointed by RMC will be present at the venue will all the necessary resources. Water tanks or jal kund are being made in the water bodies including Argora Talab, Kanke Dam, Madhukam Talab, Bada Talab, Chadri Talab (Line Tank Road), Jail Talab, Jagannathpur Talab and Hundru Talab to name a few.

"We at RMC are determined to provide a clean and pleasant City to the people of Ranchi. In light of the instructions of the Municipal Commissioner constant efforts are being made in this regard," added the official.

AYUSH organisations' delegation meets Governor

PNS : RANCHI

The state officials of the Jharkhand AYUSH Medical Association and AYUSH Association of Jharkhand, under the leadership of Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Convener of the State AYUSH Advisory Committee, met Governor Santosh Gangwar and submitted their memorandum. Despite the continuous implementation of AYUSH schemes by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, in all states, Jharkhand has remained excluded. In light of these issues, a written application was submitted to the Governor, addressing the following points: 1. Ensure the permanent and regular appointment of all AYUSH Community Health Officers, as already announced by the Honorable Chief Minister, Mr. Hemant Soren and 2. Ensure the change of designation for AYUSH Community Health Officers to AYUSH Medical Officers.



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CMD CCL inaugurates Durga Puja Pandal

PNS : RANCHI



CCL celebrated the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja with the inauguration of a grand Durga Puja Pandal at Gandhinagar Colony. A masterpiece of art and devotion, the pandal was inaugurated by CCL CMD Nilendu Kumar Singh in the presence of senior officers and employees. Director (Personnel) Harsh Nath Mishra, Director (Technical/Operations) Harish Duhan and Head of Department (CC & PR) Alok Kumar graced the occasion. A large number of employees and the people were also present on the occasion. Singh extended his heartfelt greetings to the CCL family and all present. He emphasized the significance of Durga Puja, which is a celebration of the triumph of good over evil and divine femininity.

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Truecaller launches name verification in India using UPI

PNS : RANCHI

Truecaller launches blue tick verification for all Premium users in India. The new Verified Badge service allows users to verify their identity through the government-backed Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to confirm their correct names. Truecaller Android Premium users in India can now validate their identity through UPI-based verification, enhancing trust and authenticity in digital communication.

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Tributes paid to Ratan Tata in Dhanbad

PNS : RANCHI

DHANBAD : The Tata Steel Jharia family along with a large number of community members paid homage to Ratan Tata here outside the local office of Tata group. General Manager Sanjay Rajoria, Narendra Kumar Gupta, Chief Jamadoba Group, Santosh Mahato, Regional Secretary (RCMU) and community members were present during the occasion.

DHANBAD : The Tata Steel Jharia family along with a large number of community members paid homage to Ratan Tata here outside the local office of Tata group. General Manager Sanjay Rajoria, Narendra Kumar Gupta, Chief Jamadoba Group, Santosh Mahato, Regional Secretary (RCMU) and community members were present during the occasion.

Jharkhand wins HINJ WHC 2024

PNS : RANCHI

The final match of the 14th Hockey India National Junior Women's Hockey Championship (HINJ WHC) 2024 was played between host Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Madhya Pradesh in which Jharkhand defeated Madhya Pradesh by 3-1 goals to become the champion. It was organized from September 30 to October 10 at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda International Hockey Stadium, Morabadi in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, under the joint aegis of Hockey India, Hockey Jharkhand and Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Government of Jharkhand.



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Ranchi Police on high alert during Durga Puja



Police personnel conduct a flag March in view of Durga Puja festival in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

PNS : RANCHI

Ranchi Police is completely on alert mode regarding Durga Puja. On Wednesday, a mock drill was conducted in Ranchi Police Line ground to deal with the miscreants. Through this, the message was given that the police is fully prepared to conduct Durga Puja in a peaceful manner.

with the miscreants. Police personnel conducted the mock drill on the instructions of SSP Chandan Kumar Sinha.

In fact, the police administration is completely alert regarding Durga Puja. Ranchi SSP Chandan Kumar Sinha has instructed all the police station and OP in-charges of the district to keep special vigil in the area on the occasion of Durga Puja. Ranchi Police has assured the public about security by conducting a mock drill and has tried to give the message that the police is fully prepared to deal with any situa-

tion.

The readiness of the police was seen in the mock drill of Ranchi Police. Here the police was in the role of the rioters and the police was also the one to take action against them. From stone pelting on the rioters to tear gas shells, aerial firing, water cannon, lathi charge to arrest, everything was practiced. During the mock drill, the soldiers were also told that if the situation worsens and people get injured, how to send the injured to the hospital immediately and how to take the ambulance out of the crowd.

During this, the police personnel practiced lathi charge, tear gas shells, water cannon etc. Practice was done to deal with an imaginary situation. During the mock drill, it seemed as if the entire area was under the control of rioters and the police was trying to deal with it. The police personnel demonstrated their experience by assimilating the information given in the training. A large number of common people also participated in the mock drill.

From Trainee to Chairman: Room No 11 of Tata Motors hostel that shaped Ratan Tata's career in corporate world

PARVINDER BHATIA : JAMSHEDPUR

Ratan Tata, the iconic former Chairman of the Tata Group, started his career from a humble room in Jamshedpur. As a young trainee, Tata resided in Room No. 11 of the Dealer's Apprentice Hostel at Tata Motors (formerly known as TELCO), the very company he would later lead to global acclaim.

were constructed to provide accommodation for the company's trainees and young engineers: the Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) Hostel, the Graduate Engineer (GE) Hostel, and the Dealer's Apprentice Hostel. These facilities were designed to foster a close-knit community among the trainees while ensuring their basic needs were met.



These hostels housed the best of India's engineering talent—young minds from top institutions across the country and the world. Many of these engineers, including Ratan Tata, would go on to become the leaders and innovators of their respective fields. "These hostels give us a home-like feeling, and there is nothing more we could ask for," shares Kaushal, a resident of the GET Hostel. For those who stayed there, these hostels

grassroots level. His proximity to the workers and engineers allowed him to observe firsthand the challenges they faced, a perspective that would later influence his people-first approach as Chairman of the Tata Group.

The hostels were more than just places to sleep. They were hubs of creativity, innovation, and cultural exchange. Every year, these hostels became the heart of two major cultural festivals: 'Wheels' and 'Ankuram'. These events, organized entirely by the young engineers and trainees, drew participation not just from the residents of the hostels, but from the entire town of Jamshedpur.

commitment to its young engineers. With modern amenities, comfortable living arrangements, and a focus on holistic development, the hostels continue to house over 3,000 trainees every year. Though times have changed, the spirit of camaraderie, learning, and mutual support remains unchanged.

Over the decades, these hostels have witnessed visits from some of the most esteemed leaders in the Tata Group, including Ratan Tata himself. His return to the hostels as Chairman was a full-circle moment, where he revisited the very grounds that had once nurtured his dreams and ambitions. It was a reflection of the Tata philosophy: a commitment to excellence, a dedication to nurturing talent, and a deep respect for the people who make the company great.

were not just about shelter—they were the cradle where future industrial giants were nurtured.

As a trainee in Jamshedpur, Ratan Tata's days were spent learning the intricacies of the automotive industry, while his nights were spent sharing the camaraderie of fellow trainees in the Dealer's Apprentice Hostel. His room, No. 11, became a

part of the lore that surrounds Tata's early career, a place where the future visionary would reflect on the company he would one day lead.

This close-knit hostel environment played a significant role in shaping Tata's leadership style. It was during these formative years that he developed an understanding of the company's operations at a

Congress marginalised in UP as alliance with SP teeters

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party's (SP) recent decision to field six candidates for the upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, without consulting Congress, has cast a shadow on the INDIA alliance's stability, particularly in the state. This move highlights the growing friction between SP and Congress, sparking concerns over Congress's diminishing role in the alliance and its potential marginalization in Uttar Pradesh's political landscape. The timing couldn't be worse for Congress, which has been struggling to regain ground after a disappointing performance in the Haryana elections. Political observers argue that this setback has further weakened Congress's bargaining power within the INDIA bloc, especially in states dominated by powerful regional parties like SP. The unilateral decision by SP hints

at the internal tug-of-war within the alliance and Congress's shrinking clout in crucial decision-making processes. Political commentator Manoj Bhadra expressed concern over SP's announcement. "By declaring candidates without consulting Congress, SP has signaled a shift in its strategy. The Congress-SP alliance, which showed some success in past elections, seems to be unraveling." He said that the two parties had previously collaborated effectively, stalling the BJP's advance in UP. However, the latest development shows SP distancing itself from Congress, possibly questioning the party's relevance in the alliance. A senior SP leader, speaking anonymously, highlighted Congress's eroding voter base and urged the party to reassess its rigid approach to seat-sharing. "Congress needs to be realistic. Their recent defeat in Haryana shows a



clear decline. If they continue with their stubborn approach, their risk being left out of the political game in UP." Reports indicate that Congress had initially sought to contest five seats in the by-elections—seats currently held by the BJP. However, SP's move to go ahead without

their input has strained relations. "Despite Congress requesting a share of five seats, SP's independent decisions reflect Congress's diminishing influence in Uttar Pradesh," a senior Congress leader admitted. Congress's UP in-charge, Avinash Pandey, acknowl-

ed that SP had sidelined the party during the candidate selection process but remained hopeful of an eventual agreement. "We still believe that an alliance is possible. Congress and SP can, and should, contest these by-elections together," he said, trying to downplay the ten-

sion. Ajay Rai, President of UP Congress, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing that their "Samvidhan Bachao" campaign would proceed in all 10 constituencies, showing Congress's intent to remain active despite the uncertainty. "I am optimistic we can still join forces with SP for these by-elections," Rai remarked. Yet, SP's national spokesperson, Amik Jamei, took a more critical stance, attributing Congress's struggles to internal discord and strategic missteps. "If Congress had involved Akhilesh Yadav in key campaign efforts, they might have fared better in recent elections. Congress needs to rethink its approach," Jamei argued, stressing the importance of cooperation in challenging the BJP. While tensions persist, SP spokesperson Manoj Kumar Yadav tried to smooth over the situation, reaffirming SP's

focus on defeating the BJP, regardless of internal alliance issues. "Our target remains defeating the BJP, and we've done it before. Congress needs to reflect on its position and work with us, not against us." Rajendra Chaudhary, another SP spokesperson, indicated that decisions regarding seat-sharing would ultimately be made by Akhilesh Yadav himself, further suggesting that Congress's role in these negotiations is far from secure. A senior Congress leader acknowledged the delicate situation, stating, "This shouldn't become a matter of prestige. We should accept a couple of seats and contest alongside SP. We must face reality: our current strength may not be enough to match the BJP's formidable machinery." Among SP's candidates is Tej Pratap Yadav, Lalu Prasad Yadav's son-in-law, who will contest the Karhal seat vacat-

ed by Akhilesh Yadav following his election to Parliament. Other notable candidates include Naseem Solanki (Sisamau), Mustafa Siddiqui (Phulpur), Ajit Prasad (Milkipur), Shobhavati Verma (Kathehri), and Dr. Jyoti Bind (Manjhanpur), all boasting solid political credentials. The upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, while regional in nature, carry national implications. They will serve as a litmus test for the INDIA alliance, formed to counter BJP's dominance. The alliance, including Congress, SP, and other regional players, is already feeling the strain of internal divisions and seat-sharing conflicts. Whether it can hold together against the BJP's formidable electoral machine will be clearer once these crucial by-election results are in. The outcome may well shape the future dynamics of opposition politics heading into the 2024 general elections.

Omar set to don CM's hat, BJP in opposition seat

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

With Omar Abdullah set to don the Chief Minister's hat in the absence of PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti, who decided against contesting the Assembly polls, the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has been left open for a handful of six opposition members from Kashmir and a 29 member saffron brigade from Jammu region to play the role of an effective opposition. The opposition benches will be occupied by the 29 BJP MLAs along with three legislators from the Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples' Conference Chief Sajad Lone, and two other independent legislators from Langate and Shopian. Since 2002, leaders belonging to the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and the



Peoples Democratic Party have occupied the chair of the leader of the opposition. However, this time when Omar Abdullah occupies the chair of the leader of the house in the assembly, he

will face a BJP leader in front of him as leader of the opposition. BJP is returning to the opposition benches after enjoying a short stint in power for almost three years (between

March 2015 and June 2018). Though BJP legislators always occupied the opposition benches, this will be the first time in the history of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly that a BJP leader

will be occupying the post of leader of the opposition. So far the BJP has not convened a meeting to formally elect the leader of the legislative party in the house. When PDP-BJP formed an alliance government in March 2015 Omar Abdullah, with a strength of 15 members in the house remained leader of the opposition. Mehbooba Mufti also served as leader of the opposition at the beginning of her political career before founding PDP in 1999. It is for the first time that Kashmir Valley will have only six members in the opposition camp. In 2002, when Mufti Mohd Sayeed formed an alliance government with the congress party the National Conference had 28 members in the opposition, majority of them hailed from Kashmir. In 2008 PDP occupied the opposition benches with 21 members.

BJP MLA slapped during Lakhimpur Urban Cooperative Bank elections

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The incident of BJP MLA Yogesh Verma being slapped during the Lakhimpur Urban Cooperative Bank elections has taken the nation by storm through social media. A video of the MLA being attacked went viral rapidly on platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp. Former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav took to Facebook to comment on the situation, mocking the BJP by stating that "injustice leads to violence" and accusing the ruling party of making electoral malpractice a strategy. Similarly, Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Shivpal Yadav expressed concern through posts on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook, saying that the state's condition has become grave, with even ruling party legislators no longer safe.

Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai also condemned the incident via a post on X. Throughout the day, a video of the altercation during the nomination process of the Urban Cooperative Bank's governing body, in which MLA Yogesh Verma was assaulted, remained one of the top trending topics on X. His name ranked fourth on the platform's trending list, with over 9,000 posts. Many users shared the video, further fueling the online buzz. In addition to Yogesh Verma, the name of Awadhesh Singh, the person accused of slapping the MLA, trended throughout the day. Numerous posts highlighted Singh's involvement in the incident. The hashtag 'Bank Elections' also trended, ranking 24th, with more than 1,800 posts, where users expressed varied opinions on the matter. What is usually a low-key elec-

tion for the Urban Cooperative Bank has turned into a battleground this year. The nomination process saw abuses, fights, chaos, and accusations flying between various factions. The violence during the nomination filing has raised serious questions about the preparedness of the administration to handle such situations. The bank has around 12,500 shareholders who cast their votes to elect delegates and a chairman. The nomination process for the elections began on Wednesday, with the withdrawal of nominations scheduled for the 10th, followed by the publication of the final list and the allocation of election symbols on the 11th. However, since the notification for this year's elections, the entire process has been under intense scrutiny. The situation escalated further on Tuesday, and finally, violence erupted on Wednesday.

