



OPINION 6

ORWELL'S VISION REMAINS AS RELEVANT AS EVER

WORLD 8

STRIKE IN ISRAEL OVER HOSTAGE DEATHS REFLECTS POLITICAL DIVISIONS

MONEY 10

SENSEX, NIFTY HIT ALL TIME HIGH

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KATHUNIYA BAGS
PARALYMPIC SILVER IN
MEN'S DISCUS THROW
11 SPORTS

CBI arrests Sandip Ghosh; Justice on its way SC: Why demolish houses of accused?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh on charges of financial misconduct before the September 5 hearing in the Supreme Court, sources said. He was later escorted to the CBI's Nizam Palace office in Kolkata which houses the agency's anti-corruption wing and was shown as arrested. Ghosh, an orthopaedic surgeon, is not only charged with financial misconduct and other illegal acts, including illegal sale of bio-medical waste, running organ trade and selling of bodies by his former colleague Akhtar Ali, but he has also been accused of controlling all the illegal syndicates that were active in most of the State-run medical colleges of West Bengal. In March 2023, Ali, a Non-Medical Assistant Superintendent at RG Kar Medical College wrote a letter to the authorities, including the vigilance commission and even the Chief Minister's office accusing the former principal of corruption that included illegal body trafficking and biomedical waste disposal. The Monday's arrest comes days after the CBI named Ghosh in the FIR in connection with its probe into alleged financial irregularities at the hospital during his tenure. The CBI arrested Ghosh after grilling him for more than 150 hours over days. The arrest of Ghosh comes in the midst of a movement against the rape and murder of an on-duty postgraduate lady doctor of RGMCH.



Former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh after he was arrested by CBI in connection with the alleged financial misconduct at the establishment, in Kolkata, on Monday

He is the second person to be arrested in the rape and murder case. Earlier, a civic volunteer was arrested on charges of raping and murdering the lady doctor. Ghosh's arrest is significant given his close proximity to the State's political establishment. He had reportedly treated a top politician for leg injuries during the State election a few years ago. A few days after the rape and murder case surfaced, the State Government transferred Ghosh, who had resigned earlier, with a prize-posting to another medical college in Kolkata, leading to an outcry in the medical fraternity. There was a strong demand for his dismissal and arrest. More trouble awaits Ghosh as the Enforcement Directorate too has filed a money-laundering case to probe his alleged role in financial irregularities inside the RGMCH. Recently, the Indian Medical Association had suspended his

membership. Protesting junior doctors, people and medical fraternity celebrated after news surfaced of the arrest of Ghosh. Meanwhile, the CBI is likely to submit a closed envelope before the Supreme Court on September 5 detailing its preliminary findings, sources said. The envelope may contain names not only of the prime suspects of RGMCH who might have played a role in destroying evidence but also of some big guns in the political echelon who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the syndicate raj — that was plaguing the State-run medical colleges — but for which the rape and murder might not have taken place. According to sources the CBI officials who had subjected a number of people including prime accused Sanjoy Roy and former RG Kar principal Ghosh to polygraph tests are still in doubt about the

truth that is being dished out to them. "It is quite intriguing how the accused went up to the seminar hall on the third floor breaking the security rings. Getting inside the hospital area is difficult as even doctors' own relatives who are familiar to the security persons are not allowed in," said one source. The arrested accused in the alleged rape and murder of the woman medic would likely plead "not guilty" in the court since he was "framed" in the case, his counsel said on Monday. The accused, who is currently lodged in the Presidency Correctional Home, has told the lawyer that the doctor was not known to him, she added. "We will fight our case based on the documents produced by the prosecution lawyers before the court," she said, claiming that the accused has maintained his innocence during the polygraph test. His counsel also claimed that Roy had gone to the floor where the seminar hall of the RG Kar Hospital is located to find out the health condition of his friend's father who was operated on that day. "He went to the pulmonary department which is on the same floor where the seminar hall is situated. It was then when he saw the woman lying there," she said. The body of the post-graduate trainee, who was allegedly raped and murdered, was found in the seminar hall of the hospital on August 9. Roy, a civic volunteer of the Kolkata Police, was arrested the next day. The gruesome crime resulted in nationwide protests by doctors and citizens.

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Hearing pleas filed against 'Bulldozer Justice', the Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on a trend of demolishing the houses or properties of those who are accused of crimes and said that it would issue guidelines to tackle such issues. "How can anybody's house be demolished only because he is an accused? Even if he is a convict, it can't be done without following the procedure as prescribed by law," a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said. The bench stated that no property can be demolished just because a person is accused of a criminal offence. The court, however, said it will not protect any unauthorised construction or encroachment on public roads. "We will not protect any illegal structure obstructing public roads, that includes a temple, but there should be guidelines for demolition," it added. The court also appreciated the stand taken by the State of Uttar Pradesh which said that demolition can be done only if a structure is illegal. The Bench requested that the suggestions be given to Senior Advocate Nachiketa Joshi, who was requested to collate them and present them to the Court. 'Bulldozer justice', also known as bulldozer politics, refers to the practice of using the heavy-duty piece of machinery to demolish houses of alleged criminals, communal violence rioters and accused in criminal cases. Notably, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started the practice of instant "justice" using bulldozers to bring down



properties of accused to make an example of them and put pressure on those absconding. Later other BJP ruled states-Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and even Congress ones, have followed suit. Soon, Yogi earned the nickname of 'Bulldozer Baba', through which he attempted to convey his "no-nonsense" hard taskmaster style of working. Interestingly, in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, it became a part of the BJP's campaigning strategy to reiterate Yogi's 'bulldozer' credentials. However, the practice of using bulldozer has come under strong criticism, with many questioning how the action can be taken even before allegations against a person are proven. They have also questioned why the administration must punish the whole family for the crime of one. On Monday, the top court was hearing two pleas filed on the issue of such demolitions that were alleged to be taking place without notice and as a form of "revenge." The pleas were filed by Rashid Khan from Rajasthan and

Mohammad Hussain from Madhya Pradesh. The application by Khan, a 60-year-old auto-rickshaw driver from Udaipur, said that his house was demolished by the Udaipur district administration on August 17, 2024. This was after communal clashes broke out in Udaipur, several vehicles were set on fire and markets closed following the issuance of prohibitory orders after a Muslim schoolboy allegedly stabbed his Hindu classmate who later succumbed to his injuries. Khan is the father of the accused schoolboy. Similarly, Mohammad Hussain from Madhya Pradesh has alleged that his house and shop were illegally bulldozed by the State administration. The two applications were filed in a case earlier filed by Jamiat Ulama I Hind against the demolition of Muslim homes in Haryana's Nuh, following the violence between Hindus and Muslims in the area. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, referred to an earlier affidavit filed by the State in the matter.

Tragedy engulfs Vaishno Devi pilgrims

PNS ■ JAMMU

At least two Mata Vaishno Devi-bound pilgrims died and a minor child received injuries when they were hit by a massive landslide on the Himkoti track to the cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on Monday. The incident took place near the Panchi colony in the Himkoti area around 2.15 p.m. The pilgrims were struck by the massive iron bar structure as it crumbled under the weight of the large tumbling stones. The pilgrim traffic was halted for some time to carry out rescue operations in the area. The disaster management teams of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) were pressed into action to carry out the rescue operations and shift the injured to the nearby health care center. However, the pilgrimage continued through the traditional route along the track. According to official sources deceased pilgrims have been identified as Sapna (27) of Dhanpur village in Punjab's Gurdaspur, and Neha (23) of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The injured girl — Sanvi, a resident of Kanpur — is undergoing treatment in the hospital. Her grandfather L Prasad said they were taking a break from trekking to the shrine when police started clearing the track due to a monkey scare.

Cabinet announces big ticket reforms for farming sector

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to improve the lives of farmers and increasing their income, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday approved around ₹13,966 crore outlay for seven big-ticket programmes related to the farming sector, including a ₹2,817-crore digital agriculture mission and a ₹3,979-crore scheme for crop science. These programme will focus on harnessing public-funded digital infrastructure to research focussed on emerging challenges in the farm sector. The emphasis of these programmes would be on research & education, climate resilience, natural resource management and digitisation in the agriculture sector along with emphasis on growth of horticulture and livestock sectors. Addressing a press conference after the Union Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav announced that the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of ₹13,966 crore. The Cabinet has approved crop science for food and nutritional security programmes with a total outlay ₹3,979 crore. In this programme, six pillars have been included in



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav briefs the media over cabinet decisions, in New Delhi, Monday

the programme with a focus on preparing the farmers for climate resilient crop sciences and food security by 2047. These six pillars are — Research and Education; Plant Genetic Resource Management; Genetic improvement for food and fodder crop; pulse and oilseed crop improvement; Improvement of commercial crops; and research on insects, microbes, pollinators. A part of the fund will be utilised for improving productivity of pulses and oilseeds, apart from plant-genetics management. India seeks to end its dependence on costly imports to meet local pulses demand by 2027, a key agriculture-sector priority.

GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE: INDIA GLOWS AT PARIS PARALYMPICS



(From left to right) Indian para-badminton players Thulasimathi Murugesan wins silver medal, Kumar Nitesh gold and Manisha Ramadass bronze at the Paralympics 2024, in France, on Monday

RSS says, caste census important, but not for electoral gain

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PALAKKAD (KERALA)/NEW DELHI

At a time when the Opposition led NDA Government is pressurising the Government to conduct caste census across the country, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Monday said it has no objection to the census as it could be useful for welfare activities while cautioning against its exploitation for electoral gains. It also said no step in the direction of sub-classification of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

should be taken without the consensus among the communities concerned. Making these assertions, RSS Prachar Pramukh (chief spokesperson) Sunil Ambekar said after a three-day conclave in Palakkad, "the RSS thinks that definitely, for all welfare activities, particularly those targeting such communities or castes which are lagging behind — for whom special attention is needed — for that, it sometimes the Government needs the numbers, it is a well-established practice. Earlier also, it

(the Government) has taken (such data), and so it can do it again. But it should be done only for the welfare of those communities and castes. It should not be used as a political tool for elections. So we put this forth with a line of caution for everyone." "As a Hindu society, caste and caste relations are sensitive issues. It is an important issue for our national unity and integrity. So, it should be dealt with very sensitively and not on the basis of elections or electoral practices and politics," he said.



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan during Enforcement Directorate's raids at his residence, in New Delhi, on Monday

Jail and bail for AAP

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in connection with a money-laundering case related to financial irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board. Khan was produced before Special Judge Rakesh Syal hours after he was arrested from his home by the ED who told the court that he was required to be confronted with other accused and evidence in the case. The ED has sought his 10 days custody. The counsel appearing for Khan challenged his arrest. The court has reserved its order on ED's plea and will likely pronounce it late night. He was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at 11.20 am after the agency conducted a search at his residence in Batla House earlier in the day. The ED told the court that some questions were put to Khan during the searches but he remained "evasive" and hence was arrested. The ED told the court that Khan was the main accused in the case. "The proceeds of crime have been used and laundered to buy property. Cash (is) also used. There was an attempt to misguide the agency," the ED told the court. The agency further accused Khan of non-cooperation, saying 14 summons were issued to him, and he appeared only once, that too after a Supreme Court direction. The case against Khan stems from two FIRs: One filed by the CBI concerning alleged irregularities in Waqf Board appointments, and another by the Delhi ACB regarding an alleged case of disproportionate assets. The agency had earlier summoned Khan and questioned him for 13 hours.

Kejriwal's aide Bibhav gets bail in Swati assault case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the Swati Malawi assault case noting that he has been in custody for over 100 days. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan also took into account that the prosecution has proposed to examine more than 51 witnesses and said the trial will take time to conclude.