Ratan Tata: Admired and adored in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

M Abdul Rehman, a 68-year-old shop keeper in Kerala's Perumbavoor is one of the billions of Indians who are in mourning. Though he has not personally met Ratan Tata, the trailblazer of India Inc, who breathed his last late Wednesday night, Rehman prayed throughout the day for Ratan Tata. Rehman was an employee of Tata Oil Company in Ernakulam and remembers each day of his life in the company. "What made TOMCO, who was owned and managed by Tata Group during my tenure, was their attitude and approach to the employees. Workers who were not in the best of health were asked to spend their time in the company's Club House where all they need to do was to sit, chat and consume the best tea we had tasted," reminisces Rehman. The Ernakulam TOMCO manufactured brand soaps like Hamam, Jai and Moti besides a popular washing soap under the 501 brand name. "The company also made Tata Hair Oil and shampoos that were unique in all respect. The manufacturing process and packing were of global standards. The hair oil and shampoo were trendsetters," said Rehman. When the company found the going tough and lost its market share to its competitor, Tatas sold it out to their nearest rivals and this marked the end of the Group's odyssey with soap manufacturing. Though Hamam brand is still there in the market, Jai, Moti, hair oils and shampoos are dead and gone. "There was an elegance attached to all the brands which hit the market under the Tata logo," said Rehman, who was given the pink slip once the company changed hands. Though the name Tata Oil Mills too is gone, the locality where the company stands is still known by the name Tatapuram. There are many writers, actors and musicians who have the prefix Tatapuram attached to their names. Ever heard of



Tatapuram Sukumaran who survived as a short story writer only because of the Tata tag? There are many charity organizations in Kerala fully funded by the Tata Group. Ratan Tata took special care in ensuring that these establishments (ranging from schools and hostels for children suffering from autism to hospitals) never faced any shortage of funds. The "Ratan" of Corporate last visited Kerala in 2009 when he stayed in Munnar where the Tatas have one of the largest tea estates in south India. Anil Kumar, the chauffeur who drove around Ratan Tata in Munnar and Devikulam had told this reporter that he saw simplicity and humility personified while he was driving Ratan Tata around. What Parsi Khabar (the news letter brought out by the Zoroastrian community said in its obituary to the prince of Indian business sums up what Ratan Tata has done to the world. "He is survived by his extended family at the Tata Group and the countless lives he touched, mentored, and inspired. His memory will continue to be a beacon of hope, reminding us that the greatest legacies are built not with bricks and mortar, but with love, generosity, and a deep sense of responsibility toward others. He is on his journey to Garohtman Behesh (the highest paradise in Zoroastrian belief) after 86 years of life full of Humata, Hukhta and Hvarshta (good thoughts, good words and good deeds), the one and only ideology of the Parsi community immortalized by the likes of Ratan Tata, JRD and Jamshedji Tata.

96 per cent MLAs crorepatis, 12 have criminal cases in Haryana: ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the newly-elected 90-member Haryana Assembly, 96 per cent MLAs (86) are crorepatis, while 13 per cent (12) have criminal cases against them, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Haryana Election Watch. An analysis of the affidavits of all the 90 winning candidates by the ADR show a slight rise in the number of crorepati MLAs, from 93 per cent in 2019 to 96 per cent this time. Of the 90 MLAs, 44 per cent possess assets worth over Rs 10 crore, while only 2.2 per cent have assets below Rs 20

lakh, the data showed. The average assets per winning candidate stand at Rs 24.97 crore, marking a handsome rise from Rs 18.29 crore in 2019. Party-wise, 96 per cent BJP legislators, 95 per cent Congress MLAs, and 100 per cent of both INLD and Independent winners have declared assets exceeding Rs 1 crore. Independent MLA from Hisar Savitri Jindal tops the list with assets totalling over Rs 270 crore, followed by BJP's Shakti Rani Sharma and Shruti Choudhry at Rs 145 crore and Rs 134 crore, respectively. A total of 30 MLAs have been re-elected in 2024, whose



average assets grew by 59 per cent since 2019, from Rs 9.08 crore to Rs 14.46 crore now, marking significant financial gains over the past five years. Meanwhile, of the winning

serious criminal cases against them. Party-wise, 19 per cent Congress MLAs, 6 per cent BJP legislators, and 67 per cent of the Independent winners have declared criminal cases against their names. The analysis also showed that 28 winning candidates have declared liabilities of Rs 1 crore or more, with Congress' Rajbir Fartia from Loharu topping the chart at Rs 44 crore. Fartia also tops the list of highest income earners, declaring an earning of Rs 10.75 crore in his Income Tax Return for 2023-24. In terms of educational qualification, 68 per cent winning candidates are graduates or hold

higher degrees, while 29 per cent have educational backgrounds ranging from Class 8 to Class 12, as per the report. The new House has 14 per cent women legislators, an increase from 10 per cent in 2019, while 66 per cent of the MLAs are aged between 51 and 80 years. The poll results were announced Tuesday. Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt. While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were decimated and the INLD managed to win just two seats.

NIA chargesheets members of human trafficking gang sending Indians to Laos Indians being sent to Chinese cybercrime sweatshops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against members of a human trafficking gang that was sending Indians to Laos to work in cyber crime sweatshops run by Chinese scammers targeting European and American citizens. The agency filed its charge sheet before a special court on Wednesday against gang members Manjoor Alam alias Guddu, Sahil, Ashish alias Akhil, Pawan Yadav alias Afzal alias Afroz, along with the key conspirator, Kamran Haider alias Zaidi. "NIA investigations have revealed that all five were involved in trafficking vulnerable Indian youth to the Golden Triangle Region in Lao PDR where they were forced to commit cyber scams targeting European and American citizens. They operated through the consultancy firm, Ali International Services, which functioned as a front for human trafficking," an NIA spokesperson said in a statement.



According to the agency's investigation, Zaidi facilitated the entire operation and extorted money through crypto currency wallets from the victims who tried to escape from the clutches of the Chinese scammers. "Pawan Yadav bypassed the other middle agents to supply the trafficked persons in lieu of jobs directly to his folds. He further employed them in Chinese companies involved in creating fake Facebook profiles and chatting with persons from the USA and Europe, convincing them to invest in crypto currency apps as part of the cyber scam," the NIA said.

The agency said its probe has uncovered a well-organised network of traffickers and touts involved in various illegal activities. "These ranged from the operation of unlicensed manpower supply agencies to the illegal transfer and transport of potential victims for criminal activities in Southeast Asian countries. The accused named in the charge sheet were directly involved in arranging flight tickets and documents, and facilitating illegal border crossings with the help of contacts in the Golden Triangle Region," the statement added.

Condition of fasting doctors deteriorates on fifth day in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The condition of the junior doctors sitting on an indefinite fast in demand of Justice in the RG Kar rape and murder case worsened on the fifth day of the fast, doctors attending on them said. The condition of two doctors Aniket and Snigdha was particularly bad, sources said adding 120 hours of ceaseless fasting had started impacting their kidneys and livers and "things can go for worse anytime." "Though we have an ICU ambulance ready to ferry them to hospital they are not willing... Both the doctors refused to leave Esplanade the place where they are fasting," said Dr Saikat Neogi who was one of many medicines monitoring the junior doctors' health. Seven doctors from various medical colleges including the RGKMCH have been on an indefinite fast demanding apart from justice for the RG Kar victim other measures including immediate installation of centralized referral system with real-time monitoring, fool-proof security measures for the medical staff inside Government hospitals, installation of CCTV camera network, restrooms and wash-



rooms for the doctors end to the threat syndicate in government run medical colleges that had allegedly led to large-scale corruption and extortion racket inside the medical colleges etc, the doctors have also been demanding the removal of Principal Health Secretary NS Nigam. A mid-night dialogue between State Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and a delegation of junior doctors alleged failed with the doctors alleging that the officials only "expressed intent" but gave no written assurance on deadline by when things would be implemented. "The administration had nothing new to offer... they were evasive and were only buying time apparently to let the Durga Puja holidays pass off... but we are asking them to consider the immediacy and urgency of the issue,"

the doctors said. The Home Secretary and Health Secretary were also present in the talks. "In this situation if something happens to the junior doctors then the Government will be held fully responsible," said Dr Kinjal Nanda adding if the situation of the doctors aggravated they could even have hypoglycemia. Meanwhile in a related development the doctors of SSKM Postgraduate medical college and Hospital the biggest such facility in eastern India too started resigning their posts with 40 of them on Thursday offered mass resignation in reaction to what they called "Government's insensitivity to the situation of the doctors." With Thursday's resignations the number of doctors resigning their posts reached 300, sources said.



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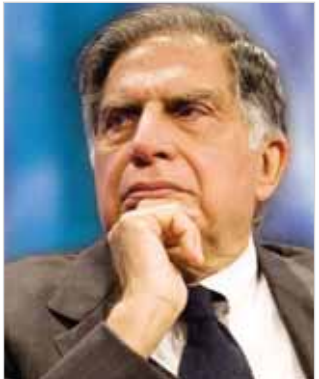
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PAPER WITH PASSION

India loses its 'Ratan'

Ratan Tata not only redefined Indian business practices but also set new standards for ethical leadership and corporate responsibility

The passing of Ratan Tata, one of India's most influential and revered business leaders, marks the end of an era for Indian industry and philanthropy. A visionary who transformed the Tata Group into a global powerhouse, Ratan Tata not only redefined Indian business practices but also set new standards for ethical leadership and corporate responsibility. His demise has left an indelible void in the Indian business landscape and his contributions will continue to shape India's socio-economic fabric for generations to come. Ratan Tata's leadership of the Tata Group from 1991 to 2012 is widely recognised as a period of extraordinary innovation and growth. He was instrumental in leading the conglomerate's diversification, moving it beyond its traditional industries like steel and textiles into sectors such as information technology, automotive, telecommunications and hospitality. Under his stewardship, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became a global leader in IT services. Tata Motors expanded its reach with the acquisitions of British automotive giants Jaguar and Land Rover in 2008. Tata's vision of making India a global player was rooted in a deep sense of nationalism, combined with a keen awareness of global business trends. Ratan Tata's most cherished moment came when Tata Motors launched the Nano in 2008 despite all odds. Though the Nano did not achieve commercial success, the boldness of the vision highlighted Tata's commitment to solving Indian problems with innovative solutions and realising the aspirations of Indian middle class. Known for his humility and discretion, he always emphasised that businesses should serve society at large. "We have to touch the lives of people in ways



that matter," Tata often said. Nearly two-thirds of Tata Group's profits are directed to social work through Tata Trusts, a remarkable legacy in Indian philanthropy. The Tata Trusts, under his guidance, funded several initiatives in healthcare, education and rural development. Tata maintained a reputation for being soft-spoken and modest, rarely allowing his personal life to take centre stage in the public eye. His leadership during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, where the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel was one of the primary targets, showed his resilience. Tata visited the families of affected staff members, providing support and ensuring that the hotel was rebuilt, symbolising the spirit of survival and recovery. Despite numerous achievements, Tata faced failures with grace. His decisions, such as the Nano, received criticism, but he handled setbacks with the dignity that defined him. His resilience and forward-thinking approach is his legacy that would inspire many. Ratan Tata's life was not just about business. His love for architecture, aviation and cars was well known. Despite his status as one of India's richest individuals, he led a simple life, often seen without an entourage, and known for driving himself. With Ratan Tata's passing, India has lost a visionary and a kind hearted leader who would be remembered for his achievements and resilience. Rest in peace!

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PICTALK



People purchase decorative items from a shop ahead of 'Ayudha Pooja' festival, in Bengaluru

PTI

MSMEs and food processing: A path to economic growth

Revitalising the MSME and food processing sectors in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, can boost economic growth, raise farmers' incomes and strengthen food security

Both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have been advocating for special government packages, emphasising the importance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as a key driver for development. The governments of these states, as well as the central government, recognise the significant potential in the MSME sector, particularly in food processing, and have prioritised it accordingly. Chief Ministers N Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar share concerns over the stagnation of the MSME sector in recent years, and both are committed to reviving it through various initiatives. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister Naidu has acknowledged the struggles faced by MSMEs over the past five years, emphasising the need to revitalise the sector. He highlighted the slow progress of MSME parks and raised concerns over pending government incentives, which have hampered the sector's growth. His administration aims to address these challenges by ensuring the release of overdue incentives and enhancing the participation of



farmers in MSME parks. By linking farmers directly to these parks, Naidu envisions a system where agricultural stakeholders can benefit directly from business opportunities. Similarly, Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has voiced concerns about MSMEs and infrastructure development in his state. Kumar has aligned with Naidu in recognising the critical role of MSMEs in driving economic growth and ensuring regional prosperity. The coincidence of Bihar's representation in the central government, with ministers like Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chirag Paswan, has further fueled efforts to secure the necessary support for these initiatives. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has encouraged these ministers to focus on fostering connections between DWCRAs groups and MSMEs to enhance economic opportunities for small enterprises. A significant allocation of Rs 100 crore as a credit guarantee for MSMEs has been announced, underscoring the importance of ensuring financial support for these small businesses. However, meaningful progress in the MSME sector is unlikely unless strong linkages are created between MSMEs and the food processing industry, as these sectors are highly interdependent. The food processing industry, in particular, has been recognised as a powerful engine for economic growth. India is one of the largest producers of various food items, including milk, fruits, vegetables, millet, tea and fish. This creates a robust foundation for the growth of the food processing sector. India's position as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world is bolstered by the significant role played by the food processing industry in ensuring food security and driving economic expansion.

The food processing industry, in particular, has been recognised as a powerful engine for economic growth. India is one of the largest producers of various food items, including milk, fruits, vegetables, millet, tea and fish. This creates a robust foundation for the growth of the food processing sector. India's position as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world is bolstered by the significant role played by the food processing industry in ensuring food security and driving economic expansion.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries reported that by the end of FY 2022-23, the sector contributed 7.66 per cent of the gross value added (GVA) in manufacturing and 8.45 per cent of the GVA in agriculture. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector has been strong, with Rs 5,290.27 crore in 2021-22 and Rs 2,934.12 crore in 2020-21. However, challenges remain, as processed food exports saw a 17 per cent decline in FY24, dropping from \$13,078.3 million in the previous fiscal to \$10,881.81 million. To address these challenges and promote growth, the government has implemented several initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries (PLISFPI), and Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME). By increasing processing levels and creating employment, these programs also aim to raise farmers' incomes.

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



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

RATAN TATA IS NO MORE

Madam — A true gem can only be distinguished by its value and brightness. However, if a gem is hidden within a person, its value and sparkle are not visible to recognise it. Ratan Tata, India's famous industrialist, was another such figure whose contributions will be remembered for centuries to come. Everyone knows about his outstanding social efforts and affection for pets. Ratan Tata had a heart that beat for dogs till his last breath. Ratan Tata was nothing short of a deity to the stray dogs roaming the streets, which others looked down on or ignored. The doors of his Taj Hotel were always open to dogs. Ratan Tata asked for aid by posting a photo of a dog on his Instagram account on June 26, 2024.

He posted a lengthy post requesting a blood transfusion for the seven-month-old dog. After that, several people brought their dogs to give blood transfusions. Ratan Tata founded the Small Animal Hospital Mumbai (SAHM), the first of its kind in the country, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for 24/7 care, inspired by his struggle to find advanced treatment for his dog abroad. He encouraged people to adopt stray dogs rather than buying pets, promoting animal welfare.

Amrapali Roy | Jamshedpur

KASHMIR REJECTS BJP

Madam — This is in response to the report titled 'Victory for Democracy'. It is strange why one and only the 'reverberations' of the Haryana mandate would travel 'far and wide', but not that handed out by the Jammu and Kashmir electorate! Despite so zealous chest-thumping revolving around the "peace" in Kashmir Valley following the "historic" saga of 5th August 2019, the BJP simply gets thwarted in the region. However, the result is far from surprising, as no self-respecting Kashmiri Muslim will ever vote for a party swearing in the name of Hindutva in this

Why technology can't ease people's suffering

While advancements in technology have improved lives in many areas, the failure to mitigate the destruction caused by recurring floods exposes a glaring disconnect



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The rains were here. They were here for a long time—if one goes by the weeks and months, the news channels were reporting their havoc from one end of the country to the other. From streets in Surat to fields in Biral of Darbhanga, water was found everywhere. From the hills of Himachal to the banks of Kavery, water was found in all the wrong places. Physical devastation and human tragedy were writ large. Rains are not new, and equally clearly, technology is progressing by leaps and bounds.

One wonders when 'the train shall meet'. One would have thought that repeated experiences, such as what Kosi has caused in north Bihar, would have changed the contours of its effects. It would not be the same in terms of embankments breaking in the same style, and it would not be the same manner of misery caused by the devastation of fragile huts and repeated breaking of embankments over and over again. Surely the country that boasts the landing on the moon and explorations of the planet can better respond to the devastations of nature.

There is a missing link somewhere which is so close to all that it's not even visible to the affected people. In some other countries, people are talking and doing as it were. They are changing the course of rivers and planning habitation in a manner that makes life less vulnerable and the potential for tragedy more manageable. To get back to the example of Bihar, whether it be the neighbourhood of the Budhi Gandak River or Kosi, habitations have been built to keep them away from the reach of floods. However, the devastations have their ways of surprising. Consider the recent claim of the UGC Chairman in the printed world about the citations of Indian research in international forums. Consider the pronouncement of the political elite on the scientific breakthroughs of leading centres of science and

technology in the world of research.

All of them are legitimate claims duly annotated and evidence tested. The question remains how much of this technology has altered the quality of life of the people? It is not all a dreary story. Technology has changed the lives of several crores of people, especially in matters which have to do with the supply of clean water. This is as true as the story of the fury of floods.

However, somewhere the coexistence of such opposite experiences remains an enigma and difficult to explain. Science and technology cannot be bereft of responsibilities to society at large. Equally clear is the fact that death and destruction experiences would serve as the bottom line of the outcomes of devastation.

Somehow a bottom connection between technological progress and its tangible effects needs to be established. Somewhere the definition of progress and growth



THEY ARE CHANGING THE COURSE OF RIVERS AND PLANNING HABITATION IN A MANNER THAT MAKES LIFE LESS VULNERABLE AND THE POTENTIAL FOR TRAGEDY MORE MANAGEABLE

has to cover elimination of the same stories of destruction and death in the same regions over and over again. So long as the devastation of Kosi remains an annual affair with the same results most of the time, there is something in the developmental agenda that needs to be addressed. It is not an easy question to answer, especially after decades of application of the prescriptions whether it be a Planning Commission or the Niti Ayog. These questions need to be flagged and repeated till answers are found. In a country filled with bright people like India, there must be actionable solutions to mitigate human misery. Perhaps the part answer would lie in empowering local people with skills, resources, and more to handle local problems. Higher levels of administration, like the district at the state level, have to deal with issues of connectivity, coordination, mobilisation of resources, and using the skills of the people with commitment in

that part of the country to work for the welfare of the local context and the local circumstances. Far too much have rewards been focused on recognition gained abroad and talking of the big and the grand.

While there may be nothing wrong with that recognition and solutions to local problems should be picked up by the decision making system, the influential clientele, and the political elite. A culture has to be built to identify the local problems and use means of technology and resources to handle them at a local level. Interventions of this variety should recognise the same approval and celebration as an invitation from abroad or for that matter making of the great in a foreign institution. Somewhere a paradigm change would help the mitigation of local problems. It can be done and needs to be done.

(The writer is an internationally acclaimed management consultant; The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Press freedom is sacrosanct



The Supreme Court's recent ruling affirming the right of journalists to criticise the government without retaliatory action comes as a breather for the media's honest warriors—journalists—who do not want to join the bandwagon in sucking up to those in power. However, doubts remain as to how far this momentous judgement will

hold water. The "one man show" that we have witnessed over the past decade offers very little hope that the SC's verdict will be honoured (remember how the SC's dictate that bail, not jail ought to be the rule is being flouted almost to the point of being ignored).

If the PM has a grudge against a "colonial mindset," ordinary Indians have a lot to complain about a "post-colonial mindset," as displayed by not only the present dispensation but the Congress before it. Even before Modi took over in the year 2014, the media was not as independent as expected in a nation that is supposedly rooted in democratic principles. Modi has only picked up from where the Congress left, as far as freedom of the press is concerned.

Avinash Godbole | Dewas

EXIT POLLS FAIL

Madam — It is not for the first time that the exit polls have proven wrong and detailed methodologies for the recent election surveys were not used. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, exit polls overestimated the BJP-led NDA performance, projecting over 400 seats when the alliance actually secured 293. A large number of pollsters in India now failed to accurately predict election outcomes in Haryana and J and K. In Haryana, most agencies had forecast fewer than 30 seats for the BJP, but official results showed the party winning 48 out of 90 seats. Pollsters had predicted 10-year anti-incumbency but proved altogether wrong. Voters in J and K kept parties guessing till the very end. For all the speculative intrigue ahead of J and K's much awaited election, J and K (NC 42, BJP 29, Cong 6) spoke as one—no-hung verdict. Pollsters got it wrong.

SK Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

multi-religious secular nation and also would never forgive such elements who had made a mockery of federalism not only by unilaterally abrogating special provisions and rights guaranteed by the Constitution itself but also dividing the state and relegating it to a mere Union Territory. Kashmiri electorate have transmitted a clear message that communal forces should be thwarted not only by protesting against it but also through wise tactical voting so that secular votes get polled in favour of the strongest party/coalition by preventing division of votes.

And surely if the victory of the BJP in Haryana is "Triumph of democracy," that of the National Conference-Congress alliance in Jammu and Kashmir also demands the same epithet! Let the mandate of the Union Territory (especially Kashmir Valley) reverberate and travel far and wide, giving the secular force renewed vigour and hope that the Idea of India can still be saved by standing in a united wise way.

Kajal Chatterjee | Chennai



FIRST COLUMN

SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS

We must focus on solving our own problems objectively without going into cyclic thinking



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

This is very wise to do. Because we must be the prime movers for this. But we are in denial or wish to make a good impression on others. Mostly, we don't. We go into cyclic thinking; and get obsessed with our problems. This is not solving our problems. On the contrary, we are making them worse. Surprisingly, we have solutions to the problems of others, societies, nations, etc. Some of them may be good because we are likely to be objective about them. This is great except that we are not being asked. Then, there are other limitations. When it is our problem, we see mostly the dark side and do not think about how solving it will benefit us.

Regarding issues of others, we are also not seeing the nature of the person. We assume that they will be perfect without any faults like being ignorant, egoist, etc. Their circumstances may be very different from ours. In short, it is a complete waste of time to think of the problems of others. I have realised this, and now I try to focus on my problems; I have plenty. Out of them, I have chosen the six most important ones. As in my habit, I seek solutions from the Bhagavad-Geeta – the book of eternal wisdom. I will begin with the most pressing, which is being fearful. What has Lord Krishna instructed about this fundamental matter? (Verse # 2.40) In simple language, it means that one should take shelter from God to reduce fears.

I have done this and my fearful tendencies have reduced appreciably. Whenever I become fearful, I pray for guidance and help from



my Lord. Believe it; He guides and helps. My next serious problem is getting sexual thoughts and feelings. Lord Krishna has given its solution too. (3.43) I have realised that I cannot reason my way out of it. For example, I use lots of internet for useful information. What does pop out in between? I am getting good practice to press the Back – button. For the younger lot, the Lord has a solution too. He has allowed 'kama' (passion) in beings according to 'dharma' (religious principles). The third problem I seriously face is not being sincere about taking shelter from God. The tapasya (austerity) required defeats me.

The reason of course is the nature of my body. The mind, the senses and the intelligence all are material, and the tapasya required is spiritual. What is the solution? Pray for help and keep praying. That itself is a spiritual act. You will succeed as I am getting better. The fourth problem, which is a serious challenge for me is my 'ahankar' (ego). With success comes Shankar, i.e. I am superior. What is the solution according to the Geeta? What did Lord Krishna tell Arjuna, "If you don't heed my instructions due to your ahankar, you will perish." (18.58) I try to remind myself whenever I get too puffed up; that I don't wish to perish. The fifth giver of trouble to me is my weakness to gain attention, fame, etc.

I have realised that whatever I have achieved is due to the 'kripa' (mercy) of my Lord. By myself, I am close to zero as a small soul. What did Lord Krishna tell Arjuna? (11.33) I give credit for my successes to my Lord. The last one is interpersonal relationships. I have tried to reform my near and dear ones and surely failed miserably. They will improve when they desire to. It is working especially with my grandchildren. So, I am trying to improve my behaviour. This fits with my original requirement of solving my problems. (The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)



SHRIRUPA SENGUPTA

produces enough food to meet caloric needs, ensuring nutritional adequacy remains a challenge. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-2021) shows that while caloric intake is generally adequate, undernutrition persists—35.5 per cent of children under five are stunted, and 19.3 per cent suffer from wasting. Micronutrient deficiencies, such as anaemia due to iron deficiency among women and

vitamin deficiencies among children, further contribute to hidden hunger. Economic disparities and social inequities, including gender inequality and limited health-care access, play significant roles in perpetuating undernutrition.

Poorer segments of the population often lack access to a diverse, nutritious diet and rely heavily on staples like rice and wheat, with inadequate consumption of fruits, vegetables, and proteins.

Community-Led Nutrition Hubs: A Promising Solution Community-led nutrition hubs provide a grassroots approach to addressing food insecurity. Unlike top-down methods, these hubs leverage local knowledge and leadership to create sustainable, con-

text-specific solutions. They focus on balanced, nutritious diets rather than just caloric intake, helping to build community resilience against undernutrition.

Promoting Dietary Diversity: Nutrition hubs encourage the consumption of diverse foods, including fruits, vegetables, legumes, and animal products, essential for a balanced diet. By promoting dietary diversity, these hubs address micronutrient deficiencies and hidden hunger.

Supporting Vulnerable Groups: These hubs effectively reach vulnerable populations like children, pregnant women, and the elderly. They provide tailored nutritional support, fortified foods, supplements, and education on specific nutritional needs.



Leveraging Local Agriculture: Nutrition hubs support local food production and sustainable agricultural practices, increasing access to fresh, nutritious foods. This approach reduces dependence on external food supplies, which can be affected by price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions, particularly amid climate change.

Impact of Community-Led

Nutrition Hubs: Data from various studies highlight the effectiveness of community-led initiatives in improving nutritional outcomes and resilience. For example, a 2022 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) noted a 20 per cent reduction in stunting rates among children under five in regions of Uttar Pradesh following the introduction of nutrition hubs.

The Global Nutrition Report 2023 showed that such hubs have improved micronutrient intake, with a 30 per cent increase in iron-rich food consumption among women in Maharashtra, significantly reducing anaemia. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also found that communities practising

sustainable agriculture supported by nutrition hubs had a 20 per cent increase in crop yields during droughts compared to traditional methods. **A Whole-of-Society Approach:** Achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" hinges on ensuring food security and building resilience through community-led initiatives. However, these goals require a whole-of-society approach that involves all community members, not just women. Men as Partners: Encouraging men to participate in nutrition hubs, whether through farming, cooking, or community organising, helps distribute responsibility more equitably and promotes gender equity. **Youth Engagement:** Involving young people in these efforts

ensures the continuation of community-led initiatives and brings fresh ideas and energy to the table.

Local Govt Support: Local governments can support and scale these initiatives by providing funding, policy support, and infrastructure, making nutrition hubs integral parts of community development.

Gender Equity and Shared Responsibility: While women are often on the frontlines of nutrition and food security, the burden should not fall solely on them. Engaging men, youth, and local governance helps create more equitable and sustainable solutions.

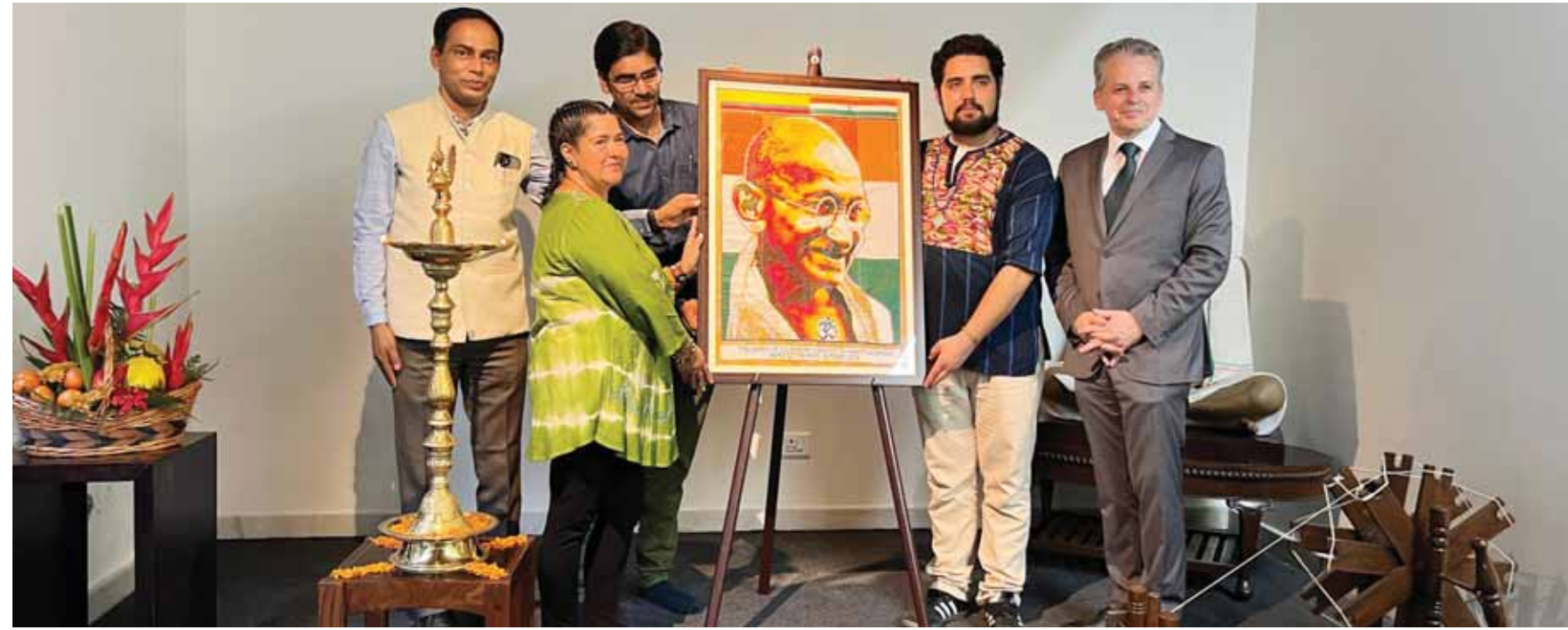
(The writer is Director - Centre for Strategic Communications for Public Health at Swasti; views are personal)

Celebrating unity and reconciliation through art



RAJDEEP PATHAK

In a world fraught with divisions, art transcends barriers, builds bridges. "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," underscores this profound connection



In a world often marked by discord and division, art emerges as a powerful medium that transcends barriers and speaks to our shared humanity. It serves as a universal language that unites people in their collective longing for peace, healing, and reconciliation. Against this backdrop, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, in collaboration with the Embassy of Colombia in India, recently hosted a poignant exhibition titled "Weaving Life to Weave Peace," an initiative of 'Tejidos Chakana'. This significant event, held shortly after the celebrations of October 2nd - Gandhi Jayanti, and the International Day of Nonviolence - underscores the deep connection between art and the pursuit of harmony in our world. The exhibition vividly highlights the transformative power of creativity as it honours the countless lives lost to conflict in Colombia - and the world per se - a nation that has weathered its share of internal strife and lost countless innocent citizens. The Colombian artisans, Mateo Perea Bernal and Nancy Gomez presented an extraordinary array of stunning creations crafted with fine stone beads. Each meticulously designed portrait serves as a heartfelt homage to politicians, journalists, humourists, social thinkers, and others whose lives were tragically cut short by violence. Another defining moment of the exhibition was the unveiling of a remarkable portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, crafted out of an astounding, over 1.4 million stone beads by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Victor Echeverri of Colombia in India, with flags of both the Nations imprinted through the beads.