Govt summons Netflix India after IC-814 web series face backlash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has summoned the content head of OTT platform Netflix over the series 'IC-814: The Kandahar Hijack', which has triggered a row over the depiction of hijackers, contending that nobody has the right to play with the sentiments of the nation. Official sources said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has summoned the content head of Netflix India on Tuesday, seeking an explanation on the allegedly contentious aspects of

the OTT series portraying the 1999 hijack of an Indian Airlines flight by Pakistan-based terror outfit Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. The depiction of hijackers of the Indian Airlines flight from Kathmandu to Delhi has stirred controversy with a section of viewers objecting to the 'humane' projection of the perpetrators. "Nobody has the right to play with the sentiments of the people of this nation. Indian culture and civilisation should always be respected," another official source said. "Should we allow any foreign people to slipshod



over our cultural values," the source said without elaborating. The sources said filmmakers have to think before portraying something in a wrong manner. "You may be liberal, but you cannot portray institutions in a wrong manner," the source said. Using hashtags #BoycottNetflix, #BoycottBollywood and #IC814, several X users shared posts claiming the filmmakers changed the names of the hijackers to 'Shankar' and 'Bhola' to allegedly protect the terrorists who belonged to a certain community. BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya

said the hijackers of the IC-814 flight were dreaded terrorists, who acquired aliases to hide their Muslim identities. "Filmmaker Anubhav Sinha, legitimised their criminal intent, by furthering their non-Muslim names. Decades later, people will think Hindus hijacked IC-814," Malviya posted on X. "Left's agenda to whitewash the crimes of Pakistani terrorists, all Muslims, served. This is the power of cinema, which the Communists have been using aggressively, since the 70s. Perhaps even earlier," Malviya said.

New railway line project to benefit 4 districts of MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

CHIEF MINISTER THANKS PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved the new railway line project under the Ministry of Railways at a cost of approximately Rs 18,036 crore. The proposed new rail line will provide direct connectivity between Indore and Manmad. < This project is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a New India, which will make the people 'self-reliant' along with comprehensive development of the region. The project is an outcome of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, made possible through inte-

grated planning, and will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services. The project will cover 6 districts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, adding approximately 309 kilometers to the existing network of Indian Railways. 30 new stations will also be built along with the project, which will provide better connectivity to Barwani, the Aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh. The new railway line project will directly benefit about one thousand villages and a population of about 30 lakh. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the approval of this new rail-

way line project which will give further impetus to the development of Madhya Pradesh. The project will boost tourism in the region by providing a short route connecting the western south-western part of the country with Central India. It will increase the tourist influx at various tourist/religious places in the Ujjain-Indore region including Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga Temple. The project will provide direct connectivity to Pithampur Auto Cluster (90 large units and 700 small and medium industries) to the Gateway port of JNPA and other state ports. The project will also provide direct connectivity to the millet-producing districts of

Madhya Pradesh and onion-producing districts of Maharashtra, thereby facilitating its distribution in the northern and southern parts of the country. It is an essential route for the transportation of agricultural products, fertilizers, containers, iron ore, steel, cement, and POL. The capacity addition work will result in additional freight traffic of approximately 26 MTPA (million tonnes per annum). Railways are an environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transport, which will help in achieving climate goals and reducing the country's logistics costs, reducing oil imports (18 crore litres), and reducing CO2 emissions (138 crore kg) which is equivalent to planting 5.5 crore trees.

CM greets medal winners

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav greeted and extended best wishes to Nishad Kumar on winning a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event and Yogesh Kathuniya for his silver medal in the men's discus throw F56 event at the Paris Paralympics 2024. Yadav has said that this achievement of both the players is a sign of unwavering dedication, perseverance and commitment, which is inspirational for every Indian sports talent. He said that all Indians are proud of Nishad and Kathuniya. Chief Minister Yadav has wished the Indian players to continue achieving success in future as well.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav buys Guava fruit from a roadside vendor while he was on his way from Ujjain to Indore Madhya Pradesh on Monday. Pioneer photo

6-day foundation course for MBBS students inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A six-day comprehensive Foundation Course for the MBBS 2024 batch was inaugurated on Monday, 2nd September 2024 at AIIMS Bhopal designed to orient and prepare new students for their medical education journey. The course was formally inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, in the presence of faculty members and students. A total of 122 students have enrolled in this year's batch. During his inaugural address, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh emphasized the importance of a receptive and open-minded approach to learning. He encouraged students to see learning opportunities in every aspect of their environment, including from their interactions with patients. "A patient can also teach you valuable lessons," he remarked, underlining the need for empathy in the medical pro-

Prof. Singh further stressed that teachers should serve as role models for their students, guiding them not only academically but also in developing strong ethical and professional values. "Learning is a lifelong process," he noted, urging students to maintain discipline, adhere to rules, and always be open to seeking help when faced with challenges. He also highlighted the significance of proper attire in maintaining the dignity and decorum expected of future healthcare professionals. Concluding his speech, Prof. Singh extended his best wishes to the new batch, encouraging them to make the most of their time at AIIMS Bhopal. Earlier in the program, Dr. Vaishali Waindeskar, Chairman of the Centre for Medical Education and Training (CMET), welcomed the students and provided an overview of the Foundation Course. She outlined the key

objectives of the course, which include orientation visits to the hospital and library, stress management sessions, student wellness programs, communication skills workshops, and other essential training modules aimed at equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in their medical education. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Dean (Academics), various Heads of Departments (HoDs), and other faculty members, who collectively welcomed the new students and expressed their commitment to supporting their academic and personal development throughout their time at AIIMS Bhopal. The Foundation Course is part of AIIMS Bhopal's continued efforts to provide a holistic educational experience that not only imparts medical knowledge but also instills values of empathy, discipline, and lifelong learning in its students.

Special screening of movie 'Tikdam' at Scope Global University

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Scope Global Skills University (SGSU) in collaboration with MP Tourism Board organized a special screening of the film 'Tikdam' in the Vanmali Auditorium of the University on Monday. During this program, the film's director Vivek Anchaliya and actor Amit Sial were present as chief guests. Additional Managing Director (AMD) Bidisha Mukherjee from MP Tourism Board and Chancellor Dr. Siddharth Chaturvedi, Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajay Bhushan, Registrar Dr. Suresh Sinha and Pro Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University Aditi Chaturvedi were present on behalf of SGSU. The welcome address in the program was given by Dr. Siddharth Chaturvedi. In his speech, he welcomed all the guests and intro-



duced the university. He said that this is a skill-based university where courses are being conducted in partnership with industries, the aim of which is to provide 60 percent practical and experience-based education to the students and 40 percent class-based learning. He also informed about the efforts being made by the institute in the field of film produc-

tion and animation. In this episode, AMD Bidisha Mukherjee of MP Tourism Board informed about the efforts being made by the MP government to promote tourism. He said that a subsidy of up to 1.5 crores is being offered to promote film tourism. Apart from this, separate assistance of up to 75 lakhs is being provided to promote film infrastructure. He told that there are a lot of possibilities for tourism in MP because there are many options here from wildlife to religious tourism. Talking about the film, Vivek Anchaliya, director of the film Tikdam, said that this is a story written in 2007, the idea of 'making which started in 2018. At that time, it was being named 'Papa Ke Joote', then after that it was thought of being named 'Gubaare'.

But one day suddenly the name 'Tikdam' came to mind. It seemed like a perfect name, then it was kept. He further says that this film is based on the issue of climate change and migration. Actor Amit Sial, who has worked in prestigious films and webseries like Mirzapur, Maharani and Wasseyapur, said in his statement that this film was a unique project. That is why when I heard its pitch deck, I agreed to do the film in just 10 minutes. It is very important to be associated with such a film. Along with drama, the film also talks about issues like global warming. The life of migrant laborers has also been shown in the film with a very beautiful angle. Overall, it is a family entertainer film. He further said that the audience will get to see my new character in this film. I was waiting for such a film for a long time because it is a completely different kind of film. I also wanted to do such a character. On the question of family films not being commercially successful, Amit Sial said that the work in the industry is done as the audience wants. If people like family films, they should encourage others to do so. Only then will more such films start being made. Otherwise, films with violence and abuse will dominate.



Devotees participate in a shahi sawari of Mukteshwar Mahadev taken out on the occasion of Bhadrapad Somvati Amavasya in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

IIT Patna hosts e-Panchayat workshop, leveraging technology in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna, in collaboration with Absolute Gramya Private Limited, successfully hosted the workshop titled "Empowering Compatible Rural Governance, Health, and Skill through Developing E-Panchayat" here on Monday. The event marked a significant milestone for rural empowerment in Madhya Pradesh. Prof. TN Singh, Director of IIT Patna and Chairman of the Foundation for Innovators in Science and Technology (FIST), followed with remarks on the developmental role of FIST and IIT Patna in advancing rural governance through technology. Prof. Singh remarked, "IIT Patna, through its collaboration with FIST, is committed to fostering innovative solutions for rural governance. The E-Panchayat initiative is a prime example of how technology can



bridge gaps in governance and bring about meaningful change. We are excited to support this endeavour and work towards a more inclusive and efficient governance model." The workshop aimed to enhance rural governance, healthcare, and skill development through the E-Panchayat system. The government's commitment to digital transformation in rural governance is already in place. The E-Panchayat system is a cornerstone of our vision for

modernizing rural administration. By integrating digital technology, we are making governance more transparent, efficient, and accessible. This initiative will not only enhance the delivery of public services but also empower rural communities to participate more actively in their own development. The session began with a welcome address by Dr. Pankaj Shukla, CMD of Absolute Gramya, who outlined the event's objectives and the importance of the E-Panchayat initiative stated, "The E-Panchayat system represents a transformative leap towards modernizing rural governance. By leveraging technology, we are not only streamlining administrative processes but also empowering communities with better access to essential services. Our goal is to create a robust, efficient system that can significantly uplift rural areas and drive sustainable development." The workshop featured a

detailed technical briefing on the development of the E-Panchayat system, offering attendees in-depth insights into its implementation. A key highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FIST, IIT Patna, and Absolute Gramya Private Limited, formalizing their commitment to advancing the E-Panchayat initiative. The event included two focused sessions: Session I addressed the practical applications of E-Panchayat, while Session II concentrated on strategic planning and roadmap development. The workshop also marked the beginning of Absolute Gramya's ambitious plan to establish an E-Panchayat network across Madhya Pradesh, fostering a renewed sense of purpose and collaboration among all stakeholders. This initiative is set to usher in a new era of modernized rural governance and enhanced community development.

Union Cabinet sanctions New railway line project on Indore-Manmad route

PNS ■ JABALPUR

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the New Railway Line Project under the Ministry of Railways at a total cost of Rs 18,036 crore. The proposed new line between Indore and Manmad will provide direct connectivity and improve mobility, thereby ensuring better efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. The project is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a New India, which will make people "Aatmanirbhar" through comprehensive development in the sector, thereby increasing employment/self-employment opportunities for them. The project is an outcome of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, made possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services. The project will cover 6 districts of 2 states, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, adding about 309 km to the existing network of Indian Railways.