This unique piece stands as a testament to the ideals of peace and reconciliation that Mahatma Gandhi tirelessly championed throughout his life. In a touching gesture, it was generously donated to the Gandhi Smriti, serving as a fitting tribute to the legacy of a leader who devoted himself to the principles of nonviolence, till the last breath of his life. 'Tejidos Chakana' is a transformative Colombian initiative rooted in ancestral traditions, using the art of weaving to promote peace and reconciliation. Founded by artisans, it honours indigenous techniques and local materials, preserving traditional

craftsmanship while providing a platform for artisans to express their stories of struggle and resilience.

Each handcrafted piece reflects the creativity and strength of a nation recovering from conflict, weaving narratives of hope and unity for a brighter future. At the heart of 'Tejidos Chakana' is the belief that art can bridge divides and foster understanding. The initiative engages diverse communities through workshops and collaborative projects, empowering individuals to reclaim their voices and share their experiences. This cultural exchange promotes dialogue, enabling people to confront their past and imagine peaceful coexistence. Moreover, through vibrant exhibitions, 'Tejidos Chakana' celebrates the artistry and resilience of Colombian artisans, underscoring their vital role in the larger narrative of peace-building. The initiative is a testament to the power of creativity in healing communities and fostering social impact.

By promoting dialogue and cultural exchange, the aim is to foster an environment where healing can occur, allowing people to confront their past while envisioning a peaceful coexistence. The story of 'Tejidos Chakana' resonates deeply with Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs, particularly his emphasis on the use of hands, creativity, and self-reliance as essential elements of individual and societal transformation. Gandhi often spoke of the profound connection between manual labour and the soul, advocating for the dignity and significance of work that involves the hands.

He would say, "If I were a poet, I would write poetry on the possibilities of my five fingers." In his vision of education, known as 'Nai Talim' or 'Basic Education,' Mahatma Gandhi stressed the importance of learning through

productive activity, where creativity and craftsmanship were not merely tools for economic independence but essential means for cultivating inner peace, self-reliance, and a deeper connection with one's community. Much like 'Tejidos Chakana,' Mahatma Gandhi viewed the act of creating with one's hands as a form of empowerment, healing, and self-expression. For him, the spinning wheel, or 'charkha,' became a symbol of India's struggle for independence - more than just a tool for producing cloth, it represented self-sufficiency, unity, and the rejection of exploitative systems. By encouraging Indians to spin their yarn and weave their cloth, Gandhi ji promoted the idea that true freedom came from within, not only political or economic autonomy but also spiritual and cultural self-reliance. In both the Gandhian framework and the 'Tejidos Chakana' initiative, the act of weaving transcends its material purpose to become a metaphor for life itself. Just as threads are intricately woven to form a piece of fabric, so too are communities brought together by shared experiences, challenges, and hopes. Mahatma Gandhi believed that individual self-reliance was a precursor to true collective harmony - only when people could stand on their own feet would they be able to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of society.

Similarly, the artisans of 'Tejidos Chakana' are not just creating objects of beauty; they are weaving the very fabric of a peaceful and united future for their nation. Echoing Gandhi's ideas of community empowerment and education, as not merely a process of acquiring academic knowledge, but as a holistic development of the individual within a community setting, where the aim is to foster dialogue and cultural exchange, 'Tejidos Chakana' nurtures an environment of collective

learning, where people confront their past traumas and work together towards reconciliation and in the process healing. This reflects Gandhi's belief in the power of community and the idea that true education is incomplete without the cultivation of moral and social values. Moreover, "Weaving Life to Weave Peace" also aligns with Gandhi's vision of nonviolence, or 'ahimsa,' as an active force for peace-building. Mahatma Gandhi believed that nonviolence was not just the absence of physical conflict but the presence of love, compassion, and understanding. In conclusion, it can be said without exaggeration that such powerful initiatives invite the world to witness the power of art as a catalyst for change, encouraging humankind to appreciate the beauty that arises from the collective journeys toward reconciliation and understanding. Moreover, through the lens of art, "Weaving Life to Weave Peace" commemorates the past and inspires hope for a future without conflicts, thereby promoting collective responsibility in weaving a tapestry of peace for generations to come.

As we engage with these artistic expressions, we are reminded that every bead, every creation, and every story contribute to a larger narrative of healing and unity in our world. In celebrating these artistic expressions, we honour the timeless message that true peace begins with the work we do ourselves - both in our hearts and with our hands. This is evident as Ambassador Victor points out that if one bead breaks, the entire frame collapses, signifying the unifying strength of community and peace-building. They are what can be called, "Peace Beads".

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

THE ARTISANS OF 'TEJIDOS CHAKANA' ARE NOT JUST CREATING OBJECTS OF BEAUTY; THEY ARE WEAVING THE VERY FABRIC OF A PEACEFUL AND UNITED FUTURE FOR THEIR NATION

India's nutrition paradox: Tackling hidden hunger amid food sufficiency

The Global Hunger Index 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, highlighting that malnutrition, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies remain widespread

While India is not a country of widespread starvation, it does face significant challenges related to undernutrition and hidden hunger, particularly in rural areas. India has achieved self-sufficiency in food production and implemented programs to improve food access, such as the National Food Security Act and the National Nutrition Mission. However, issues like micronutrient deficiencies and income disparities exacerbate food insecurity in certain regions.

India's Nutrition Paradox: The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 ranks India 111th out of 125 countries, highlighting significant challenges with undernutrition, particularly among children. Though India



SHRIRUPA SENGUPTA

produces enough food to meet caloric needs, ensuring nutritional adequacy remains a challenge. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-2021) shows that while caloric intake is generally adequate, undernutrition persists—35.5 per cent of children under five are stunted, and 19.3 per cent suffer from wasting. Micronutrient deficiencies, such as anaemia due to iron deficiency among women and

vitamin deficiencies among children, further contribute to hidden hunger. Economic disparities and social inequities, including gender inequality and limited health-care access, play significant roles in perpetuating undernutrition.

Poorer segments of the population often lack access to a diverse, nutritious diet and rely heavily on staples like rice and wheat, with inadequate consumption of fruits, vegetables, and proteins.

Community-Led Nutrition Hubs: A Promising Solution Community-led nutrition hubs provide a grassroots approach to addressing food insecurity. Unlike top-down methods, these hubs leverage local knowledge and leadership to create sustainable, con-

text-specific solutions. They focus on balanced, nutritious diets rather than just caloric intake, helping to build community resilience against undernutrition.

Promoting Dietary Diversity: Nutrition hubs encourage the consumption of diverse foods, including fruits, vegetables, legumes, and animal products, essential for a balanced diet. By promoting dietary diversity, these hubs address micronutrient deficiencies and hidden hunger.

Supporting Vulnerable Groups: These hubs effectively reach vulnerable populations like children, pregnant women, and the elderly. They provide tailored nutritional support, fortified foods, supplements, and education on specific nutritional needs.



Leveraging Local Agriculture: Nutrition hubs support local food production and sustainable agricultural practices, increasing access to fresh, nutritious foods. This approach reduces dependence on external food supplies, which can be affected by price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions, particularly amid climate change.

Impact of Community-Led

Nutrition Hubs: Data from various studies highlight the effectiveness of community-led initiatives in improving nutritional outcomes and resilience. For example, a 2022 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) noted a 20 per cent reduction in stunting rates among children under five in regions of Uttar Pradesh following the introduction of nutrition hubs.

The Global Nutrition Report 2023 showed that such hubs have improved micronutrient intake, with a 30 per cent increase in iron-rich food consumption among women in Maharashtra, significantly reducing anaemia. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also found that communities practising

sustainable agriculture supported by nutrition hubs had a 20 per cent increase in crop yields during droughts compared to traditional methods. **A Whole-of-Society Approach:** Achieving the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" hinges on ensuring food security and building resilience through community-led initiatives. However, these goals require a whole-of-society approach that involves all community members, not just women. Men as Partners: Encouraging men to participate in nutrition hubs, whether through farming, cooking, or community organising, helps distribute responsibility more equitably and promotes gender equity. **Youth Engagement:** Involving young people in these efforts

ensures the continuation of community-led initiatives and brings fresh ideas and energy to the table.

Local Govt Support: Local governments can support and scale these initiatives by providing funding, policy support, and infrastructure, making nutrition hubs integral parts of community development.

Gender Equity and Shared Responsibility: While women are often on the frontlines of nutrition and food security, the burden should not fall solely on them. Engaging men, youth, and local governance helps create more equitable and sustainable solutions.

(The writer is Director - Centre for Strategic Communications for Public Health at Swasti; views are personal)

South Korean author Han Kang gets Nobel prize in literature

AP ■ STOCKHOLM
The Nobel Prize in literature was awarded Thursday to South Korean author Han Kang for what the Nobel committee called "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."
Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy's Nobel Committee, announced the prize in Stockholm.
Han, 53, won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for "The Vegetarian," an unsettling novel in which a woman's decision to stop eating meat has devastating consequences.
Her novel "Human Acts" was an International Booker Prize finalist in 2018.
The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too



focused on European and North American writers of style-heavy, story-light prose. It has also been male-dominated, with just 17 women among its

Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the medicine prize. Two founding fathers of machine learning — John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton — won the physics prize on Tuesday.
On Wednesday, three scientists who discovered powerful techniques to decode and even design novel proteins were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry.
The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award on October 14. The prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (USD 1 million) from a bequest left by the award's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The laureates are invited to receive their awards at ceremonies on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

119 laureates so far. The last woman to win was Annie Ernaux of France, in 2022. Six days of Nobel announcements opened Monday with

Hurricane Milton slams Florida, causes deaths and flooding

AP ■ TAMPA (US)
Hurricane Milton plowed into Florida as a Category 3 storm, bringing misery to a coast still ravaged by Helene, pounding cities with winds of over 100 mph (160 kph) after producing a barrage of tornadoes, but sparing Tampa a direct hit.
The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall Wednesday night in Siesta Key near Sarasota, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Tampa. The situation in the Tampa area was still a major emergency as St. Petersburg recorded over 16 inches (41 centimeters) of rain, prompting the National Weather Service

poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.
Before Milton even made landfall, tornadoes were touching down across the state. The Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida's Atlantic Coast, was hit particularly hard, with homes destroyed and some residents killed.
"We have lost some life," St. Lucie County Sheriff Keith Pearson told WPBF News, though he wouldn't say how many people were killed.
About 125 homes were destroyed before the hurricane came ashore, many of them mobile homes in communities for senior citizens, said Kevin Guthrie, the director of the Florida Division of Emergency

Management.
About 90 minutes after making landfall, Milton was downgraded to a Category 2 storm. By early Thursday, the hurricane was a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of about 85 mph (135 kph) as it churned about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Orlando.
Heavy rains were also likely to cause flooding inland along rivers and lakes as Milton traverses the Florida Peninsula as a hurricane, eventually to emerge in the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday. It is expected to impact the heavily populated Orlando area.
The storm slammed into a region still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead



to warn of flash flooding there as well as other parts of western and central Florida. Tropicana Field, the home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team in St. Petersburg, appeared badly damaged. The fabric that serves as the domed stadium's roof was ripped to shreds by the fierce winds. It was not immediately clear if there was damage inside. Multiple cranes were also toppled in the storm, the weather service said.
St. Petersburg residents also could no longer get water from their household taps because a water main break led the city to shut down service.
The storm knocked out power across a large section of Florida, with more than 3 million homes and businesses without power as of early Thursday, according to

across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton's winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage.
Officials had issued dire warnings to flee or face grim odds of survival.
"This is it, folks," said Cathie Perkins, emergency management director in Pinellas County, which sits on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay. "Those of you who were punched during Hurricane Helene, this is going to be a knockout. You need to get out, and you need to get out now."
By late afternoon, some officials said the time had passed for such efforts, suggesting that people who stayed behind hunker down instead. By the evening, some counties announced they had suspended emergency services.
Jackie Curnick said she wrestled with her decision to stay at home in Sarasota, just north of where the storm made landfall. But with a 2-year-old son and a baby girl due Oct. 29, Curnick and her husband thought it was for the best.
Curnick said they started packing Monday to evacuate, but they couldn't find any available hotel rooms, and the few they came by were too expensive.
She said there were too many unanswered questions if they got in the car and left: Where to sleep, if they'd be able to fill up their gas tank, and if they could even find a safe route out of the state.
"The thing is it's so difficult to evacuate in a peninsula," she said. "In most other states, you can go in any direction to get out. In Florida there are only so many roads that take you north or south."
At a news conference in Tallahassee, Gov. Ron DeSantis described deployment of a wide range of resources, including 9,000 National Guard members from Florida and other states; over 50,000 utility workers from as far as California; and highway patrol cars with sirens to escort gasoline tankers to replenish supplies so people could fill up their tanks before evacuating.
"Unfortunately, there will be fatalities. I don't think there's any way around that," DeSantis said.
Heavy rain and tornadoes lashed parts of southern Florida starting Wednesday morning, with conditions deteriorating throughout the day.