Thirty new stations will be constructed with this project, providing better connectivity to the aspirational district of Barwani. The new railway line project will provide connectivity to about 1,000 villages and a population of about 30 lakh. The project will boost tourism in the region by providing a shorter route connecting the western/south-western part of the country with central India. This will increase the foothold of tourists to various tourist/religious places in the Ujjain-Indore region including the Shri Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga Temple. The project will provide direct connectivity to the Pithampur auto cluster (90 large units and 700 small and medium industries) to the Gateway Port of JNPA and other state ports. The project will also provide direct connectivity to the millet producing districts of Madhya Pradesh and onion producing districts of Maharashtra, facilitating its distribution in the northern and southern parts of the country. It is an essential route for transportation of commodities like agricultural produce, fertilizers, containers, iron ore, steel, cement, POL, etc.

Poetry recitation competition held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Kavita Paath (poetry recitation) competition was organized under Hindi Mas-2024 at BHEL, Bhopal. The chief guest of the program was RF Siddiqui, General Manager (TPTN & CET), M Selvam, Additional General Manager (HR) and Prajwal Adak, Deputy General Manager (HR) were specially present on this occasion. In his address, Siddiqui said that the poet attracts the attention of the society through songs, poems, ghazals etc. by dressing up social issues in the garb of words, figures of speech, rasa, bhaav and seriousness of the subject etc. This platform definitely gives the employees a chance to hone their art. While wishing all the participants, he said that in the same way you will maintain simplicity and sweetness in your workplace also. On this occasion, Dr. Selvam said that seeing the expressions, enthusiasm, joy and applause of the people reciting the poems, it seemed that the poems were of a very high standard. He told everyone that this enthusiasm and dedication should be seen in every field of your work.

3D LiDAR technology arrives at MANIT Bhopal: A pioneering workshop

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A new wave of technological innovation is set to unfold with the inauguration of a five-day workshop titled "Application of 3D Scanner in Architecture" at the Department of Architecture and Planning, MANIT Bhopal, from September 2 to September 6, 2024. The workshop, coordinated by Dr. Jagdish Singh, aims to revolutionize the field of Architecture and Planning by integrating real-time data capturing through LiDAR technology. Dr. Singh highlighted that this workshop will bring a new dimension to the industry, offering participants the opportunity to explore the transformative power of 3D scanning. The event brings together a diverse group of professors, students, researchers, designers, engineers, and enthusiasts from across the country. Under the guidance of Dr. Jagdish Singh, Dr. Supriya Vyas, and Dr. Neha Pranav Kolhe from the

Department of Architecture, the workshop is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of 3D scanning techniques, applications, and best practices. Attendees will gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge 3D scanning equipment, guided by leading experts in the field. The sessions will cover a wide range of topics, from fundamental principles to advanced applications in design, manufacturing, and cultural preservation. Director Shukla, who serves as the Patron of the workshop, expressed his enthusiasm during the inaugural address, stating, "We are excited to offer this platform for learning and innovation. 3D scanning technology is reshaping development and enhancing creativity and precision." The workshop is expected to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among professionals, serving as a catalyst for further advancements in 3D scanning applications across various fields.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with his wife Seema Yadav offers prayers at the historical Mahakaleswar Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Monday. Pioneer photo

Chief Minister offers prayers to Lord Mahakaleswar

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav reached the Lord Mahakaleswar temple on Monday on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya, had darshan of Lord Mahakaleswar and performed puja with his wife Seema Yadav. The puja was performed by Pt. Rajesh Guru. Later, Collector and

Chairman of Mahakaleswar Temple Management Committee Neeraj Kumar Singh presented a Shawl and Shripthal to Chief Minister Dr. Yadav at Nandi Hall. The Chief Minister also visited Vriddha Kaleswar (Juna Mahakaleswar) Temple and Anadikalpeshwar Temple located in the Mahakaleswar Temple premises and offered

On this occasion, MLA Anil Jain Kaluhera, Sanjay Aggarwal, Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Gupta, IG Santosh Kumar Singh, DIG Navneet Bhasin, SP Pradeep Sharma, CEO District Panchayat Jayati Singh, Administrator Mahakaleswar Temple Management Committee Ganesh Kumar Dhakad, and other officials were present.

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Angered with adverse comments, man kills his 3-yr-old niece

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a gruesome incident, a 30-year-old man killed his niece by slitting her throat in Jehangirabad locality on Sunday night, accused killed her after family members taunted him of being unemployed and urged him to do work. After the family members asked him to work, the accused said he will show them how to do the work. Saying this, he brought a knife from the room and slit the girl's throat. Moin lives near Jehangirabad market. Rumeja was his daughter. The mother had gone to her maternal home near her in-laws' house on Sunday with her. The girl's grandmother had stopped

Angered by this, Faraz said that he will show you how to do the work right now. He brought a knife from inside and before anyone could understand anything, he slit the girl's throat

them for dinner at night. At around 11 pm, the girl went to her maternal uncle Faraz while playing. At night, niece Rumeja was insisting on getting something from her maternal uncle (Faraz) while the family members were explaining to Faraz about living and working properly. Angered by this, Faraz said that he will show you how to do the work right now. He brought a knife from inside and before anyone could understand any-

thing, he slit the girl's throat. During this, the girl's mother was also present. By the time the family rescued the girl from the clutches of the accused, the girl lost blood. The girl was taken to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared her dead. Meanwhile, the family locked the accused in the house. The police also arrived after getting the information. The family handed him over to the police. He has committed

criminal incidents earlier too. The police are investigating the records. The girl's father Moin told that 25 days ago he had gone to the farm house in Parwalia area with the family. There, the accused Faraz tried to drown the elder son Yahya Usmani in the swimming pool. Seeing this, he slapped Faraz in anger. Since then he has had a grudge. On Saturday, wife Nuris went to her maternal home with daughter Rumeja where Nuris and her mother asked the two to stay for dinner. On Sunday, Faraz returned home at night. Nuris advised him to do a job. He did not like this. After some time, he slit his daughter's throat with a knife. The wounds were so deep

that she died on the spot. However, by the time his wife took him to the hospital, it was too late. The accused had stabbed the girl directly in the throat. After the incident, the family was calling the accused Faraz a psychopath, but till now the police investigation has not found any evidence of him being a psychopath. The police have asked for medical prescriptions. The accused is a B.Sc graduate. He has also done a PGDCA diploma. After this, he worked in a private telecom company for a long time. He worked from home till one and a half years ago. Victim's father alleged that to save the accused, the family is trying to declare him mentally unstable.



Artists dressed as demons and ghosts participate in a shahi sawari of Lord Mahakal on the occasion of Somvati Amavasya in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Monday. Pioneer photo



Commuters ride vehicles amid heavy rain in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Soft skills training for nursing students at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Soft Skills- Humanities Educational Training workshop was organised for the second year M.Sc. Nursing students of AIIMS Bhopal. The primary objective of this training was to make students aware of the essential soft skills required to prepare a generation of nursing professionals who can emotionally connect with patients and provide better care. Professor (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, highlighted the significance of soft skills in nursing, stating, "Soft skills are extremely important for nursing staff as they contribute to effective patient care along with clinical expertise. These skills, including communication, empathy, teamwork, and problem-solving, play a crucial role in building trust and harmony with patients and their families." Prof. Singh further emphasized that nursing staff with strong soft skills are better equipped to understand the emotional and psychological needs of patients, enabling them to provide more compassionate and holistic care. He added, "These skills also promote collaboration, fostering a positive environment in the workplace and improving overall healthcare outcomes."

Everyone will get the benefits: CM

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that this is the 300th birth anniversary year of Lokmata Ahilya Devi. On this occasion, work will be done to take the public welfare works of Lokmata to the people. In his message, Yadav said that Lokmata Ahilya Devi was one such ruler who preserved the cultural pride of the country including Rameshwaram, Jagannathpuri, Ujjain, Banaras during the period of external attacks on the temples. She engaged in activities like arranging puja in all temples as per Sanatan culture, developing the food sector, and constructing ghats for bathing. These activities which she undertook for people's welfare, including the tribals, earned her the status of Lokmata. Yadav said that the Madhya Pradesh government will undertake various activities on the occasion of the 300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Ahilya Devi. A committee has been formed for this work that will not only empower women, but provide them with various rights, and present examples of better good governance.

A strategic imperative for meeting strict sustainability standards

New Delhi: At the Global Sustainability Alliance Gujarat Edition, delegates emphasized the need for government action to attract significant investments, including foreign direct investment (FDI), to support Gujarat's farmers. They highlighted that with global markets increasingly enforcing strict sustainability standards, it is crucial for the state to create an investment-friendly environment to ensure its farmers can remain competitive and thrive. The conclave titled 'Accelerating Progress: Resource conscious and low carbon agricultural development' was addressed by Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta, Padmashree Awardee, Member of Governing Board, National Innovation Foundation, Founder - Honeybee Network, National Innovation Foundation, SRISTI, and GIAN. The key note was delivered by RAS Patel, Deputy Commissioner (RFS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and the

speakers included Megha Desai, Senior Coordinator, National Farmer's Forum Network, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Bhikhubhai N Patel, Managing Trustee & Secretary, Sardar Patel Education Trust, Anand, President, Gujarat Tobacco Merchant Association, BK Singhal, Chief General Manager, NABARD (Gujarat Regional Office), Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to name a few. Speaking at the GSA summit held at Gandhinagar today, keynote speaker R.A.S Patel, Deputy Commissioner (RFS), Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India said, "We have support from the Government of India, but getting investments from private sectors and FDI is also crucial. Investments is not just an economic necessity but a strategic imperative. Gujarat can continue to thrive in the global agricultural market in compliance with stringent sustainability standards that are coming into place only if there is large scale investment."

VIPPY INDUSTRIES LTD.
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Notice to the Shareholders for 50th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Notice is hereby given that the 50th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Saturday, 28th September, 2024 at 11.30 A.M. (IST) through two-way Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM which is being circulated for convening the AGM.

In view of the massive outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, social distancing is a norm to be followed and pursuant to the Circular No. 14/2020 dated 8th April, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs followed by Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, General Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13th January, 2021, General Circular No. 02/2022 dated 5th May, 2022, General Circular No. 10/2022 dated 28th December, 2022 and General Circular No. 09/2023 dated 25th September, 2023 physical attendance of the Members to the AGM venue is not required and AGM be held through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM). Hence, Members can attend and participate in the ensuing AGM through VC/OAVM.

The Notice of the AGM along with Annual Report 2023-24 will be sent electronically only to those members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/ Registrar and Transfer Agent/ Depository Participants.

Members holding shares in dematerialized mode are requested to register their e-mail addresses, mobile numbers and bank mandate with relevant depositories through their Depositories Participants, members holding shares in physical mode are requested to furnish their e-mail address, mobile number and bank mandate with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, Ankit Consultancy Private Limited, at investor@ankitonline.com or to Company at www.vippsysoya.com.

Members may note that the notice of the AGM & Annual Report 2023-24 will also be available on Companies website at www.vippsysoya.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Members will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic voting system. The manner of voting remotely for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses will be provided in the Notice to the shareholders.

The Notice of the 50th AGM will be sent to the members in accordance with the applicable laws on their registered emails in due course.

For Vippsy Industries Limited
Sd/-
Karan Kapoor
Company Secretary

Place: Dewas
Date: 02.09.2024

SC pulls up States over 'Bulldozer Justice'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hearing pleas filed against 'Bulldozer Justice', the Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on a trend of demolishing the houses or properties of those who are accused of crimes and said that it would issue guidelines to tackle such issues. "How can anybody's house be demolished only because he is an accused? Even if he is a convict, still it can't be done without following the procedure as prescribed by law," a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said. The bench stated that no property can be demolished just because the accused is involved in a criminal offence. The court, however, said it will not protect any unauthorised construction or encroachment on public roads. "We will not protect any illegal structure obstructing public roads, that includes a temple, but there should be guidelines for demolition," it added. The Court also appreciated the stand taken by the State of Uttar Pradesh which said that demolition can be done only if a structure is illegal. The Bench requested that the suggestions be given to Senior Advocate Nachiketa Joshi, who was requested to collate them and present them to the Court. 'Bulldozer justice', also known as bulldozer politics, refers to the practice of using the heavy-duty piece of machinery to demolish

houses of alleged criminals, communal violence rioters and accused criminals. Notably, the Uttar Pradesh chief Minister Yogi Adityanath started the practice of instant "justice" using bulldozers to bring down properties of accused to make an example of them and put pressure on those absconding. Later other BJP ruled states-Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and even Congress ones, have followed suit. Soon, the Yogi Adityanath earned the nickname of 'Bulldozer Baba', through which he attempted to convey his "no-nonsense" hard taskmaster style of working. Interestingly, in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, it became a part of the BJP's campaigning strategy to reiterate Yogi's 'bulldozer' credentials. However, the practice of using bulldozer has come under strong criticism, with many questioning how the action can be taken even before allegations against a person are proven. They have also questioned why the administration must punish the whole family for the crime of one. On Monday, the top court was hearing two pleas filed on the issue of such demolitions that were alleged to be taking place without notice and as a form of "revenge." The pleas were filed by Rashid Khan from Rajasthan and Mohammad Hussain from Madhya Pradesh. The application by Khan, a 60-year-old auto-rickshaw driver from Udaipur, said that his house was demolished by the Udaipur dis-

trict administration on August 17, 2024. This was after communal clashes broke out in Udaipur, several vehicles were set on fire and markets closed following the issuance of a prohibitory order after a Muslim schoolboy allegedly stabbed his Hindu classmate who later succumbed to his injuries. Khan is the father of the accused schoolboy. Similarly, Mohammad Hussain from Madhya Pradesh has alleged that his house and shop were illegally bulldozed by the State administration. The two applications were filed in a case earlier filed by Jamiat Ulama I Hind against the demolition of Muslim homes in Haryana's Nuh, following the violence between Hindus and Muslims in the area. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, referred to an earlier affidavit filed by the state in the matter. He said the affidavit states that merely because a person was alleged to have been a part of some offence can never be a ground for demolition of his immovable property. Mehta said the state has said that demolition of an immovable property can take place "only for violation of and in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the respective applicable municipal law or law governing development authorities of the area". He said no immovable property can be demolished solely on the ground that the owner or occupant of such property was involved in a criminal offence.

Party workers should make more members than the set target: VD

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the party's organisation festival by taking membership from the hands of BJP's National President Jagat Prakash Nadda in New Delhi. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP's National President Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah and the country's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh took membership of the party. The live telecast of the inauguration program of the organisation festival at the BJP state office was seen by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, BJP State President and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma, party's state in-charge Mahendra Singh, State Organization General Secretary Hitanand and Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, including senior party leaders and officials and listened to the speech of the central leadership. During this, BJP State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, party's state in-charge Mahendra Singh and State Organization General Secretary Hitanand took membership of the party. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi took membership in Delhi, the festival was celebrated by fireworks at the BJP state office. After the inauguration of the Sangathan Parv program, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the Sangathan Parv of

Bharatiya Janata Party has started today. In New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was made a member by the party's National President Jagat Prakash Nadda. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started the Sangathan Parv by becoming the first member of BJP. After this, the party's National President Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh became members of the party. This Sangathan Parv is a campaign to expand the family. I believe that Sangathan Parv will leave an indelible mark in the process of family expansion. While wishing the workers on the inauguration of Sangathan Parv, the Chief Minister said that the organization will be launched in Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday at 1 pm and the work of strengthening the BJP family by making more members than the target set by the party will be done by the BJP workers. We will work with the resolve to make more members than the target - Vishnudutt Sharma State President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started the Organisation Festival by becoming a member at the hands of BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda.

Bank of Baroda Branch : Nisha Plaza, Near Aacharan Press, Jinsi Road, Gwalior Ph. : 0751-2337830 Email : vjgwal@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower /s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below.

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & Address Borrowers / Guarantors/ Mortgagee	Give short Description of the Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any (Mortgaged by)	Total Dues.	Date of Auction Time of E-Auction Start Time to End Time	Reserve Price Rs. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. Bid Increase Amount Rs.	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	Borrower: Mrs. Komal Bukoliya W/o Mr. Sonu Sharma Add.- 42, Mewa Wali Gali, Kilkari Hospital Ke Pass, Danaoli, Lashkar, Gwalior Co-Borrower: Mrs. Nisha Bukoliya W/o Mr. Manoj Bukoliya Add.- 42, Mewa Wali Gali, Kilkari Hospital Ke Pass, Danaoli, Lashkar, Gwalior	Property Owner- Mrs. Komal Bukoliya W/o Mr. Sonu Sharma And Smt Nisha Bukoliya W/o Manoj Bukoliya - Flat No. G-01, Ground Floor, Old Municipal House No. 41/882/1022 And 41/1023/1, Ward No 41, Triveni Tower, Tope Wala Mohalla, Jiwajganj, Lashkar, Gwalior. Area 74.34 Sqmtr.	Rs. 18,84,288.51/- (Rs. Eighteen Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Eight and Fifty One Paise only) + unapplied interest and charges	20.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 10,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	17.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
2.	Borrower: Mr. Jitendra Gurjar S/o Bhikam Singh Gurjar Add.- H.No. 2, Madha Valo Ka Mohalla, Village-Girgaon, Tehsil-Morar, Gwalior Co-Borrower : Mr. Sandeep Sharma S/o Narendra Sharma Add.- Choudhary Mohalla, Heera Sadan, Gram Aantri, Paragna & Distt - Gwalior (M.P.)	Property Owner- Mr. Jitendra Gurjar S/O Bhikam Singh Gurjar. -Flat No 202, Second Floor, Triveni Tower, Old Municipal House no 41/882/1022 and 41/1023/1, ward no 41, Jiwajganj, Lashkar, Gwalior, Area of Property is 650.0 Sq.ft (60.40 sqmt.). Bounded by: East : Flat No. 204 & Common Passage, Jeena, West : House of Ghansu, North: Flat No. 201, South : Flat No. 203	Rs. 14,09,221.00/- (Rupee Fourteen Lakh Nine Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One Only) + interest and expenses	20.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 8,00,000 Rs. 80,000 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	17.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
3.	Borrower: Mr. Sandeep Sharma S/o Narendra Sharma Add - Choudhary Mohalla, Heera Sadan, Gram Aantri, Paragna & Distt - Gwalior (M.P.) Co-Borrower: Mr. Deepak Sharma S/o Mr. Nathu Ram Sharma Add- Flat No. 103, First Floor, Triveni Tower, Tope Wala Mohalla, Jiwaji Ganj, Lashkar, Gwalior, Paragna & Distt - Gwalior	Property Owner- Mr. Sandeep Sharma S/o Narendra Sharma- Flat No G-02, Ground Floor, Triveni Tower, Old Municipal House No. 41/882/1022 and 41/1023/1, Ward No. 41, Jiwajganj, Lashkar, Gwalior- Area of Property is 650.0 Sq.ft (60.40 sqmt.). Bounded by: East : Common Passage and Parking, Jeena, West : Property other, North: Flat No. G-03 South : Flat No. G-01	Rs. 12,91,969.51/- (Rupee Twelve Lakh Ninty One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine Only) + interest and expenses	20.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 8,00,000 Rs. 80,000 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	17.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM
4.	Borrower: Mr. Pradeep Sharma S/o Nathuram Sharma Add.-Kripal Shram Ke Pass, Chandra Nagar, Koteshwar Mandir, Gwalior Co-Borrower: Mrs. Sandhya Sharma W/o Pradeep Sharma Add.- Kripal Shram Ke Pass, Chandra Nagar, Koteshwar Mandir, Gwalior	Property Owner- Mr. Pradeep Sharma - Part of survey No. 128/3. Min-1,130,135,Ward No. 18, Municipal No. 162/2 Adarsh Nagar, Village-Jaderua Kalan, Gwalior, Area of Property is 720 Sq.ft (66.91 sqmt.). Bounded by: East House of Ram Prakash, West : Road, North: Land of Savitri Devi, South : House of Virendra	Rs. 15,77,938.94/- (Rupee Fifteen Thousand Seventy Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight and Ninty Four Paise Only) + Interest and expenses	20.09.2024 02:00 PM 06:00 PM	Rs. 9,00,000 Rs. 90,000 Rs. 10,000	Physical Possession	17.09.2024 Time 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://ebkay.in> also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Ph. No. 0751-2337830

Place: Gwalior Date: 02/09/2024 Mr. Abhishek Pandey Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda.

Shambhu border stir: SC forms panel to address farmers' issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Observing that farmers' protest should not be politicised, the Supreme Court on Monday constituted a high-powered committee headed by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh to amicably resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the five-member committee to convene its first meeting within a week and reach out to the agitating farmers to persuade them to immediately remove their tractors, trolleys etc. From the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana to provide relief to commuters.

Both the Punjab and Haryana Governments will be free to give suggestions to the committee, it added.

The farmers are agitating over a plethora of demands including legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their produce.

"We hope and trust that one of the major demands of the agi-

tating farmers regarding constitution of a neutral high-powered committee having been accepted with the consent of both the States, they will immediately respond to the request of the high-powered committee and will vacate the Shambhu border or the other roads connecting the two States without any delay. "This gesture will provide huge relief to the general public who are facing extreme hardships due to the blockade of the highways. It will also facilitate the high-powered committee and both the States to consider the farmers' genuine and just demands in a dispassionate and objective manner," the bench said.

The committee also comprises retired IPS officer B S Sandhu, Mohali resident Devinder Sharma, professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman and Dr Sukhpal Singh, agricultural economist from the Punjab Agriculture University. Asking the panel to formulate the issues for consideration, the bench also directed its chairperson to invite professor B R Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural



University, as special invitee as and when his expert opinion is needed.

"The chairperson may appoint a Member Secretary to the High-powered Committee for the purpose of coordinating amongst the members of the Committee, convening the meetings and maintaining records, etc," it said.

The Member Secretary of the committee shall place on record the proposed issues facing the farmers should not be politicised and be considered by the committee in a phased manner. Noting that both the state Governments have identified alternative sites for peaceful agitations, the apex court said the farmers shall be at liberty to shift the venue of their protest there.

The bench said there is a sizeable population of people in

Punjab and Haryana who are associated with agriculture, belong to the marginalised sections of society and live below the poverty line.

"Most of them are the strength and backbone of agricultural activities in their villages/areas. We acknowledge their contribution towards the agricultural growth and are of the view that their legitimate aspirations, if not enforceable rights, also deserve empathy and due consideration by the committee, while examining the larger issues which are confronting the farming community in the States of Punjab and Haryana," the bench said.

It also directed the chief secretaries and police chiefs of the two States to provide all logistical support to the committee. "The ancillary issues like honorarium to be paid to the chairperson and members of the high-powered committee, keeping in view the volume of the work entrusted to them or the apportionment of the expenditure between the two States, will be considered by us in consultation with the chairperson and members of the committee and both the state Governments," the bench said

while posting the matter for further hearing on October 14. The member secretary of the committee shall, meanwhile, place on record the interim status report, the bench said.

The court was hearing the Haryana Government's plea challenging the high court's order asking it to remove within a week the barricades erected at the Shambhu border near Ambala where protesting farmers have been camping since February 13.

On August 22, the bench had asked the Punjab and Haryana Governments to convey to the agitating farmers that the court as well as the two States are concerned about their issues and a forum is being constituted for redressing their grievances.