China defiant over South China Sea skirmishes in ASEAN talks

AP ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)
Southeast Asian leaders stepped up pressure on China to respect international law following clashes in the disputed South China Sea during annual summit talks on Thursday, but Chinese Premier Li Qiang was defiant as he blamed "external forces" for interfering in regional affairs.
The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations' meeting with Li followed recent violent confrontations at sea this year between China and ASEAN members Philippines and Vietnam that heightened unease over China's increasingly assertive actions in the contested waters.
Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who will take over the rotating ASEAN chair next year, said the bloc has called for an early conclusion to a code of conduct to govern the South China Sea. Talks on the code of conduct have been ongoing for years, hampered by sticky issues including disagreements over whether the pact should be binding.
ASEAN reiterated the need to maintain peace and security in the strategic waterway, he said, according to Malaysian national news agency Bernama.
But Li said meddling by foreign forces is creating conflicts with

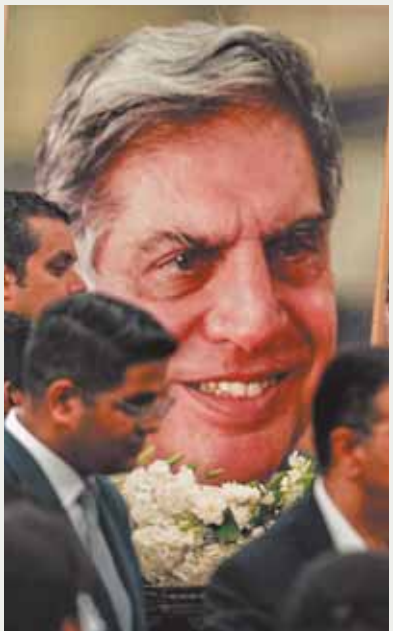
in the region.
"We must realize that our development is also facing some unstable and uncertain factors. In particular, external forces frequently interfere and even try to introduce bloc confrontation and geopolitical conflicts into Asia," Li said during an ASEAN meeting with China, Japan and South Korea. He called for more dialogue between countries to ensure disputes are resolved amicably.
Li didn't name the foreign forces but China has previously warned the US not to meddle in the region's territorial disputes.
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who arrived in Vientiane on Thursday for the meetings, is expected to raise the issue of China's aggression in the sea, officials said. The US has no claims but it has deployed Navy ships and fighter jets to patrol the waterway and promote freedom of navigation and overflight.
ASEAN members Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei along with Taiwan have overlapping claims with China, which claims sovereignty over virtually all of the South China Sea. Chinese and Philippine vessels have clashed repeatedly this year, and Vietnam said last week that Chinese forces assaulted its fishermen in the

disputed sea. China has also sent patrol vessels to areas that Indonesia and Malaysia claim as exclusive economic zones.
Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr made clear to Li during talks Thursday that ASEAN-China cooperation cannot be separated from the sea dispute, according to an ASEAN official who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the discussion.
Li responded by saying the South China Sea is "a shared home" and that China has an obligation to protect its sovereignty, the official said.
The Philippines, a longtime US ally, has been critical of other ASEAN countries for not doing more to get China to back away.
Aside from regional security issues, China's Li also emphasized Beijing and ASEAN's economic ties, saying intensifying trade relations and creating an "ultra large-scale market" are keys to economic prosperity amid rising trade protectionism.
ASEAN and China said they expect to conclude negotiations to upgrade their free trade pact next year. Since the two sides signed the pact covering a market of 2 billion people in 2010, ASEAN's trade with China has leaped from USD 235.5 billion to USD 696.7 bil-

America mourns death of Ratan Tata, who 'drove India to prosperity'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON
The US on Wednesday mourned the death of veteran industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Naval Tata, remembering him as someone who drove India to greater prosperity and development.
Tata, the former Tata Group chairman who transformed a staid group into India's largest and most influential conglomerate, breathed his last at south Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital at 11.30 pm on Wednesday. He was 86.
"My last meeting with Ratan Tata at Google, we talked about the progress of Waymo and his vision was inspiring to hear. He leaves an extraordinary business and philanthropic legacy and was instrumental in mentoring and developing modern business leadership in India. He deeply cared about making India better. Deep condolences to his loved ones and Rest in Peace Shri Ratan Tata Ji," wrote Google and Alphabet CEO Sunder Pichai on X.
Atul Keshap, the president of the US-India Business Council (USIBC), told PTI the Padma Vibhushan recipient was a "unique and noble son of India, a role model for the nobility and generosity."
"While some erroneously look down their noses at mere business, Ratan Tata reminded a global audience of the nobility of commerce even as he drove his companies and India to greater prosperity and development. He espoused values of humanity and compassion not only for his colleagues and business partners but also for the greater good," Keshap said.
"His devotion to his staff was never more visible than after the terrible terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26/11/2008, and his love for his country and humanity, and animal kind, was displayed in so many ways, including his establishment of

cancer hospitals and his legendary care for the dogs of Tata House," he said.
"It is with profound sadness that the Indiaspora community acknowledges the passing of Ratan Tata, a visionary leader, compassionate philanthropist, and one of India's most respected business icons," said MR Rangaswami, the founder of Indiaspora.



"His extraordinary contribution to industry and his deep commitment to social causes have left an indelible mark not only on India but the world at large. Ratan Tata's legacy will continue to inspire generations. His spirit and contributions will forever remain a guiding light," he told PTI.
Ratan Tata, a Cornell graduate, was a for-

mer Cornell trustee who became the university's largest international donor, the university said on Wednesday.
"Ratan Tata has left an extraordinary legacy in India, across the world and at Cornell, which he cared about deeply," said interim President Michael I. Kotlikoff.
"Ratan's quiet demeanor and humility belied his international profile. His generosity and concern for others enabled research and scholarship that improved the education and health of millions of people in India and beyond, and extended Cornell's global impact," he said.
"When Ratan Tata graduated from Cornell with a degree in architecture, it would have been impossible to imagine the global impact his visionary leadership, philanthropy and commitment to humanity would go on to have in advancing education and research across many sectors," said J. Meejin Yoon, the Dean of Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning.
Ratan Tata served three terms as a Cornell trustee from 2006 to 2022. He was named Cornell's Entrepreneur of the Year in 2013 and served from 2014 on as a member of AAP's Advisory Council.
Ira Drukier, an American philanthropist, said: "Looking back over Ratan's life and career, I am not only filled with gratitude for all he has given and accomplished but also with a deep respect for his kindness, generosity and eternal optimism that has improved lives in India and around the world."
"Ratan Tata, one of India's most powerful and admired magnates, who transformed his family's business conglomerate, the Tata Group, into a multinational corporation with globally recognisable brands, has died at 86," The New York Times wrote.

UK minister pays homage to 'titan' of business world

PTI ■ LONDON
UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds paid homage to Ratan Tata as a "titan" of the business world who played a huge role in shaping British industry.
Soon after the news of the Tata Group chief's passing away hit the headlines on Wednesday night, the minister took to social media to offer his tributes to the man credited with much of the Mumbai-headquartered company's reputation as one of the largest employers in the UK.
It was during his tenure as chairman of the Tata Group that the multinational made several high-profile acquisitions in the UK — taking over Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus, luxury car brands Jaguar and Land Rover (JLR) and Tetley, the well-known global tea brand.
"Sad to hear about the passing of Ratan Tata. He was truly a titan of the business world and someone who played a huge role in shaping British industry," said Reynolds.
"My thoughts and prayers are with his friends, family and everyone in the Tata Group," he said.
The Tata Group's footprint in the UK includes its ownership of the country's largest steelworks at Port Talbot in south Wales, currently undergoing a mega green transformation towards electric arc furnace.
The steel giant is one of Europe's leading

steel producers, with steelmaking in the Netherlands and the UK, and manufacturing plants across Europe. The company's tube products are used across a broad range of industries, including construction, machinery fabrication, energy and automotive.
In July last year, the Tata Group is to invest over GBP 4 billion in setting up a new electric vehicle (EV) battery plant, or gigafactory, in Britain which will create thousands of jobs across the supply chain. With Tata Motors owned JLR as the anchor customer of the new gigafactory with an initial output of 40GWh, the venture is one of the largest in Europe.
While he had retired a few years ago, Ratan Tata is credited with setting the company on its growth trajectory in the UK and Europe.
Beginning with Tata Tea's acquisition of Tetley in 2000, Tata companies made several significant overseas acquisitions including Corus by Tata Steel, Jaguar and Land Rover by Tata Motors and Brunner Mond by Tata Chemicals.
In 2004, Ratan Tata, then Chairman of Tata Sons, summed up the Tata group's efforts to internationalise its operations thus: "I hope that a hundred years from now we will spread our wings far beyond India, that we become a global group, operating in many countries, an Indian business conglomerate that is at home in the world, carrying the same sense of trust that we do today."

High Commissioner leads minute's silence in memory of Tata

PTI ■ LONDON
Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami led a minute's silence in the memory of Ratan Tata as news of the passing away of the legendary businessman, aged 86, came in from Mumbai.
During a pre-scheduled Diwali reception co-hosted by the High Commission of India in London with the India All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) near the Houses of Parliament in London on Wednesday, Doraiswami paid tribute to the Tata Group chair as a great champion of the India-UK partnership.
"On a sombre note, I share the news with great sorrow of the passing of one of India's most celebrated businessmen Ratan Tata," said Doraiswami, addressing a cross-party gathering of parliamentarians, entrepreneurs and community leaders.
"No man has embodied the India-UK partnership quite as much as Ratan Tata did. This is a man for whom Mumbai/India and London/UK were both home. This is a man who created the sense of an India-UK partnership embodied in everything — from Air India, which is back as Tata airline, to Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) to Taj Hotel to Tata Steel to indeed everything, including industries of the future with his decision to invest in a battery factory in the UK," he said.
Lord Karan Bilmoria, founder of Cobra beer and co-chair of the India APPG, paid tribute to a "fellow Parsi" who worked hard to nurture the bonds between India and Britain.

Turkiye's navy starts to evacuate its citizens from Beirut

AP ■ BEIRUT
Over 2,000 Turkish citizens and some foreign started boarding a Turkish military ship late Wednesday that brought in aid and will take them out of a country being hit by Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah.
Zehra Cibbin, an ethnic Arab from the southeastern Turkish city of Mardin who lives in Beirut with her Lebanese husband, got off a bus packed with the other evacuees, her two children in tow and luggage in hand.
"It's indescribable. They bombed the street below our house. From that moment on, it was over for me, I said I didn't want to stay in Beirut anymore," said Cibbin, 46. Cibbin said they decided to leave Beirut out of fear for their lives, putting no thought into what will happen when they arrive in Turkey.
She spoke to The Associated Press before getting in line to board the TCG Bayraktar amphibious landing vessel, which along with the TCG Sancaktar will take on evacuees.
They are part of a six-ship convoy including escorts that set sail from the southern Turkish port of Mersin early Wednesday, transported 300 tons of humanitarian supplies, including food, hygiene kits, kitchenware, tents, beds and blankets.

Besides the Turkish citizens, people from Bulgaria, Romania and Kazakhstan were among those who applied to evacuate on the ships. Officials did not provide numbers.
The Associated Press was the only non-government media invited aboard the ships to cover the evacuation operation.
"Israel's aggression has severely impacted Lebanon and our brothers here," said Turkish Ambassador to Lebanon Ali Baris Ulusoy, standing in front of the Bayraktar.
"We are carrying out an operation today with two aims: to provide humanitarian aid to our Lebanese brothers and to ensure the safe return of our citizens who are in a difficult situation," Ulusoy said.
Hundreds lined up before the Bayraktar as Turkish soldiers and sailors checked the evacuees' passports and their luggage was examined by metal detectors and drug-sniffing dogs before they were allowed to board.
Another Turkish citizen waiting with her family was Abir Gokcimen, who said she left her extended family and husband in Beirut and hopes the war that spread to Lebanon will end soon. She hopes to come back to Lebanon as soon as the danger passes.
The journey back to Mersin is

expected to take about 10 hours. Turkey's government plans to organise more sea evacuations if necessary and is contemplating charter flights to repatriate citizens.
Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel on October 8, 2023, the day after Hamas' surprise attack into Israel ignited the war in Gaza. Hezbollah and Hamas are both allied with Iran, and Hezbollah says its attacks are aimed at aiding the Palestinians. Israel has carried out airstrikes in response and the conflict steadily escalated, erupting into a full-fledged war last month.
Israel has inflicted a punishing wave of blows against Hezbollah in recent weeks and says it will keep fighting until tens of thousands of displaced Israeli citizens can return to their homes in the north. More than 1,300 people have been killed in Lebanon and over a million displaced since the fighting escalated in mid-September.
Earlier on Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ramped up his rhetoric against Israel during his party's first meeting of the new legislative year, declaring that Turkey "has more than enough power to thwart expansionist ambitions" of Israel and doubling down on his claims that Israel would target Turkey after Gaza and Lebanon.

Israeli strike on Gaza shelter kills at least 27

AP ■ DEIR AL-BALAH
An Israeli strike on a school sheltering the displaced in the Gaza Strip killed at least 27 people on Thursday, Palestinian medical officials said.

anonymity for security reasons said the strike occurred while school managers were meeting with representatives of an aid group in a room normally used by Hamas-run police who provide security.

were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced around 90 per cent of its population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times.

airstrikes in retaliation. The fighting steadily escalated, and eventually boiled over into all-out war in recent weeks, with Israel carrying out waves of heavy strikes across Lebanon and launching a ground invasion.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Vivekshansh S/o Sh. Shivkumar Smt. Shela Dharma is residing at F-24/208, Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi-110085 and his (Vivekshansh Rana's) actual date of birth is 18.12.2003, which is correctly mentioned in all re-levant documents of my client.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is Informed that Smt. Rajkumari Gupta D/o Late Shri Banarasi Dass is the Owner of Plot No. F-25, Block-F, Kirti Nagar New Delhi 110015. And The Original Sale Deed Dated 06/01/1969 in Favour of Permanand Sharma executed by Rehabilitation Housing Corporation Ltd has been lost.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Senu, Dubey is the owner of Residential House, area measuring 50 sq. Yards or 4180 sq. Mtrs., out of Khara No. 87, Situated in village Shargol Begampur, Pargana and Tehsil-3491, District- Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 29/02/2014. Vide No. 49/1, Sale Deed, dated 09/05/2008 Vide Doc. No. 1155 Sale Deed dated 20/11/2010 Vide Doc. No. 387 and original GPA. ATC & Will dated 07/04/2007, pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complaint bearing, LR No. 29/960/2024 was registered on 09/10/2024, with Delhi Police.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform the public at large that Mr. Jeeb Singh who wants to purchase the Freehold SFS Flat No.330, Category-III, on First Floor, situated in Pocket-L, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 from Mrs. Angela Sawhney owner vide Release Deed with Consideration dated 11.04.2012 (vide Doc.No.5603) executed by Mrs. Nilita Dal and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. that, SMC of Late Mr. Jagdish Mittar is not available.