The Haryana Government had set up barricades on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February after the 'Samyukta Kisan Morcha' (Non-Political) and 'Kisan Mazdoor Morcha' announced that farmers would march to Delhi in support of their demands, including legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their produce.



PM Modi's Singapore visit after six years to strengthen ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Building on "new anchors" of partnership identified under the India-Singapore ministerial roundtable framework, the relations between the two countries is poised for an even bigger take-off, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore.

He is slated to visit Singapore on September 4-5 at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong. Prior to that he is scheduled to visit Brunei on September 3-4 which seeks to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all existing sectors. Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Jaideep Mazumdar, at a media briefing here said India and Brunei are working towards setting up a "joint working group in defence".

He said Prime Minister Modi is visiting Singapore after nearly six years. His last visit to Singapore was in his first term. And an early visit on his third term is something that has been "welcomed by the Singaporean side".

"Also, this comes at a time when a new leader is in Singapore and this is an opportune time to set the stage for the next stage of our vibrant bilateral relations," Mazumdar said. The Secretary (East) said India-Singapore ties have "evolved" and there is a "dynamic strategic partnership" encompassing various areas from shared history and people-to-people ties which form an important link between the two countries.

"Our trade and investment flows have shown a steady growth, we have a robust defence cooperation and growing exchanges in culture and education.

We have identified new anchors of our partnership under the India-Singapore ministerial roundtable framework," he said.

Four Indian ministers had participated in the recently-held second India-Singapore ministerial roundtable. During the roundtable, the ministers from both sides sat down and discussed "new thrust areas that we can identify in futuristic areas of cooperation", he said.

"A number of new, forward-looking futuristic areas of cooperation were identified in digitalisation, sustainability skill, health, advance manufacturing and connectivity, and we are likely to exchange a number of MoUs during the forthcoming visit of the prime minister," Mazumdar added.

Singapore is India's sixth largest trade partner worldwide and it was the largest source of FDI during the last financial year valued at USD 11.77 billion, he said. "We also expect the visit (to Singapore) to give thrust to the cooperation in the field of semiconductor," the top official of the MEA said.

"India-Singapore relations are poised for an even bigger take off, than what it has been in the last 10-15 years or so. That is because, we have gone to the next level of identifying areas of bilateral cooperation whether it be in food security, renewables, green hydrogen, semi-conductors. These are areas where we have great complementarities," said Mazumdar.

He said that he could see the relationship between the two sides taking off to the next stage. For Singapore, India presents tremendous opportunities and for India, Singapore presents with many options, whether it is value chain, digital technology and semiconductor, he added.



Cabinet committee approves ₹18,036 cr Mumbai-Indore rail line

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Monday approved a 309 km new line project providing the shortest rail connectivity between the two major commercial hubs of Mumbai and Indore, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The total cost of the project has been pegged at Rs 18,036 crore and it will be completed by 2028-29, the Minister said.

The project will generate direct employment for about 102 lakh man-days, or what Vaishnaw described as "human days", during the construction. An official statement later said the project is a result of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which has been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services.

The project covers six districts in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 309 km. It will promote tourism in the region by providing a shorter route between western/south-western parts of the country and central India. This will increase the tourist footfall to various tourist/religious places in the Ujjain-Indore region, including the Sri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple. The project will provide direct

Kangana decries non-clearance of her film 'Emergency'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Actor Kangana Ranaut on Monday said it's "hugely demotivating and unjust" that censorship is only for her film "Emergency", which is yet to receive a certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), putting its September 6 release in jeopardy. Drawing parallels between "Emergency" and Netflix series "IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack", Ranaut said censorship is only for those who make films based on historical facts while violence and nudity can be shown on streamers.

"Law of the land is that one can show unimaginable amount of violence and nudity on OTT platforms without any consequence or censorship, one can even distort real life events to suit their politically motivated sinister motives, there is all the freedom for communists or leftists across the world for such anti-national expressions..."

Friday because the makers are yet to receive the certification from the CBFC. On Monday, the Madhya Pradesh High Court is slated to hear a Sikh body's plea seeking directions to stop the release of "Emergency", which has now been postponed multiple times. Last week, Ranaut — also the director, writer, and co-producer of "Emergency" — said her film is still stuck with the censor board contrary to rumours that it has been cleared for release.

She had also said she is under pressure to not show the assassination of the former prime minister by her security guards. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday sent a legal notice to CBFC seeking to prevent the release of Ranaut's film, claiming it may "incite communal tensions" and "spread misinformation".

It alleged the trailer of the film depicted "erroneous historical facts that not only misrepresent the Sikh community but also promote hatred and social discord".

podcast where she said an emergency has been imposed on her film.

"It's a very hopeless state. I'm quite disappointed in our country and whatever the circumstances are... How much will we keep getting scared? I've made this film with a lot of self-respect which is why the CBFC can't point out any contention. They've stalled my certificate, but I'm determined to release an uncut version of the film. I'll fight in court and release an uncut version," she said.

According to a source, "Emergency" isn't releasing on



Haryana JJP MLA Devender joins BJP ahead of Assembly elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana MLA Devender Singh Babli, who was elected on the ticket of the Jannayak Janata Party, joined the BJP on Monday, as the ruling party looks to bolster its ranks in the State ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.

The Tohana MLA was a Minister in the Government headed by former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and might be fielded by the BJP in the polls.

Babli said the BJP is driven by the mindset of development. He exuded confidence that the party will return to power in Haryana for a third term. Two other leaders, Sunil Sangwan, whose father Satpal Sangwan is a former Haryana Minister, and Sanjay Kablana, also joined the BJP. Sunil Sangwan is in the Government service and has put in his papers, an indication that he will be contesting the polls as well. Kablana, too, was in the JJP.

They joined the BJP in the presence of its general secretary Arun Singh, former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb and Haryana



Former JJP leader Devender Singh joins BJP at the party's headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. Photo: RANJAN DIMRI / THE PIONEER

BJP slams Cong for expelling Kerala leader after her casting couch remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday slammed the Congress for expelling a Kerala leader from the party after she alleged a culture of casting couch in the organisation, accusing the Opposition party of paying lip service to women's issues publicly but silencing their voices in reality.

BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Kerala Congress leader Simi Rosebell John had alleged a culture of exploitation and casting couch in the party and was summarily dismissed.

In the Press Conference, he also noted that the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is looking into the issues related

to silence and remove her from the party, Chandrasekhar said. He noted that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have often spoken about issues facing women but maintain a studious silence when it comes to the atrocities against women, be it in Kolkata, Kannauj or Kerala. John said after her expulsion that there is no place for upright people in the Congress, he noted.

He also attacked the Left Government in Kerala over the Hema Committee report which spotlighted the harassment of women in the Malayalam film industry, saying it was forced to release the findings several years after it was submitted.



to the OTT series, 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack', following its criticism by a section of people. Nobody should have any doubt that the hijackers of the plane were from the ISI, the Pakistani spy agency, he told reporters.

Raising the issue of the Congress's treatment of its Kerala leader, he said if a woman raises the issue of harassment in the workplace, it is the organisation's duty to probe and ensure justice.

The Congress does not believe in that and has instead chosen

Drug to treat kidney disorders panacea for heart attack survivors, says study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Drug empagliflozin used to treat kidney diseases can be safely administered to patients who are hospitalised for acute myocardial infarction heart attack, an international team of researchers, led by one of Indian origin, has said. The team led by Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital demonstrated that the drug empagliflozin can reliably lower heart failure episodes in individuals who have had a heart attack, regardless of the patient's pre-existing renal function.

By demonstrating the safety and efficacy of empagliflozin in this challenging clinical context, the research opens doors to more effective treatment strategies and offers hope for better long-term recovery and quality of life for heart attack survivors globally.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death globally, and heart attacks are a major contributor to this. Acute heart attack patients are particularly vulnerable to acute renal injury because of prolonged exposure to kidney stressors, such as diuretics or contrast agents used during cardiac catheterisation. Because of this danger, doctors are hesitant to start empagliflozin soon after a heart

attack because there is little data regarding this class of drug's safety in this particular clinical setting. The drug can block the sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 protein that aids in the kidneys' ability to reabsorb glucose from the blood.

The results were presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in London. Deepak L Bhatt, Director of the Hospital said the finding will contribute to closing a significant knowledge gap on the clinical application of empagliflozin in heart attack survivors.

The trial randomised 6,522 patients with acute heart attack and increased heart failure risk to empagliflozin or placebo. Empagliflozin reduced hospitalisation and adverse events of heart failure, with consistent risk reductions across baseline kidney function.

Adverse event rates were similar in both groups within 30 days after drug intake, regardless of baseline kidney function, systolic blood pressure, or other medical therapies.

The team noted that the study has significant implications for treating a very vulnerable population of patients with cardiovascular disease globally by reassuring doctors of the safety and effectiveness of empagliflozin early after a heart attack.



Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft to participate in Exercise Varuna in France

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

P-8 I aircraft of the Indian Navy has reached France to participate in 'Exercise Varuna' with the French Navy, an official said adding it marked the first-ever deployment of the aircraft in Europe.

The 2024 edition of Indo-French bilateral naval 'Exercise Varuna', scheduled from September two to four in the Mediterranean Sea, will include advanced tactical exercises underscoring the deepening synergy and interoperability between the two navies, a spokesperson of the Indian Navy said in a statement.

The Indian Navy's P8I aircraft touched down at Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube, France, marking its first-ever deployment in Europe, it said.

This deployment comes 63 years after the Indian Navy's Alize aircraft, operating from the erstwhile INS Vikrant, last flew at Hyeres Airbase, the spokesperson said. INS Tabar, which had earlier arrived in Toulon will also be participating in the exercise.



SC dismisses WB Govt's plea against HC bail to protest organiser

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the West Bengal Government's plea challenging the Calcutta High Court's order granting bail to one of the organisers of the August 27 march to the State Secretariat to protest against a trainee woman doctor's rape and murder.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra said "prima facie" a case for bail was made out in the case.

The Calcutta High Court on Friday granted bail to Paschim Banga Chhtra Samaj leader Sayan Lahiri. Paschim Banga Chhtra Samaj, an unregistered student group, was one of the two organisations that gave the call for the August 27 'Nabanna Abhijan'.

Lahiri was arrested on August 27 evening for playing an active role in leading the rally which, the police said, turned violent, causing destruction of public and private property and attacks on police officers. Acting on a plea by Lahiri's mother Anjali seeking quashing of proceedings against him and grant of bail, the Calcutta High Court had on Friday ordered his release from police custody by 2 pm on Saturday. The Kolkata Police released Lahiri from its custody on Saturday.