TSR(P) WORKS IN ALIPURDAR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. 94/W-21AD/PJ Dated: 08-10-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Tender No.: 23-AP-11-2024; Name of Project: New Mal Jn. Alipurjard Jn. (S.L.)-TSR(P)-22.00 Trm & Siliguri Jn.-New Mal Jn. Value: ₹18,11,79,388.85/- Earnest Money : ₹10,55,900/- Date & time of Closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 04-11-2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mohd. Majid S/o Mr. Vajid is the owner of BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 13, LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS. FALLING IN KHASRA NO. 978, SITUATED AT VILLAGE BEHTA HAZI PUR, IN THE ABAD OF RAGHUNATH COLONY, PARGANA, LONI, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dated 27.09.2024, regd. as Doc. No. 17412, executed by Mr. Vajid S/o Mr. Fida, and same to be financed by SMFG India Credit Company Limited, General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Durga is the owner of PLOT BEARING NO. 60, AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., FALLING IN KHASRA NO. 978, SITUATED AT VILLAGE BEHTA HAZI PUR, IN THE ABAD OF RAGHUNATH COLONY, PARGANA, LONI, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dated 27.09.2024, regd. as Doc. No. 17412, executed by Mr. Vajid S/o Mr. Fida, and same to be financed by SMFG India Credit Company Limited, General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/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.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Sonam Pal S/o Kharab Lal Resident of H.No. 222, Jyoti Housing Scheme, Block-D, Bagpat U/P Pin 250101, am the allottee of VDA EWS flat No. 22, 6F, Block-4, Shwari Marg, Delhi, VDA DDA's File No. E/488(21)2018/DA 14/S4. My original document vide Demand Letter of above said flat has been misplaced. An Information Report of the said flat has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 2165533/2024 on 30.09.2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or find in Possession of the said original Document may Write/Contact with above named person at above address/phone No. (9834989515) within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the public at large that Mrs. Sushma Chawla, Sh. Chrag Chawla and Sh. Chakshu Chawla are absolute Title holder in possession of Property bearing No.40. Area measuring 180 sq.yds., Preet Vihar, New Delhi that the Original Agreement to sell dated 24.10.1989 executed by Sh. Bharat Shuman in favour of Sh. Sanjay Chawla has been lost/destroyed and are untraceable. The FIR/ Report to this effect has already been lodged dated 09.10.2024 with LR/No.21930/2024. Any person(s) company (ies) authority (ies) society (ies)/organisation (s) financial institution (s) bank (s) claiming any right/interest having any objection or find in possession of the original document may write/contact to the above name and address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, post expiration Any claims (s) or objection (s) if raised or received shall be treated as null & void and such claims.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that Mrs. Kiran Devi W/o Mr. Mahendra Sati who is purchasing the Property Bearing No. 253 Southern & Eastern side Corner Portion area measuring 26.7 sq. yds., Out of total area measuring 108 sq. yds., in Gani No. 13, situated at in Village- Sinohara Khurd, Anand Parbat from Mrs. Rakha Devi W/o Mr. Cunnin Lal W/o Mrs. Seema W/o Mr. Narad Munji who was the owner by virtue of GPA & Will dated 08.12.2017. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited, previous Original Regd. GPA & Will dated 06.12.2000 (Doc. No. 27857) in favour of Mr. Khem Chand S/o Late Mr. Mansukh Ram are not available with the seller i.e. Mrs. Rakha Devi W/o Mr. Cunnin Lal (2) Mrs. Seema W/o Mr. Narad Munji. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property (s) are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that M/s Yagnachal Press through its Prop. Mr. Lalit Tiwari S/o Sh. K.L. Tiwari R/o B-1, Sector-9, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) who is the original allottee of Flat No. 75-C, Block B-9, Udaigiri Apartment II, Sector-34, Noida (U.P.) had sold the said property on General Power of Attorney basis to the following person(s): General Power of Attorney was executed on in favour of Mr. Francis Pottamma S/o Sh. R.J. Mathai R/o C-2C, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) which is registered and the Agreement to Sell was not registered or not executed. Because the Agreement to Sell is not registered, no Agreement to sell executed, no consent in all concern that the said Flat No. 75-C, Block B-9, Udaigiri Apartment II, Sector-34, Noida (U.P.) is going to be transferred in favour of Ms. Lincy Francis D/o Mr. Francis Pottamma S/o R/o C-2C, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.) if any one has/have any objection he/she may file his/her objection alongwith the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Re: Property Bearing Plot No. 18, MC No. 245, area measuring 203 sq. yds. i.e. 169.28 sq. mtrs., situated in Colony named Laxmi Vihar, Mahiwada, Village-Jarwada Kalyan, Pargana and Tehsil- Ghazibad, District- Ghazibad, U.P. Hereinafter referred to as "said property". Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Smt. Renu Goyal, she is the sole and absolute owner of the said property vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Ashwani Sharma in respect of the said property. The said Deed is registered as LR No. 9834989515 on 21.06.2024 (SRO- Ghazibad), pages 211-246, on 26.07.2024 (SRO- Ghazibad). Mr. Ashwani Sharma had purchased the said property from Mr. Mohit Mittal vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 13629 on 28.12.2023. The seller also informed the purchaser that the said property was earlier owned by Mr. Mahendra Kumar Mittal. After his death, the said property devolved on his legal heirs viz. Mrs. Renu Mittal and Mr. Mohit Mittal. Mrs. Renu Mittal executed a Will vide document No. 789 on 03.03.2021 (SRO-1 Ghazibad) in favour of Mr. Mohit Mittal. Mrs. Renu Mittal expired and her share devolved on Mr. Mohit Mittal and he became the sole and absolute owner of the said property and sold the said property to Mr. Ashwani Sharma. Now, our clientless intends to mortgage the said property with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited for availing loan facility.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that M/s Ramprastha Promoters & Developers Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance for Group Housing Development Project (2.303 Acres) at Sector 37D, Gurugram, Haryana, with EC Identification No. EC24C3801HR5368082N Dated 27th September 2024 (File No. SEACHR/2024/137). General Public is further informed that copy of clearance letter along with the conditions to be complied is available at office of the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana, and on the website of the MOEF&CC at http://parivesh.nic.in. Also available at the registered office of the company at plot no. 114, Sector-44, District- Gurugram, Haryana, 122002 and also on website of the company at www.ramprastha.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sudarshan, S/o Pahalwan Prapajati, R/o House Number-113, Sarai Pahalwan Adarsh Nagar Delhi-33, that my name wrongly written in my minor daughter Shivani School Records as Sudarshan but correct name is Sudarshan also my wife's name wrongly written as Murni but correct name is Murni Devi for all purposes.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावरण भवन, सेक्टर-19, नया रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
सर्व संबंधित को सूचना
भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स शुभम मिनरल्स (प्रो.- श्री बी.एल.रामानी, मोहभद्रा ज़ोलोमाईट डिपोजीट), ग्राम- मोहभद्रा, तहसील- बेरला, जिला- बेतेतरा स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 1299, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304 एवं 1305, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 2.26 हेक्टेयर में पूर्व से संचालित ज़ोलोमाईट (गौण खनिज) उत्खनन क्रमांक- 4,698 इन प्रतियोगी के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नया रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 11.11.2024 को समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थान- ग्राम कोदवा-मोहभद्रा पक्की सड़क मार्ग पर स्थित रंगटा सम प्र.सि. की खाली चौक, खसरा नं.- 455, ग्राम- मोहभद्रा, तहसील-बेरला, जिला- बेतेतरा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावरण भवन, सेक्टर-19, नया रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
सर्व संबंधित को सूचना
भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम-किरारी, कलेक्टर लाईम स्टोन माईन, तहसील - अकलतरा, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.) में स्थित कुल 02 मुना पर्यार खदानों (गौण खनिज) 01. मेसर्स निमायक मेटल्स एंड मिनरल्स, (किरारी लाईम स्टोन माईन, पाटनर - श्री राजेन्द्र सिंह), खसरा क्रमांक- 821/114, 821/15, 821/17 एवं 821/18, लीज परिया - 1.052 हेक्टेयर, खदान का उत्खनन क्षमता- 15,000 टन प्रति वर्ष, ग्राम-किरारी, तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.), एवं 02. मेसर्स नां गुरु मिनरल्स (किरारी लाईम स्टोन माईन, पाटनर - श्री हेमंत कुमार सिंह), खसरा क्रमांक - 729/2, 729/3 एवं 729/6, लीज परिया- 1.643 हेक्टेयर, खदान का उत्खनन क्षमता- 50,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-किरारी, तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.) (गौण खनिज) के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त प्रस्तावित परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/टीका-टिप्पणी इस अधिसूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, भिलाईपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 13/11/2024 को समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थान-इंदिरा उद्यान, अकलतरा, तहसील - अकलतरा, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोरेण्डम No. 22-25/2000-IA, III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कारोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षर-पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार ज़ाफ़्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कांजीपालकसूची की प्रती (होने व अहोने) में एवं सूची सी.डी. (साफ़्ट कोपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन / पढ़ने हेतु कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला-जाजगीर-चापा, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, कार्यालय, जिला-पाटनर जाजगीर, जिला-जाजगीर-चापा, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.), कार्यालय, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (रा.) अकलतरा, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा, महाप्रबंधक, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वन्य विभाग, ज़ोरगम रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यापार विहार, ए. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय पार्क के पास, भिलाईपुर, सरपंच / सचिव कार्यालय, ग्राम पंचायत-किरारी, लगरा, पकिया, तरौद, नरिया, बनावील, पोना, तिलाई, नवागा, झिलमिला, अर्जुनी, मुरलीहीह, रसेता, दर्रा, तहसील-अकलतरा, जिला- जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन, मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, वन्य विभाग, ज़ोरगम रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, अरुण भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नया रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पचास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नया रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला - रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावरण भवन, सेक्टर-19, नया रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
सर्व संबंधित को सूचना
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छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावरण भवन, सेक्टर-19, नया रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)
सर्व संबंधित को सूचना
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PD(840)C I, Naveen Kumar Choudhary S/o Ram Vishesh Choudhary R/o 46, Village Mirzapur, Tole, Basha, Bishunpur, Darbhanga, Bihar-847101, Present Address -C-4, Barolla, Sector - 49, Noida, U.P have changed my name Naveen Kumar to Naveen Kumar Choudhary for all future purposes.

PD(841)C I, Seema Bhat W/o Dinesh Daramed W/o K-1704, Pwamound Floraville, Sector-137, Noida, G.B. Nagar, U.P (201301) declares that I have changed my name from Seema Dwivedi to Seema Bhat for all future purposes.

PD(842)C

PD(842)C

PD(842)C

SUKHO KHALSA SR. SEC. SCHOOL
JAIL ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058
Recruitment for following 09 Posts in Sukho Khalsa Sr. Sec. School (Govt. Aided Minority, Co-Educational) (School ID 1514045).
1. PGT Political Science (UR)
2. PGT History (PH)
3. TGT Hindi (UR)
4. TGT English (UR)
5. TGT S. Sc. (PH)
6. TGT Computer Sc.(UR)
7. Special Education Teacher (RSD)
8. Music Teacher (UR)
9. PET (UR)
Age, Qualification etc. are as per Recruitment Rules applicable for Govt. Aided Minority Schools of the Directorate of Education Govt. of NCT of Delhi. Pay Scale is as per 7th CPC. Preference will be given to Sikh Candidates being a Minority School.
* Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the Interview.
* Experience Certificate (if any) must and mention designation of the post, Pay Scale, Period and must be countersigned by the concerned DDE Zone.
* Blank Application Form to be collected (Free of cost) from school office on all working days between 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
* Application Form duly completed in all respects along with self attested copies of testimonials should reach through Speed Post/Regd. Post to the Chairman/Manager Sukho Khalsa Sr. Sec. School, Jail Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi- 110058 within 21 days from the date of Advertisement. Thereafter no Application will be accepted No application will be received by hand.

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said

Auto industry mourns Ratan Tata's loss, stocks still soar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ratan Tata championed innovations that are helping build a better tomorrow, auto industry body SIAM said on Thursday while paying homage to the eminent industrialist who passed away on Wednesday night. "Indian automobile industry is deeply saddened with the passing away of Shri Ratan Tata, a towering figure, who has played a stellar role in bringing the Indian auto industry to the global stage," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Shailesh Chandra said in a statement. A great humanist, visionary and leader, he championed innovations that are helping build a better tomorrow, he added. Hero MotoCorp Executive Chairman Pawan Munjal termed Tata as a visionary



leader and ethical statesman. "I am deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Ratan Tata. His unparalleled contributions as a visionary leader and ethical statesman have left an indelible mark on our nation," he stated. Munjal further said, "Tata's commitment to integrity and innovation not

only transformed industries but also uplifted communities, inspiring countless lives." A true hero, his legacy of compassion and service will resonate for generations, guiding the industry towards the greater good, he added. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Managing Director & Chief

Executive Officer Masakazu Yoshimura said that as a global corporate luminary, Ratan Tata will forever be remembered for his transformative contribution towards modernisation of the Indian business landscape and deep compassion towards the betterment of the society. His profound contribution and revolutionary thinking has inspired the automobile industry in India to think beyond conventional boundaries, he added. "Ratan Tata's legacy will continue to inspire and guide generations, reminding us that true leadership is defined not only by business acumen but by a selfless dedication to serve the betterment of humanity," Yoshimura stated. Tata, the former Tata Group chairman, breathed his last at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital at 11.30 pm on Wednesday. He was 86.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Tata Group companies on Thursday rose up to 10 per cent, with Tata Chemicals and Tata Teleservices among the major gainers. Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata, who played a key role in transforming the group into a global conglomerate, passed away late on Wednesday. He was 86. "Investors can pay tribute to Ratan Tata and the great corporate empire he built by buying stocks like TCS, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consumer and Indian Hotels. "Ratan Tata, while pursuing the group's growth, contributed substantially to India's growth and millions of ordinary investors gained from the great man's vision," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at



Geojit Financial Services, said. The stock of Tata Investment Corporation soared 10.47 per cent to trade at Rs 7,235.80 apiece, Tata Chemicals climbed 6.26 per cent to Rs 1,174.85, Tata Teleservices Maharashtra jumped 5.84 per cent to Rs 83.77, Tata Elxsi rose 3.37 per cent to Rs 7,867.80, Tata Power went up 2.56 per cent to Rs 472.70 on the BSE. Also, shares of Tata Technologies, Rallis India, Nelco, Tejas Networks, TajGVK Hotels & Resorts, and Indian Hotels & Company also rose on the

bourse. In addition, the scrip of Tata Steel rose 0.91 per cent, Tata Communications (0.84 per cent), Tata Consultancy Services (0.21 per cent), Tata Consumer Products (0.17 per cent), Voltas (0.24 per cent) and Automotive Stampings & Assemblies (0.23 per cent) on the BSE. However, Tata Group's retail firm Trent slipped 0.90 per cent to trade at Rs 8,146.35 apiece, Titan fell 0.81 per cent to Rs 3,465.80 and Tata Motors was down 0.40 per cent to Rs 935.35 per scrip. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 198.28 points, or 0.24 per cent, to 81,665.38 in the mid-session trade on Thursday. Investors should learn from the growth of the Tata empire that a long-term investment horizon is required to really participate in the wealth creation that happens

through the capital market. In a bull market like the present one, there will always be valuation concerns, Vijayakumar added. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has cancelled a press conference scheduled on Thursday evening to announce its second quarter performance, company officials said. The press conference was originally scheduled at 1730 hours on Thursday. As originally scheduled, TCS will inform the exchanges about its July-September performance after the board meeting, the officials said. A scheduled call with analysts at 7 pm will be held as per schedule, they said. The last rites of Ratan Tata, who passed away late on Wednesday evening, are scheduled to take place after 4 pm at central Mumbai's Worli on Thursday.

Amazon focuses on customer experience, not competition in India

PTI ■ NASHVILLE

Amid the rise of quick commerce companies in India, Amazon said it is sharply focused on customers, not competition, and that the Prime proposition of offering users the largest selection at fastest speeds is a "winning" formula that "resonates" in India. The e-commerce giant is upbeat on India's prospects buoyed by the rapid pace of economic growth and digitisation, Amazon Prime Vice President, Jamil Ghani said, adding that the company is investing unprecedented amounts in making its Prime programme "even faster" and that the momentum will continue. India figures prominently as a hotbed of innovation for Amazon in every part of its business, he said. The company will continue to innovate in India for local markets, emerging markets and more and more for global markets. Amazon offers Prime - a

membership programme that promises savings, convenience and entertainment - across 24 countries and over 200 million households and "India figures prominently in that landscape for Amazon". Amazon says its breadth of selection in India covers 'needs' all the way to 'wants' and that it is focused on broadening the selection, with faster speed, more convenience and attractive prices. Asked about the challenges posed by the rise of quick commerce companies in India, Ghani said Amazon obsesses about customers, not competition. "Prime proposition is predicated on the largest selection at the fastest speeds. For instance, we have over a million items available the same day and four million items available, across India, the next day and so the breadth of selection we see in India covers the 'needs' all the way to 'wants'...And is delivered at ever faster



speeds. We're investing unprecedented amounts in making the programme even faster and we're going to continue to do that across the entire country," he told reporters on the sidelines of Amazon's flagship 'Delivering the Future' event here in Nashville. To a question of whether the

company would naturally progress towards quicker timelines in a select portfolio of product categories to take on competition from quick commerce firms, he said, "It's a very natural assumption that we're going to get faster on more selections every single day." "The reality is that not only

are there a lot of alternatives for our members, but our members' expectations keep going up," he said. The company is focused on broadening the selection, on faster speed, more convenience and attractive prices. "That combination that Prime delivers of the largest selection at the fastest speeds is a winning proposition. You see that in the continued growth of the Prime programme in India and also the increase in engagement from those members as well," he said. The marketplace offers many solutions tailored to consumer needs, he said, adding, "that's true around the globe, it's good for customers to have a lot of options." "And what we see with the growth of membership and the growth and engagement (is) that the prime proposition is resonating with our customers in India and we're going to keep on following that formula," Ghani said.