16 dead in rain-related incidents in T'gana

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

At least 16 people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents as torrential rains lashed Telangana and the state government on Monday estimated the damage at Rs 5,000 crore and sought an immediate assistance of Rs 2,000 crore from the Centre. The incessant rainfall caused inundation of low-lying areas, damage to agricultural crops and disruption of the state's rail and road links with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh each to the kin of those who were killed in the rain-related incidents, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the rain-hit areas and to declare the floods as a national calamity. An official release quoted Revanth Reddy as saying that the damage was to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore as per preliminary estimates. The CM held a meeting with ministers and officials at Suryapet as part of his visit to

rain-hit areas. State IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu told reporters that full details on the loss of life and others would be known after reports on damage are received. The state government will submit a comprehensive report on the flood damage to the Centre, the release said. Meanwhile, the flood-hit areas of Khammam presented a scene of extensive damage as household items were washed away and some items carried away by water were stuck to the gates of houses. Residents of flood-affected areas narrated their woes to state Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who visited them. In view of the forecast of rains in Adilabad, Nizamabad and Nirmal districts on Monday and Tuesday, the Chief Minister, who held a meeting with officials in Hyderabad earlier in the day, directed the Collectors and other officials of these districts to be alert and to shift the people in low-lying



areas to relief camps if necessary. He suggested setting up control rooms in district Collectorates to monitor the situation. Officials informed the CM that crops in over 1.5 lakh

acres suffered damage as per preliminary estimates. Revanth Reddy instructed officials to enumerate the crop damage so that ex-gratia can be announced expeditiously. He also ordered sanctioning

of houses under the 'Indiramma' housing scheme for those whose houses collapsed due to the heavy rains. Officials were directed to address issues related to traffic, supply of power, water

and also sanitation in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation without any delay. An official of the Secunderabad-headquartered South Central Railway (SCR) said due to heavy rains and waterlogging over the tracks at several locations on the SCR network, as many as 432 trains were cancelled and 13 trains were partially cancelled. He said 139 trains were diverted till Monday afternoon. A portion of gravel under the railway track near Kesamudram was earlier washed away due to floodwaters. Restoration works were underway, he said. SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain and other Railway officials reached the site and were monitoring the restoration work. The SCR official said train services are expected to resume on the Kazipet-Vijayawada section by the evening of September 3. However, the restoration work may get delayed if rainfall and flood situation continues, he added.

Due to incessant rains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, flooding and breaches were reported in Kazipet-Vijayawada section and five trains were stranded. Around 10,000 passengers from these trains were brought to the nearest Railway stations in state-run RTC buses on Sunday evening and special trains were arranged to take them to their respective destinations, he added. Traffic on NH-65 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada is being allowed as usual from Monday late evening, Suryapet district Superintendent of Police Sunpreet Singh said in a release. Water logging and overflowing on the road stopped, it said. In the affected areas in Khammam, household items were washed away. As water levels receded, the victims began cleaning up their homes and removing the slush. Residents said their valuables, including documents and academic certificates, were washed away. Some

complained that they had no drinking water and food and that they did not get any help. The Agriculture Minister told media that workers and also vehicles like tractors in the district are being deployed in Khammam to clean the roads and to restore electricity. The district administration has been directed to distribute essential items to those affected by the floods, he said. The Met Centre here predicted heavy rain at isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy districts till 8.30 am on September 3. It also said thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places in many districts of Telangana during this period. It issued a yellow alert for this forecast. Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Revanth Reddy on Sunday and promised to help the state on behalf of the Centre.

1,000 playgrounds across UP to be dedicated to football: Yogi



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

In line with the Indian Football Association's goals, 1,000 playgrounds are being established across Uttar Pradesh to promote the sport, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday. He made the announcement while addressing the audience as the chief guest at the Mohun Bagan vs East Bengal football match, held at KD Singh Babu Stadium under the Chief Minister's Cup in the state capital, according to an official statement. The chief minister also emphasised the government's commitment to sports, mentioning that over 500 athletes who won medals in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and World Championships have been directly recruited to government jobs. "This support will continue in the future," he added. Adityanath also hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crediting his leadership for the "remarkable growth" in sports in the country over the

past decade. The 'Khelo India' initiative, championed by the prime minister, has been a key driver of this progress, he said. "In line with the Indian Football Association's goals, 1,000 football-specific playgrounds are also being established," the statement quoted him as saying. "Inspired by the PM's vision, Uttar Pradesh has aligned itself with this mission, charting a new course by constructing playgrounds in all 57,000 gram panchayats across the state," he added. The chief minister said, "Additionally, the state is developing mini stadiums in its 825 development blocks and full-scale stadiums in all 75 districts, he said, these developments are on priority for the government." Adityanath said the Indian Football Association envisions dedicating one stadium in every district and 18 divisions specifically for football, and the government fully supports this initiative to advance sports activities. "Uttar Pradesh has made significant contributions to

the world of sports. Legendary hockey players like Major Dhyan Chand and KD Singh Babu hailed from the state, with the latter having this stadium named in his honour. Uttar Pradesh has also made notable strides in football," he added. He highlighted that two players from Uttar Pradesh in the Indian hockey team have excelled in the Paris Olympics. Last year, hockey player Lalit Kumar Upadhyay was appointed as Deputy Superintendent (DSP) in Uttar Pradesh Police, and soon, hockey player Raj Kumar Pal will also be recruited as a DSP, Adityanath stated. State minister Girish Yadav, Indian Football Association President Kalyan Chaudhary, Uttar Pradesh Krida Bharati President and Legislative Council Member Avnish Kumar Singh, former Legislative Council Member Mohsin Raza, and state Sports Director RP Singh, among other top dignitaries were present on the occasion, the statement added.

BJP releases 4th list for J&K Assembly polls

PTI ■ JAMMU

The BJP Monday released its fourth list of six candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls, fielding its union territory unit president Ravinder Raina from Nowshera in the Jammu region. With the fresh list, the party has so far named 51 candidates, including 14 for the Kashmir Valley, where the BJP is yet to open its account in assembly elections. The 47-year-old Raina, who won from Nowshera in Rajouri district in the 2014 polls too, has been fielded again from his home constituency. Raina, who took over as the party president in Jammu and Kashmir in May 2018, thanked the party for reposing faith in him and expressed confidence of winning a majority of the seats in the Union Territory to form the next government. "The BJP's popularity has grown manifold over the years under the leadership of Prime



Minister Narendra Modi who restored peace and normalcy in J-K besides ensuring development and justice to every section of the society in the past 10 years," he told PTI. "We will win the elections to form our own government with the first chief minister from the saffron party," he said. Raina's main rival from the seat is former MLC Surinder Choudhary who joined the

National Conference in July 2023 after more than a year with the BJP. The other names in the list are: former MLC Vibodh Gupta from Rajouri (ST) in the Jammu region; and Aijaiz Hussain (Lal Chowk), Arif Raja (Eidgah), Ali Mohammad Mir (Khansahib) and Zahid Hussain (Chrar-e-Sharief) from the Kashmir Valley. The list was released on the

approval of the party's central election committee for the second phase of elections. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which has a 90-member assembly, is going to polls in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1. This will be the first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir since the revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019 and the state's division in two union territories. The BJP released the first list of 15 candidates followed by another list of one candidate on August 26 for the first phase of elections. The BJP faced internal rumblings when it released the list. The party trimmed the initial first list of 44 to 16 following protests by some party cadre who alleged that "parachute candidates" were favoured over dedicated workers. A group of disgruntled members protested at the BJP headquarters in Jammu. Despite resentment shown by

some party leaders over selection of candidates from Jammu north, Jammu east, Padder-Nagseni, Ramban, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Chhamb and Akhnor segments, the BJP next day released its revised list of 29 nominees - 10 for second phase and 19 for the third phase -- without making any major changes except replacing one contestant. The party named former MLA Baldev Raj Sharma from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi seat in place of Rohit Dubey while all other names remained the same for the same set of constituencies. At least five BJP leaders resigned from the party and two of them already filed their nomination papers from two constituencies -- Ramban and Padder-Nagseni -- which along with 22 other segments are going to polls in the first phase. In a damage control exercise, the party mobilised several top leaders, including union ministers, to reach out to the disgruntled leaders.

Met warns of flash flood risk in parts of Himachal, 109 roads shut amid heavy rain

PTI ■ SHIMLA

The meteorological office there on Monday warned of low to moderate flash flood risk in several parts of Himachal Pradesh, including Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour and Kinnaur, until Tuesday afternoon. It also issued a 'yellow' alert of heavy rain, thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places in nine out of 12 districts in the state, barring Kinnaur, Chamba and Lahaul and Spiti till Tuesday. Meanwhile, 109 roads, including a national highway, across the state were closed on Monday following heavy rains

in several areas, the state emergency operation centre said. Besides National Highway 707 between Hatkoti in Shimla district and Poanta Sahib in Sirmour district getting blocked, 55 roads were closed in Sirmour, 23 in Shimla, 10 each in Mandi and Kangra, nine in Kullu, one each in Lahaul and Spiti and Una districts, the centre said. As many as 427 power supply schemes were also disrupted across the state, it added. Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed parts of Sirmour, Bilaspur and Mandi district while moderate rainfall was recorded in several places of the state in the past 24

hours until Monday evening. Dadahu in Sirmour district was the wettest in the state recording 160 mm of rainfall, followed by 146.5 mm rains in Nahan, 130 mm in Naina Devi, 83 mm in Pachhad, 74.5 mm in Dhaulakuan, 72.6 mm in Poanta Sahib, the weather data showed. Hamirpur noted 70 mm rainfall, Sundernagar 67 mm, Katalua 55.1 mm, Sundernagar 46.2 mm, Pandoh 34 mm, Chamba 33 mm, Bharmour 32 mm and Palampur 30 mm, it added. Himachal Pradesh's rainfall deficit so far since the onset of monsoon in the state on June 27 stands at 23 per cent with 482.1 mm rainfall.

Wolves maul to death child, injure women in UP's Bahraich

PTI ■ BAHRAICH/SITAPUR (UP)

A two-year-old girl was killed and two women injured in three separate wolf attacks in the Mahsi area of Bahraich district while reports of suspected animal attacks were also received from neighbouring Sitapur district. District Magistrate (Bahraich) Monika Rani said this was the eighth death in wolf attacks since July 17. Seven children were among those killed and about 30 injured.

would hold a review meeting via videoconferencing on Monday. District Magistrate Rani said the administration had already captured four wolves and was working to catch the others. However, the presence over a hundred revenue villages in the district has compounded the problem, with the wolves attacking a new village every four to five days, she said. People are being made aware about the situation and told to sleep inside their homes with the doors closed or on rooftops, Rani said. According to reports, two wolves are attacking but the forest department is collecting information about the exact number, she added. Superintendent of Police Vrinda Shukla and Rani took stock of the situation and met the toddler's family members. They have also directed that the injured get proper treatment. In neighbouring Sitapur, fear gripped residents of Parsehra Sharikpur village after three women were injured in attacks by unidentified animals. While locals claimed that the women were attacked by wolves, forest department officials suspect that a jackal was behind the attacks. A forest department team collected animal samples and footprints and ruled out a wolf or tiger attack.

Another official said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath would review the situation in Bahraich and nearby districts through videoconferencing on Monday. Officials said two-year-old Anjali was sleeping with her mother outside their home in the Garethi Gurudutt Singh village of the Hardi area on Sunday when she was taken by a wolf. The child's mutilated body was found a kilometre from the village, the officials said and added that the wolf had eaten both her hands. In the second incident, 70-year-old Kamala Devi from Mauja Kotiya village in the Barabigha area was injured when a wolf entered her house and attacked her early on Monday, they said. She was admitted to the district hospital with injuries on her neck, mouth and ears and her condition was stated to be stable, they added. In the third incident, Suman Devi (45) was found injured in a suspected wolf attack early on Monday and hospitalised, the officials said. Divisional Commissioner Shashibhushan Lal Shushil told PTI that Adityanath

JJP holds meet in Sirsa ahead of Haryana Assembly polls

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

A joint meeting of the Political Affairs Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Jannayak Janta Party was held in Sirsa on Monday to firm up the party manifesto and discuss the names of the candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls. According to a party statement, JJP's senior leaders, including former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, discussed important points of the party manifesto. The names of the potential candidates for the elections were also discussed in the meeting. During the meeting, Chautala discussed in detail various points of the manifesto being prepared by the JJP.