Amazon, he said, will continue inventing in India for the India market, for emerging countries and increasingly across the globe. "I am extremely excited about what is going on in the country in developing economically. There is fascinating and inspiring innovation going on in every sector of the economy, digitalisation of just about everything. We are not just going to continue inventing in India for India we are also inventing for emerging countries broadly, and increasingly for globe from India," he said. Amazon Store continues to get better every day with over a million items available for delivery the same day and four million items across India for delivery the next day, the senior executive said. "We are in the middle of the Great Indian festival and that is going exceptionally well with many members joining to avail the discount available across the entire store," Ghani said.



UPI transactions surge in first half of 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian instant payment system (UPI) transaction volumes recorded a 52 per cent year-on-year surge to 78.97 billion in the first six months of 2024, according to a report. In its India Digital Payments Report for the first half of 2024 (January to June), payment technology service provider Worldline said on Thursday that UPI continues to rule the payment market and is rapidly expanding its reach. "The number of UPI transactions rose significantly from 8.03 billion in January 2023 to 13.9 billion by June 2024. This growth in volume was matched by an increase in transaction value, which climbed from Rs 12.98 trillion in January 2023 to an impressive Rs 20.07 trillion in June 2024. "When comparing H1 2024 to the same period in 2023, UPI transaction volume saw a substantial increase of 52 per cent, rising from 51.9 billion to 78.97 billion," the report said. The value of transactions grew 40 per cent, increasing from Rs 83.16 trillion to Rs 116.63 trillion. In terms of volume and value contribution, PhonePe emerged as the top UPI app, followed by Google Pay and Paytm. However, average ticket size (ATS) of UPI transactions saw a decline of 8 per cent, the report noted. The average ticket size (ATS) of all UPI transactions in H1 2023 was Rs 1,603, while it

dropped to Rs 1,478 in H1 2024, it said. ATS consists of person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. ATS in P2P transactions registered an almost flat year-on-year rise from Rs 2,812 to Rs 2,836. ATS for P2M transactions dropped from Rs 667 to Rs 643, representing a 4 per cent reduction. "This significant rise in UPI transactions, particularly in the person-to-merchant (P2M) segment, further cements its position as the preferred method for micro-transactions, demonstrating long-term sustainability and even movement to larger transactions in the coming years," Worldline India CEO Ramesh Narasimhan said. Grocery stores, restaurants, service stations, clothing stores, government services, pharmacies, and hospitals were the most visited in-store merchant categories in the first half of 2024. According to the research, they collectively accounted for almost 53 per cent of the overall transaction value and 68 per cent of the transaction volume. E-commerce, gaming, utilities, government services, and financial services made up around 81 per cent of the overall transaction volume and 74 per cent of the total transaction value in the online industry. Furthermore, the report revealed that between January 2023 and June 2024, the number of POS (point of sale) terminals increased 17 per cent, rising from 7.65 million to 8.96 million.

Sensex, Nifty close higher amid buying in heavyweight stocks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled higher on Thursday due to gains in banking, power and industrial stocks amid a firm trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 144.31 points, or 0.18 per cent, to settle at 81,611.41. During the day, it soared 535.74 points, or 0.65 per cent, to hit an intra-day high of 82,002.84. The NSE Nifty increased 16.50 points, or 0.07 per cent, to close at 24,998.45. In the intra-day trade, it rose 152.1 points, or 0.60 per cent, to hit a high of 25,134.05. "The market traded on a range bound trend with a negative



bias ahead of the start of Q2 result. "The Asian market started well but could not hold on to the gains as European markets waned on a negative trend in anticipation of the key US inflation data, global bond yields are rising," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. From the 30 Sensex companies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, NTPC,

Axis Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the gainers. Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Infosys, Titan, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards. Domestic broader market momentum was mixed with caution as the initial expectation of Q2FY25 results is subdued due to a subpar momentum in the global and rural demand, Nair added. Shares of Tata Group companies on Thursday rose up to 15 per cent, with Tata Investment Corporation, Tata Chemicals, and Tata Teleservices among the major gainers.

India plays crucial geopolitical role from American standpoint: USISPF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India plays a pivotal role geopolitically from an American perspective and offers US companies the opportunity to de-risk from China in the manufacturing sector, the head of a top India-centric American business and strategic advocacy group has said. The economic growth story of India is tremendous. India is among very few large economies which are growing seven to eight per cent, Mukesh Aghi, the President and CEO of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said on Wednesday. From an American

perspective, India plays a "pivotal role" geopolitically, he said. "India is one economy which is providing market opportunity, especially to US companies that come in and invest and gain market share. It is an economy which is providing de-risking from China itself in the manufacturing area," Aghi told PTI in an interview. "What we are seeing is the Indian economy is not just becoming a market opportunity, it's becoming an opportunity for manufacturing. ..But more important is we are seeing a growth of global capability centres in India," Aghi said. The Indian economy is

expected to gain momentum in 2025, he said. India is exporting roughly almost USD 125 billion of services. Aghi's remarks came ahead of the annual India Leadership Summit of the USISPF on October 14. Several top American business leaders, including CEOs of Fortune 100, are heading to New Delhi to attend the event. The summit will feature thought-provoking sessions and panel discussions to advance and strengthen the India-US partnership. "We have potential investors and also in startups and looking at technology companies.

INBRIEF

NFR OPERATING 238 TRIPS OF SPECIAL TRAINS
MALIGAON: In anticipation of the increased passenger traffic during the upcoming festive season, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is all set to THE operate 13 pairs or 26 numbers of special trains. These trains will facilitate smooth travel experience during the forthcoming festive of Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja.

EDUCATION COLLEGES ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL
AMRITSAR: The Education Colleges Zonal Youth festival of Guru Nanak Dev University was inaugurated today in the Dashmesh Auditorium of the University. Students-artists from Education Colleges affiliated to the University are participating in this zone.

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS GNDU
AMRITSAR: Her Excellency Ms. Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India visited Guru Nanak Dev University. During her visit, Ms. Lindy Cameron met with officials of teaching, research & Innovation of the Guru Nanak Dev University.

NFR REVISES TIMINGS OF FEW IMPORTANT TRAINS
MALIGAON: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to revise timings of ten (10) trains at few stations commencing its journeys from 12th October, 2024 onwards running across its network. The revisions have been made to enhance passenger convenience and improve punctuality.

IRFC to achieve Modi's Viksit Bharat goal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), a Schedule A Miniratna public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, announced on Thursday the appointment of Manoj Kumar Dubey, a 1993-batch Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer, as its Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Dubey assumed office on Thursday. Dubey, who previously served as Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer of Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), expressed his honor at taking on the leadership of IRFC during what he sees as a defining moment for India's growth. "India is on the cusp of significant economic advancements, and leading one of the nation's iconic public sector enterprises is both a privilege and a responsibility. We want to be in the mainstream of the Viksit Bharat 2047 strategy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi,"



Dubey said. "India's rail infrastructure has flourished under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister and the dynamic leadership of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The swift launch of Vande Bharat Express, rapid expansion of railway routes, and enhanced capacity and speed of freight trains are clear markers of this success. In a decade, India has constructed 14,985 km of new railway tracks, surpassing the achievements of developed nations like France," added Dubey. To put it in perspective, between 2004 and 2014, the total track length was just 14,000 km; however, in the past decade alone, this figure has more than doubled, now exceeding 31,000 kilometers.

RBI urges banks to enhance risk assessment

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday asked banks, NBFCs, and other entities regulated by it to use information obtained from all relevant internal and external sources for their risk assessment exercise. Reserve Bank's Regulated entities (REs) have to carry out 'Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment' exercise periodically to identify, assess and take effective measures to mitigate their Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) risks for clients, countries or geographic areas, products, services, and transactions or delivery channels. In this regard, the central bank has issued 'The Internal Risk Assessment Guidance for Money Laundering/ Terrorist Financing' for the REs, particularly for the dealing staff and the Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/ Countering Financing of Terrorism (CFT) / Counter



Proliferation Financing (CPF) practitioners of the REs. It specifies key principles for an internal risk assessment (IRA) exercise. "The enterprise-level risk assessment forms the bedrock of RBA (Risk-Based Approach). It enables the REs to understand how and to what extent they are vulnerable to ML/TF/PF risks which help REs in determining the allocation of attention and AML/CFT resources necessary to mitigate that risk," the RBI

department, internal audit function, compliance function, etc," it said. The central bank also emphasised that a siloed approach wherein only the AML team is involved in the IRA exercise should be avoided. It further said REs may endeavor to adopt a data oriented objective approach to avert any kind of bias in the IRA exercise while quality of data inputs would need to be ensured so that the results are meaningful/useful. RBI said that in an ever changing business environment and the increasing level of complexities in the banking and other financial products offered by banks and other regulated entities, there is always a likely exposure to the elevated money laundering, terrorist financing, or proliferation financing risks. The risks are further multiplied as use of emergent technologies and newer methods of payments enter the scene, it added.



EMBRACING SELF-LOVE

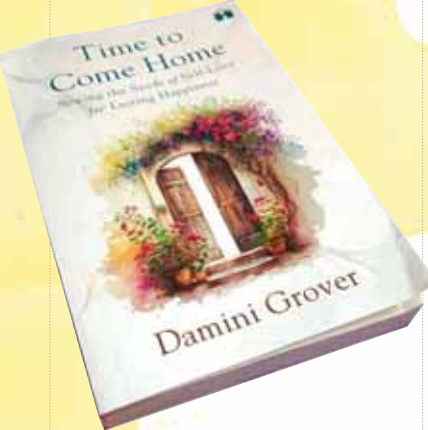
In 'Time to Come Home', Damini Grover invites readers on a transformative journey of self-love, guiding them to rediscover their true selves and embrace their worth says, **SAKSHI PRIYA**

"YOU CANNOT LOVE YOURSELF WITHOUT ACCEPTING YOUR TRUE FORM." THIS SIMPLE YET PROFOUND CONCEPT INVITES READERS TO EMBRACE WHO THEY TRULY ARE, RATHER THAN CONSTANTLY SEEKING VALIDATION FROM OTHERS OR STRIVING FOR PERFECTION.

Time to Come Home by Damini Grover is an insightful and transformative guide that invites readers to embark on a personal journey of self-love and growth. From the very first chapter, Grover begins with the question, "What is self-love?" and encourages readers to dive into an activity that helps define its true meaning. This exercise serves as a powerful reminder that the love we show to others - support, encouragement, forgiveness, should be equally extended to ourselves.

One of the key ideas that Grover highlights is that self-love isn't selfish, it's essential for living a balanced and fulfilling life. As she points out, "You cannot love yourself without accepting your true form." This simple yet profound concept invites readers to embrace who they truly are, rather than constantly seeking validation from others or striving for perfection. The book's first chapter makes an impactful start by showing how we often think of love in terms of what we give to others, our time, attention and care. As I read through this list, I realised how rarely we apply the same level of care to ourselves. Grover encourages us to view self-love as nurturing and forgiving ourselves, just as we would those closest to us. This includes celebrating our successes, whether big or small, and giving ourselves the compassion we so often reserve for others. Grover's experience as a psychologist shines through in her practical advice, which is grounded in both personal anecdotes and examples from her professional life. These real-life stories make the book relatable and offer readers concrete ways to overcome common barriers to self-love, such as societal pressures and internalised doubt. She provides practical exercises that help readers incorporate self-love into their daily routines, making this journey toward personal growth more accessible and achievable.

A particularly powerful moment in the book is when the author explains how we often forget to celebrate our own achievements.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book : Time To Come Home - Sowing the Seeds of Self-Love for Lasting Happiness

by **DAMINI GROVER**

Publisher : Hay House

Number of Pages: 280

₹399.00

Availability: Amazon

Whether it's a small personal victory or a significant milestone, Grover reminds us that recognising our own efforts is a vital part of self-love. This isn't about pride, but about valuing ourselves and the work we put into our lives. It struck me how often we fail to give ourselves credit, constantly seeking praise from others, when, in reality, we should be the first to acknowledge our accomplishments.

What sets this book apart is its approachable tone and simplicity. Grover doesn't complicate her message with overwhelming ideas or heavy jargon. Instead, she offers practical guidance, allowing the reader to feel more connected to the process of self-love. Each chapter ends with exercises that encourage reflection and action, guiding readers toward building a stronger, more compassionate relationship with themselves.

One of the standout sections of *Time to Come Home* explores the concept of self-acceptance. Grover touches on how critical it is to stop battling with ourselves and to accept who we are in the present moment. She writes, "It is what it is," which resonates as a gentle yet powerful reminder that acceptance is the foundation for self-love. It's about acknowledging our imperfections without judgment, and choosing to embrace ourselves as we are.

A theme that deeply resonated with me was the emphasis on forgiveness, not just of others, but of ourselves. The author beautifully explains how forgiving ourselves for past mistakes and shortcomings is essential to moving forward. This aspect of self-love, often overlooked, is crucial for personal growth and healing. She also emphasises that loving ourselves includes uplifting ourselves in moments of doubt and difficulty, just as we would for a friend.

Time to Come Home is a guide for anyone seeking to rediscover themselves and strengthen their foundation of self-love. Through relatable stories, practical exercises, and a compassionate tone, Damini Grover highlights the vital role self-love plays in our overall well-being. According to Grover, self-love is not a luxury but a necessity. Without it, we may feel disconnected and unfulfilled, constantly seeking validation from others. By embracing self-love, we improve our relationships, make better decisions and lead more authentic lives. This book is a must-read for anyone ready to embark on the journey of returning to themselves and embracing the power of self-love.

NEW ARRIVALS

OCTOBER NEW RELEASES
BY ALEPH BOOK COMPANY

India: A Linguistic Civilisation
By GN DEVY
(PRICE: ₹599, PAGES: 200)



In *India: A Linguistic Civilisation*, by GN Devy examines the profound linguistic diversity of India and its role in shaping national identity and culture. This insightful book traces the evolution of languages, addressing the challenges of documenting their histories while highlighting the impact of migration, colonialism and cultural practices. Devy emphasises the importance of preserving endangered languages and the rich oral traditions that enrich Indian heritage, making a compelling case for collective responsibility in safeguarding linguistic diversity.

Become an Achiever Right Now
(Price: ₹299, Pages: 144)



In *Become an Achiever Right Now: A Masterclass from the SuperGurus*, a collection of insights from the world's leading self-help gurus, this book uncovers the common traits and strategies shared by great achievers. It explores how taking risks, learning from failures and possessing unique character attributes can propel individuals toward their dreams. With practical advice and inspirational stories, this masterclass equips readers with the tools they need to navigate life's challenges and achieve lasting success.

A Mother's Pain and Family Struggles

Lata Gwalani 'Not Before You' reveals the emotional depth and challenges of a family with a differently-abled child.



BY SANJAY CHANDRA

Not Before You by Lata Gwalani is a layered story that explores different facets of human emotions and accompanying family dynamics. It is the story of a mother's angst as she faces the reality that her first-born son is differently-abled and would not survive long. The story also explores the fragile balance of the family, as the other two members - the father and the second child, a normal daughter, deal with the situation in their own way, which does not include a caregiver role for the child. Jaya works in the media. A chance meeting with Suraj who runs his Yoga Ashram, culminates into romance, and marriage. Their joy soon turns into despair when they realise that the child, Nikhil, is different. The diagnosis after several visits to the doctors shatters them. In time, they have a daughter, Divya, who is normal. Jaya is determined to care for son till the end. Suraj takes refuge by escaping from reality. Divya is traumatised



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book : Not Before You

by **LATA GWALANI**

Publisher : Vishwakarma Publication

Paperback: 216 page

₹325

The first thought that runs through our minds is a silent prayer to the supreme being that our children lead a normal life, and then a sympathy towards the parents. We do not pause and reflect upon the sentiments of the affected parents. Lata shows us the mirror to do just that. It is a sensitive subject beautifully handled by her. There are short references to Yama, the God of death, looking down upon this unique mother and bowing to her wishes to not die before the child. These passages do not interrupt the flow of the story, but could have been avoided. This is a book that teaches us the meaning of empathy. Lata Gwalani has a career spanning three decades in journalism and behavioural training. She is a renowned speaker on Emotional Intelligence and Leadership. Lata uncovers captivating tales in the mundane and has published three works.

ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Sanjay Chandra is an author, speaker and strategy consultant who writes for The Pioneer and The Hindu. His novels include Behind Closed Doors (2023), The Gymnast (2022) and The Life and Times of a Common Man (2019). He lives in Gurugram and connects with readers through his website and social media. Sanjay loves to interact with readers through his email sanjaychandra59@gmail.com, his website www.authorsanjaychandra.com and various social media handles.



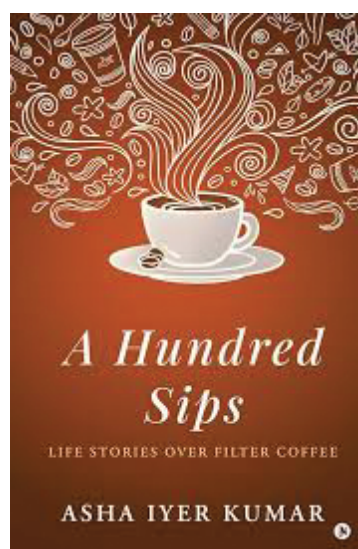
Finding joy: A hundred sips of life's simple moments

In 'A Hundred Sips: Life Stories over Filter Coffee,' Asha Iyer Kumar invites readers to explore the essence of happiness and the beauty found in life's everyday moments, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

What is happiness and how can we discover it in the simple moments of daily life? Is there a pattern to the challenges and hardships we face on this journey? In 'A Hundred Sips: Life Stories over Filter Coffee,' Asha Iyer Kumar presents a collection of uplifting stories that explore these questions and more. Rooted in her personal experiences, Kumar's narratives reveal how hope and joy can be found even amid life's struggles and tough decisions.

A Hundred Sips is a thought-provoking and beautifully crafted collection of stories that take the reader on a reflective journey through life's everyday moments. Each essay is like a sip from the cup of life, offering warmth, insight, and the subtle flavours of human experience. Kumar's writing is both intimate and relatable, drawing from her personal observations and universal truths. Her book explores themes of love, loss, joy and the simple pleasures that often go unnoticed in our fast-paced world. The strength of her prose lies in its simplicity; she conveys profound ideas in a conversational tone, making it feel like the reader is having a heartfelt discussion with an old friend.

Her stories remind us that although life may not always be perfect, there are always glimmers of light, even in the darkest times. With her straightforward yet profound writing, Kumar encourages readers to recognise the happiness and contentment hidden in everyday



moments, celebrating the small pleasures often overlooked. Through this journey, Kumar invites readers to pause and reflect on their own lives, helping them uncover beauty in the ordinary and find the extraordinary within the mundane. Whether you're searching for comfort, inspiration or a fresh perspective, 'A Hundred Sips: Life Stories over Filter Coffee' is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the joy that can be discovered in the simplest of experiences. Her message is clear: Immerse yourself in these deep stories and let them guide you in savouring life, one sip at a time.

NITISH KUMAR REDDY CREDITS GAUTAM GAMBHIR FOR ALL-ROUND SHOW IN 2ND T20I

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy said the idea was to take on the Bangladeshi spinners and credited head coach Gautam Gambhir for boosting his confidence after his all-round effort powered the hosts to an 86-run win in the second T20I here.

India, who had lost to Bangladesh the last time these two teams clashed here, landed in trouble with their top order blown away inside the powerplay but Reddy and Rinku Singh joined forces to turn the tables on Bangladesh. The pair put on 108 runs for the fourth wicket from 49 balls to take the game away from Bangladesh, with Reddy clobbering seven sixes and four fours to make 74 from a mere 34 balls.

"The conversation that we were having (was) a smooth conversation, we were not taking any pressure. We did not plan anything about the score. We saw the spinner coming on to bowl, and we thought that this was the main over and we should take him on," he said in a video shared by BCCI.

"To be honest, I should thank Gautam sir for this. He gave a lot of confidence in me. He told me to believe in my bowling." "He said 'when you are bowling, you should think like a bowler and not as a batsman who can bowl.' That is what he kept telling me and that somehow boosted me," he added. Reddy said he was grateful for being adjudged the Player of



the Match. "Playing for India is in itself a proud moment and getting the man of the match (award). I feel so grateful for this and I just want to live in this moment," he said. "Once I got to know that from here you should take on. I just knew that I will take on the bowlers. I was backing myself saying 'you can do this,' added Reddy, who returned 4-0-23-2.

"The conversation between us was like, he was telling me that maybe it is God's plan. We were just believing (in) it and we were just hitting the balls," Reddy said in a video shared by BCCI. Rinku, who scored 53 off 29 balls with five fours and three sixes, said the pair decided to take the attack to the opposition.

"We were enjoying our batting. I just said it is God's plan, just keep hitting and leave it on the one above. Nitesh bhai also batted well," said Rinku. "It was only his second international match and it felt really good watching him," he added. Rinku looked at his record with pride saying he has won each series that he has played

for India and expressed his wish to continue doing that. "This was my third century in T20Is and all three have come in situations where India have lost early wickets have been lost and I got the chance to bat and I made a fifty," he said. "I have won all the series with the Indian team since I started playing, so I would want to

remain with the team and the key keep winning," added Rinku, who also has 'God' plan tattooed on his arm. Rinku said India skipper Suryakumar Yadav urges his players to remain aggressive and play their natural game. "Surya bhai has asked us to be aggressive and play our natural game, just back our shots and show our energy," he said.



IAMGAME Conclave for the Future of Indian Sports

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

The IAMGAME Conclave took place on Wednesday to put together key leaders, athletes, and industry experts to share their valuable insights on the evolution and global potential of Indian sports.

The conclave addressed the most pressing challenges and opportunities within the Indian sports ecosystem, from infrastructure development and athlete nurturing to the growing influence of technology and the critical role of inclusivity and diversity.

The conclave was inaugurated by Mr Sudhanshu Mittal, President of Kho Kho federation. This more than just an event; it is a call to action. By facilitating open dialogue and knowledge sharing, the conclave aims to empower participants to drive positive change in the sports sector. The conclave had prominent speakers such as Harmanpreet Singh, Ronjan Sodhi, Udit Sheth, Jaspal Rana, Nikhat Zareen, Namrata Parekh, Aparna Popat, and Rathindra Basu. Who shared their insights about how they can make the game better for athletes. "The conclave was not just about conversations, but

about fostering collaboration and setting the foundation for action that will shape the future of sports in India," said Karan Chettri, IAMGAME Founder.

IAMGAME inspired innovation, tackled inclusivity, and empowered the next generation of athletes by fostering a collaborative environment for meaningful discussions. The insights generated at the event will serve as a roadmap for India's continued progress as a global sports powerhouse.

Co-founder Mandeep Malhotra added, "Through IAMGAME, we have built a platform for collaboration and growth, positioning Indian sports for a brighter future."

The event concluded on a high note, with a renewed focus on empowering the next generation of athletes, promoting inclusivity, and fostering innovation. The insights and ideas generated at IAMGAME 2024 are expected to serve as a roadmap for India's continued progress as a global sports powerhouse. As the momentum from the conclave carries forward, it is expected to drive meaningful changes within the Indian sports ecosystem, pushing it to new heights.

Iyer-Kishan on a "mission" as half of season to be held without top 60 players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shreyas Iyer would like to sit back on a 'Time Machine' to revive his start-stop international career while Ishan Kishan would aim to clear the popular perception about his allegedly "misplaced priorities", when the 90th edition of Ranji Trophy starts across the country with hundreds of players ready to slog it out for different ambitions and varied goals.

The Indian cricket board's powerful rap on the knuckles to the 'IPL happy duo' was a message loud and clear to anyone who would care to listen - to earn mega bucks in IPL auction, learn to give respect to the foundation of country's cricket - India's very own national championship. Iyer wouldn't mind having a 1,321-run reason like he had in the 2015-16 Ranji edition which brought him into national reckoning. He is at the cross-roads where it may not take long to slip off the selector's radar as his favourite ODI format is slowly losing relevance. Similarly, Kishan, who has fallen off the pecking order among national 'keepers', has accepted the responsibility to captain Jharkhand which



would also be a signal of his intent for Ajit Agarkar and his colleagues. Like every edition, Ranji Trophy will be devoid of star power with none of country's top 17-18 players likely to be available throughout the season due to eight Test matches scheduled between October 16 to January 7. The next 18 will only be available for a single round before they embark on India 'A' tour to Australia while another 15 among the younger crop of top T20 stars also unavailable for a couple of weeks owing to a four-match T20I series in South Africa. If that is not enough, another 15 will be in Muscat for the Emerging Asia Cup tournament, where BCCI

wouldn't send its U-23 team like previous years as other Asian nations don't have robust age-group programme. Like every year, the national selector would be out there to unearth hidden diamonds and give them wings to fly in coming years. The Indian Test team's philosophy has undergone sea-change over the years and it will no longer just be about volume of runs scored and quantum of wickets. "If runs and wickets alone would have been a marker then Milind Kumar or Lalaj Saxena would have played for India," a former national selector, who has a deep understanding of the process said. "If a batter has scored only 500

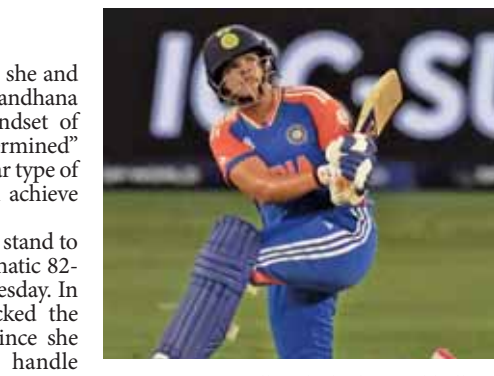
runs in a season but there is hundred on a green-top against good domestic attack and 60-odd on a proverbial akhaada (rank turner), his name would find a place in selector's notebook for India A and pathways programme. "Similarly, if a fast bowler is running in and making things happen on a batting belter with sun beating down, he will automatically grab eyeballs. It is all about adaptability and challenging yourself to get out of your comfort zone. If its a flat deck, then show your stamina and score a triple even when you are suffering from cramps."

"To play for India, show that you are different. All selectors have specific names in mind when they go for an assignment. Yes, they look at all players but focus would be on what national team requirements are," the selector, a former India Test player said. Among the teams, Mumbai once again would be a team to beat with Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer in its ranks although the Khan brothers — Sarfaraz and Musheer — will be missing; elder one due to national duty and younger one because of a recent road accident.

Not going in with pre-determined mindset has helped Smriti and me, says Shafali

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian batter Shafali Verma said she and her opening partner Smriti Mandhana have moved away from the mindset of entering matches with "pre-determined" ideas about targeting any particular type of bowling, which has helped them achieve greater success. The duo put up a 98-run opening stand to lay the foundation of India's emphatic 82-run win over Sri Lanka on Wednesday. In her 38-ball 50, Mandhana attacked the spinners, which is noteworthy since she typically relies on Shafali to handle tweakers. "Yes, we have a very good combination now, as you said. That's because now we don't go being pre-determined. Whoever



is connecting well with the bat and ball on that day, we try to give singles and let her play more balls," Shafali said at the post-match press conference.

"She's hitting the spinners very well. So, it's a good thing. And we both just try to give as good a start as we can then it'd be good for the team to build a good inning and hit a good target," she added.

Under the pump after the heavy loss to New Zealand and an underwhelming win over Pakistan, India's hammering of Sri Lanka massively boosted their net run rate, elevating them to the second spot in Group A. The Indian women have, however, struggled to hit the maximums at the Dubai Cricket Stadium, where they have played all of their matches till now. Shafali and Mandhana also copped criticism for their running between the wickets, which improved drastically against Sri Lanka

Major Dhyan Chand Stadium gets a facelift to ahead of India-Germany hockey series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Once it chronicled Mir Ranjan Negi's epic fall from grace, Dhanraj Pillay's artistic stick-work and Sandeep Singh's muscular drag-flicks but in the past decade or so, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium seemed resigned to the fact that its glory days as epicentre of Indian hockey were a thing of past. The two-match Test series against Germany on October 23 and 24 seems like the revival of Delhi's hockey spirit which has gone dormant in the past 10 years. Odisha government's seminal decision to help Indian hockey find its home in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela was a major

factor in the shift of momentum, which can swing once again if the fans show up. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey is hoping for a good turnout considering the growing popularity of hockey after two consecutive Olympic bronze medals. "Earlier domestic tournaments used to be held in Delhi in a very spectacular manner. I too made my international debut in Delhi through Indira Gandhi Gold Cup 1995. A large number of spectators used to come here and we also want that the glory of hockey to return to Delhi," Tirkey told PTI Bhasha. "After the Tokyo and Paris Olympics, the popularity of hockey has increased manifold and now the stadium will be

waiting for the spectators," said the legendary former defender. The last international match played here was the 2014 Hero World League Final. Inter-departmental hockey of institutions has also been held here occasionally. "I was an official here during the 2010 World Cup and people from all over the country came here to watch the match. It was a different atmosphere," said Ajay Kumar Bansal, former coach of the Indian junior and women's hockey team and ex administrator of the National Stadium. "Hockey was being played in Odisha for the last few years, due to which the graph of the game went up there and on the contrary, due to the absence of



hockey in Delhi, it went down. The youth did not see any big hockey tournament here, so automatically their interest decreased," he said. "Apart from this, due to lack of tournaments, the maintenance of the stadium is also affected. I want that from next time,

four or five more venues including Delhi, Punjab, Haryana should be included in the Hockey India League." India's World Cup winning former captain Ajitpal Singh believes that matches with big teams should be played in all the pockets of hockey in India.

"An international match is happening in Delhi after many years. Earlier, many 'Test' matches used to be held at the Shivaji Stadium. I think it is important to have matches and tournaments across the country, rather centralising them," the former skipper said. "There are many pockets of hockey in India, like many excellent players have emerged from Punjab, Haryana, UP, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu. Hockey is very popular in Odisha and Jharkhand, but it is important to organise big matches in other states as well," he added. Giving details of the preparations, officials said the cleaning of astro turf on the main pitch and practice pitches was going on with

German machines for a week and the process has been completed. Every year Rs 30 lakh is spent on the maintenance of both turfs. They said that the spectator galleries, change rooms, dressing rooms, and the entire complex have been cleaned. They also said that there is no need for an upgrade because this is a world-class stadium in which World Cup and Commonwealth Games have been organised. The stadium also houses a Hockey Academy of the National Centre of Excellence of the Sports Authority of India in which regular practice takes place. Apart from this, under the 'Come and Play' scheme of SAI, some children come and

play hockey, who are very excited about these matches. When India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan in the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games in 2010 year on this ground, a flood of emotions had overflowed in the packed stadium. The National Stadium (formerly known as Irwin Amphitheatre), gifted to Delhi by the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, witnessed the first Asian Games in 1951 and the players shed tears after losing to Pakistan in the hockey final of the 1982 Asian Games. On this same ground, Australia hammered the host India in the final of the 2010 Commonwealth Games by 8-0, one of the worst ever defeats.