The JJP and Chandra Shekhar Azad-led Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) recently announced their alliance for the Haryana Assembly polls. The JJP will contest 70 of the

90 Assembly seats, while the Azad Samaj Party will contest 20 seats. During the meeting, a consensus was reached on some parts of the manifesto,

including implementing the loan waiver for farmers if alliance come to power. An agreement was reached on waiving the loans taken by farmers from cooperative

banks. If a JJP-led government is formed in the state, a compensation of Rs 25,000 per acre will be given to farmers in case of crop damage and the 'Jannayak Fasal Suraksha Yojana' will be launched, it said. Under this, the premium for the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' will be borne by the state government, said the party statement. The former deputy CM said 50 per cent seats will be reserved for women in the recruitment of teachers in schools, colleges and universities. He said that so far the names of the potential candidates have been discussed by holding meetings with the party district presidents, constituency heads and other office bearers of 17 districts

and in the remaining five districts, consensus will be reached by discussing with alliance partner ASP. He said that when the final decision is taken, the names will be announced under the joint banner of both the parties. After this meeting, Dushyant also held a meeting of the executive and office bearers of Fatehabad and Sirsa districts and discussed the potential candidates. Later, he said that he will file his nomination papers from the Uchana Assembly constituency on September 5, the very first day of filing of nominations. On the issue of a number of JJP rebel MLAs joining the BJP in recent days, Chautala said the BJP is contesting the elections by "borrowing" candidates from other parties.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

India's special China problem

S Jaishankar has highlighted India's 'Special China problem,' one that is deeply rooted in the unresolved border disputes

India-China relations have long been fraught with challenges, but recent remarks by India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar have brought the depth of these issues into sharper focus. Jaishankar has said that India has a "special China problem," which he emphasized is distinct from the more general concerns that the rest of the world, including Europe and the United States, has with China. Jaishankar's comments come at a time when countries globally are grappling with what he termed the "general China problem." This problem, characterised by economic and national security debates, is not unique to India. Across Europe and the United States, policymakers are increasingly preoccupied with China's growing influence and the challenges it poses. From trade imbalances to concerns about Chinese technology in critical infrastructure, these issues have sparked widespread scrutiny of China's global role. However, India's situation is further complicated by its unique geopolitical and economic circumstances. India shares a long and contested border with China, which has been the site of several military standoffs over the years, the most recent and severe of which began in May 2020 in eastern Ladakh.

India's "special China problem" goes beyond the broader concerns of the international community. It is rooted in the unresolved border dispute between the two nations, which has led to a prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The ongoing border tensions have necessitated the deployment of approximately 50,000-60,000 troops by both sides, creating a volatile situation that has yet to see a lasting resolution. Diplomatic efforts to resolve these issues continue, with the 31st meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) taking place on August 29 in Beijing. However what is interesting is that despite tensions and border skirmishes India China trade has flourished and many importer in India make regular rounds to source stuff from China to sell in the Indian market. But Jaishankar's remark could mean a shift in the official policy vis a vis China. If Govt changes its policy, Chinese goods and investments may have to face more barriers dissuading the Chinese investors. Jaishankar also highlighted the economic dimensions of India's relationship with China, pointing out that the trade deficit and the nature of Chinese investments are areas of significant concern. Indeed security is non negotiable and must be implemented in letter and spirit. But at the same time the commerce should not be thought of as an impediment. If one thing that can improve the relations between two countries, it is trade. However, India could restrict Chinese investment in security-sensitive areas such as telecommunications and digital cyber space.

PICTALK



Clouds hover over the Delhi as vehicles pass by the Vikas Minar, in New Delhi

Orwell's vision remains as relevant as ever



SANTOSH MATHEW

In an era where "post-truth" and "Big Brother" have transcended fiction to become disturbing reality, Orwell's vision stands as relevant as ever

In his seminal work '1984', George Orwell posits that "those who control the present control the past; those who control the past control the future." This powerful assertion underscores the terrifying consequences of manipulating history and truth. In the dystopian world of '1984', the ruling Party wields absolute power by constantly rewriting history to align with its agenda, erasing inconvenient truths, and ensuring that its version of reality is the only one that exists. This manipulation of truth is key to maintaining the Party's unchallenged dominance, as it keeps the population ignorant and compliant.

As we examine contemporary international politics, it is impossible to ignore the striking parallels between Orwell's dystopian vision and our current reality. Concepts such as "Big Brother," "doublethink," and "post-truth" have transcended Orwell's novel and become disturbingly relevant in today's world. The manipulation of truth, pervasive surveillance, and the rise of populist authoritarianism are phenomena that closely mirror the dangers Orwell warned against. The term "post-truth" has become a defining characteristic of modern political discourse, echoing Orwell's portrayal of a world where objective truth is malleable. In '1984', the Ministry of Truth constantly altered historical records to match the Party's shifting narrative, keeping the populace in a state of ignorance and making it impossible for them to challenge the Party's authority. Today, the concept of post-truth is equally relevant. In 2016, the Oxford Dictionary even named "post-truth" the Word of the Year, highlighting its prevalence in contemporary discourse. In this post-truth era, emotional appeals and personal beliefs often overshadow objective facts, making it easier for those in power to manipulate public opinion. Politicians and media outlets selectively present information, distort facts, or even fabricate narratives to support their agendas. This erosion of truth creates a divided society, much like the world Orwell depicted, where



consensus on basic facts becomes increasingly elusive. Orwell's concept of "Big Brother" — the omnipresent surveillance state that monitors every aspect of citizens' lives — is also frighteningly relevant today. In '1984', the Party uses telescreens and hidden microphones to ensure that no dissenting thought or action goes unnoticed, fostering a climate of fear and paranoia that effectively silences opposition. In our contemporary world, mass surveillance has become a reality on a global scale, with governments implementing extensive surveillance programs under the guise of national security. The revelations by Edward Snowden in 2013 exposed the extent to which governments were spying on their citizens, collecting vast amounts of data on phone calls, emails, and internet activity. The boundaries between state and corporate surveillance are increasingly blurred as tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon collect vast amounts of data on users' online behavior, often with minimal transparency. Today's populist leaders have mastered the art of doublethink, often making contradictory promises or statements that their followers accept without question. They may decry the "elite" while simultaneously benefiting from elite

THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN STATE AND CORPORATE SURVEILLANCE ARE INCREASINGLY BLURRED AS TECH GIANTS LIKE GOOGLE, FACEBOOK, AND AMAZON COLLECT VAST AMOUNTS OF DATA ON USERS' ONLINE BEHAVIOR, OFTEN WITH MINIMAL TRANSPARENCY

status themselves or championing "freedom" while implementing policies that curtail personal liberties. This ability to manipulate and distort reality is a hallmark of populist rhetoric, much like it was for Orwell's Party. The rise of populism in the 21st century has also brought a resurgence of authoritarian tendencies. Leaders who once espoused democratic values increasingly resort to autocratic measures to consolidate power. Whether it's the undermining of judicial independence, the suppression of the free press, or the erosion of checks and balances, these actions mirror the totalitarian regime depicted in '1984'. Orwell's 'Animal Farm', while serving as an allegory for the Russian Revolution and the subsequent rise of the Soviet Union, offers themes that are universally applicable. The story of the farm animals' rebellion against their human oppressors, only to find themselves under the tyranny of their fellow animals, is a powerful commentary on the cyclical nature of power and corruption. In contemporary politics, the concept of "Snoogate" — a term used to describe politically motivated surveillance scandals — is reminiscent of the betrayal and manipulation seen in 'Animal Farm'. Orwell's dystopian novels were

products of their time, reflecting the anxieties and political realities of the 20th century. However, their relevance has only grown with time, as the themes they explore have become increasingly pertinent today. The rise of surveillance states, the erosion of truth, the manipulation of language, and the rise of authoritarianism are all issues that transcend national borders. In China, for example, the government's use of technology to monitor its citizens has created a digital dystopia reminiscent of Orwell's vision. The implementation of a social credit system, where citizens are scored based on their behavior and loyalty to the state, is a chilling example of how technology can be used to enforce conformity and suppress dissent. Similarly, in Russia, the government's control over the media and its use of propaganda to shape public opinion is a textbook case of Orwellian doublethink. The global reach of Orwell's ideas is a testament to the universality of his concerns. Whether in the context of a liberal democracy or an authoritarian regime, the themes of '1984' and 'Animal Farm' resonate deeply with those who value freedom and truth. (The writer is an associate professor, views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STOP THE DEMOLITION DRIVE

Madam — This refers to 'Demolition notices leave the poor along Boin Lake dazed' (Sept 1). The news of HYDRAA demolition drive operations in and around Hyderabad came like a bolt from the blue. Demolition drive operations is creating havoc all over the Telangana. The Telangana state government is hell-bent on demolishing houses, buildings in the name of illegal structures by HYDRAA. Demolition drive operations and the orders issued by the Revenue Department of Medchal-Malkajgiri district to vacate their houses in a couple of days dazed the residents is extreme tyranny and sheer inhumane. People living near Boin Lake in Hasmathpet, are panic-stricken. They are at their wit's end what to do? whom to approach? They are being displaced and being rendered homeless without prior eviction notice is quite unconstitutional, unjustified, undemocratic and unwarranted. Despite possessing and retaining the relevant registered documents their houses are being pulled down and demolished is most distressing and unfortunate. The demolition drive operations are in full swing all over Telangana. The Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy must stop this demolition drive operations on the humanitarian grounds. People have been living and residing for many years as some of their properties belong to ancestors they got their properties registered in their names. Demolition drive operations started all over Telangana. Mahabubnagar demolition drive operations is shocking and heart-rending sparked outrage and widespread condemnation where the houses belonging to the poor, physical challenged and visual impaired individuals pulled down and demolished. The government must ponder over the poignant plight of the physical challenged, visually impaired individuals and the poor and desist and refrain from demolishing their houses near nalas or lakes areas without providing alternative on the humanitarian grounds. Zubair Khan | Hyderabad

Prioritising security over trade



In reference to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's statement regarding India's unique challenges with China, it is evident that security concerns in regions such as the Northeast,

Ladakh, the Indian Ocean, and neighboring countries like Pakistan and the Maldives far outweigh trade considerations. China's aggressive posturing with the U.S., Japan, Taiwan, and its dominant trade practices with European countries and Australia do little to alleviate our issues with them. The Indian Ocean has become a battleground for global superpowers, largely due to Chinese threats and aspirations for supremacy. It is clear that security and trade issues with China cannot be addressed simultaneously. Reducing our reliance on China for semiconductors, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, and the operation and maintenance of Chinese-imported machinery is far more crucial than foreign direct investment from China. While the EAM is undoubtedly well-equipped to handle these multiple concerns, it is imperative to set clear priorities to effectively address them. Vinod Johri | New Delhi

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Madam—This is not the first time MP Kangana Ranaut has indulged in controversy. Earlier too, a couple of months ago, after a CISF officer allegedly slapped Ranaut at Chandigarh airport, the officer was reportedly heard saying that her mother participated in the farm agitation and had defamed the women who joined the protests by alleging they were paid to do so. This time again she used the irresponsible and malicious statements like "dead bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place during the 2020-21 farmers' agitation". In a recent interview with a Hindi daily, the actress turned BJP MP described the farmers' movement as an anti-national force engaged in destabilizing India with the help of "external forces". Kangana's remarks are unacceptable as the farmers during their agitation lost more than 700 of their comrades. She needs to tender an unconditional apology from the farmers for her utterances. S.K. Khosla | Chandigarh

A G NOORANI IS NO MORE

Madam — In the passing of Abdul Ghafoor Noorani, the country has lost a towering legal luminary, a scholar, a political analyst, and a public intellect. His passing at the age of 93 marks the end of an era—one defined by a relentless pursuit of justice, profound intellectual rigour, and a commitment to the principles that fortified modern India's democratic framework. The prolific author made indelible contributions to legal scholarship and political discourse in India for over six decades. As a relentless defender of justice and the Constitution, Noorani will always be remembered most by the marginalised and those who seek to challenge the structures of power and exclusion. Unlike many others in his profession who would have sought high positions or rewards in the later years of life, Noorani never did. Ganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

A journey from corporate grind to personal fulfillment

There are countless opportunities for personal growth and creative fulfillment that we often set aside in our pursuit of material success

I was having dinner with a friend on a recent visit to Mumbai. He quit a high-profile corporate job a few years back. As he settled into a new unknown routine, he started experimenting. He wrote articles on the relevance of festivals in the modern world, moderated a talk show, has started learning Sanskrit to read the scriptures in original, participates in marathons, and loves to cook.

Not surprisingly, his life mirrors mine. We got around to discussing another mutual ex-colleague, who was recently in the hospital due to a medical scare which could be attributed to a life spent on a stress-inducing work schedule. He has recently crossed the age of retirement but has accepted an extension. I told him rather bluntly that he should stop working, a sentiment that his wife reciprocated. The response was on expected lines, "What will I do if I take retirement?" I immediately listed the number of things that he could do, the chief among them being to take care of his health, and



many other activities that he had wanted to indulge in but could not, caught up in the daily grind of living life and earning. This incident struck an immediate chord with the Mumbai friend, who had a similar experience with yet another mutual friend. Many do not have the luxury of taking retirement. They must necessarily work till the end for the next meal on their table. There is a smaller population, though not insignificant, which can do something different. These are the people, who like me, were provided the best by their parents within the limited resources that they

could earn. Even those limited means were better than what most had, and which helped us to dream and create a list of things that we wanted to do. We pursued a few of these with a single-minded devotion particularly the ones related to materialistic possessions, ignoring others that were mostly related to our creative side that we tried to suppress. Many of us have now reached a level of comfort that enables us to have a relook at the ones that we missed. A friend has started learning the keyboard. Another friend started taking flying lessons and was looking forward to completing the hours necessary to earn a license. Now in the reverse count of my life, I realise that I wish to travel, I want to write, I have the urge to make friends, and I want to help others to dream. Many like me wish to alleviate the drudgery of the majority so that at least the coming generations can look forward to creating their bucket list. We have seen many initiatives taken by the government over the past few

decades to create an ecosystem to help the less fortunate. Corporations also earmark part of profits in a separate fund as social responsibility. There are individuals from certain communities who donate a percentage of their annual earnings for the purpose. There are faiths actively involved in the betterment of many. I have often wondered about the miracles that we can achieve if all these agencies and individuals come together to ensure that future generations have an option. There is always an answer to the query, "What will I do?" We need to look within and then look around. There is so much to do, and so little time. Mark Twain summed it up well, "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones that you did do." (The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant and conducts workshops on creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA



FIRST COLUMN REVITALIZING THE WORKPLACE

Yoga and meditation can light up the dull and often tense atmosphere at workplaces



SAKSHI SETHI

In today's fast-paced, high-stress work environments, organizations are increasingly seeking ways to support the well-being of their employees. Among the most effective and holistic approaches are the practices of yoga and meditation. These ancient techniques, rooted in mindfulness and physical wellness, have transcended their spiritual origins to become powerful tools for enhancing mental and physical health in modern workplaces. Incorporating yoga and meditation into the daily routine of employees not only benefits individual well-being but also significantly impacts organizational productivity and culture.

The modern workplace is often characterized by high levels of stress, tight deadlines, and the pressure to constantly perform. A study published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology found that employees who participated in the workplace yoga program experienced significant reductions in perceived stress levels. Participants even reported reductions in musculoskeletal pain, particularly in the lower back, neck and shoulders, areas commonly affected by prolonged sitting. The study found that employees who practised yoga reported higher levels of emotional well-being and lower levels of psychological distress. Another study published in the Journal of Managerial Psychology examined the effects of workplace yoga on organizational culture. It found that yoga contributed to a more positive and supportive work environment by fostering better communication, teamwork and a sense of community among employees. Many office workers spend long hours sitting at desks, which can lead to a range of physical issues, includ-



ing poor posture, back pain and repetitive strain injuries. Over time, these physical ailments can decrease productivity and increase absenteeism. Yoga addresses these issues by improving flexibility, strength, and posture. The various poses and stretches in yoga help to relieve tension in the neck, shoulders and lower back, common problem areas for office workers. Additionally, the emphasis on breathing exercises improves circulation and oxygenation, leading to increased energy levels and overall vitality. This can strengthen workplace relationships, improve communication, and foster a sense of community and mutual support.

A positive work environment, where employees feel valued and connected, leads to higher morale, reduced turnover and a more cohesive and productive team. The benefits of meditation in the workplace are well-documented. Regular meditation practice has been shown to reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, lower blood pressure and improve sleep quality. Employees who meditate regularly are more likely to exhibit improved focus, emotional intelligence, and the ability to manage stress. This not only enhances individual performance but also contributes to a more harmonious and collaborative work environment. Mentally, yoga promotes relaxation and reduces stress by regulating the autonomic nervous system, which governs the body's stress response. The mindful breathing techniques and meditative aspects of yoga help calm the mind, reduce anxiety and enhance mental clarity.

For employees, this means better focus, improved decision-making and greater resilience in the face of workplace challenges. The cumulative effect of these benefits is a more productive, engaged, and satisfied workforce. The modern workplace is often characterized by high levels of stress, tight deadlines, and the pressure to constantly perform. Moreover, prolonged stress can have severe consequences on employees' mental and physical health, leading to issues such as anxiety, depression and chronic illnesses. Therefore, investing in employee well-being through practices like yoga and meditation is not just a trend but a strategic move that can yield substantial returns.

(The writer is an educator, views expressed are personal)

E-commerce giants versus mom-and-pop stores



UTTAM GUPTA

Amazon's aggressive pricing strategies could lead to a massive e-commerce expansion, capturing half of India's retail market within the next decade



At the launch of the Pahle India Foundation's report 'Net Impact of E-Commerce on Employment and Consumer Welfare in India' on August 21, 2024, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal took pot shot at the world's biggest e-tailer Amazon, for selling products directly to consumers and indulging in "predatory pricing" that could lead to massive growth of e-commerce capturing half of Indian retail market ten years from now. This would adversely impact an estimated 100 million small retailers across the country and in turn, lead to "social disruption".

E-commerce, put simply, is the practice of buying and selling goods or services using the Internet. Predatory pricing involves setting prices for a product at an unrealistically low level to undercut the competition and gain market share. Generally practised by a new player in the market, predatory pricing violates antitrust laws even as it seeks to create a monopoly. Goyal opines that Amazon is selling products on its e-commerce platform at unrealistically low prices which results in heavy losses estimated to be about a billion dollars annually. To fund these losses, it brings the money from its parent but camouflages it as foreign direct investment (FDI). Any FDI in the country is normally welcome given its contribution to capital formation, accelerating economic growth and adding to the foreign exchange kitty. But, the dollars brought by Amazon don't serve this purpose.

In 2020 also, he had taunted the Amazon boss for the latter's claim to bring a few billion dollars into India. Then, he had charged that Jeff Bezos was bringing money to make up for the huge loss the company was incurring in its operations in the country. He also voiced concern over the harm it was causing to millions of small retailers. Amazon essentially operates the "market-place" model of e-commerce - a special dispensation carved out by the Narendra Modi Government under which 100 per cent FDI is permitted. The "market-place" is a platform where vendors sell their products to consumers even as its owner (say, Amazon) merely



E-COMMERCE, PUT SIMPLY, IS THE PRACTICE OF BUYING AND SELLING GOODS OR SERVICES USING THE INTERNET. PREDATORY PRICING INVOLVES SETTING PRICES FOR A PRODUCT AT AN UNREALISTICALLY LOW LEVEL TO UNDERCUT THE COMPETITION AND GAIN MARKET SHARE

acts as a facilitator. The marketplace owner books orders, raises invoices, arranges deliveries, accepts payments, handles rejections, warehousing and so on but can't undertake "direct selling." Considering that the operator is only expected to provide services instead of a fee, there is no question of any loss.

Yet, Amazon is incurring huge losses. The losses incurred by Amazon are due to huge discounts on the products sold on the platform as well as expenses on promoting exclusive brands. But the discount is normally given by the seller; this is also true of money spent on promotion. The service provider can't do it unless he is also masquerading as the seller. Do the rules permit direct selling?

Under the 2016 guidelines (Press Note PN issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade or DPIIT in the Ministry of Commerce and Industries), the permission for 100 per cent FDI in the "market-place" is subject to two main riders viz, "The entity cannot permit more than 25 per cent of total sales on its platform from one vendor or its group companies. Further, it can't directly or indirectly influence the sale price." Sans any specification as to "who the vendor is", a firm connected with the "market-place" (either its subsidiary or a joint venture (JV) with an Indian company) is eligible. In other words, each such entity could control up to 25 per cent of sales on the platform. So, you have companies like Cloutail - an Amazon venture in partnership with a firm owned by Narayan Murthy - operating as lead sellers on the platform. Thus, contrary to the real intent of the policy which disallowed the e-commerce platform owners from direct selling to individual consumers, the fine print permitted them to do so, albeit through a subsidiary or JV. This is precisely what the e-commerce

merchants have been doing. They were operating as direct sellers, controlling inventory, giving discounts and so on. A clarification issued by the DPIIT on December 26, 2018, said that "the owner of the marketplace or its subsidiary or its joint venture (JV) with an Indian company can't have ownership of the seller."

Further, "a seller on the platform can't source more than 25 percent of its inventory from a firm connected with the latter." Foreign investors can circumvent the first rider by having less than 50 per cent shareholding in the seller firm and arguing that they have no control (majority) over the latter. The marketplace owner can also sell his 'own' product through its wholesale arm on the platform. All that the wholesale arm needs to ensure is to restrict supplies to the seller within the 25 per cent threshold. Thus, the clarification hasn't helped much in diluting their role as dominant sellers. No wonder, small traders, whom the e-commerce platform was intended to help have suffered heavily.

This is because the business that should have gone to the former was appropriated by the latter i.e. the dominant seller owned by itself. The small retailers haven't got relief from the court. In 2019, Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh (DVM) complained to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) alleging anti-competitive behaviour by Amazon Seller Services (ASS) and Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL). It argued that ASS and FIPL had entered into exclusive sales agreements with smartphone makers to sell certain phones through a small number of preferred sellers and offering to pay for part of the discount that such sellers would offer during key sales periods such as Flipkart's big bullion day and Amazon's Prime Day. Prima facie, the CCI agreed with DVM's contention and ordered a probe by the

Director General (DG) - Investigation. ASS and FIPL went up to the Supreme Court (SC) to get the order quashed. In August 2021, dismissing their appeal, the SC ordered "the CCI - DG will complete the probe. In its recent findings, the CCI-DG has charged ASS and FIPL with indulging in 'predatory pricing' and violation of antitrust laws. The latter will appeal against this starting a fresh round of never-ending litigation. In the end (if at all the result comes), Amazon et al will get away with paying some penalty. How can the government get out of this mess? It could further tighten the rules to say that platform owners can't hold even one per cent equity in the seller. Further, the former's wholesale arm must not supply even one per cent of stocks of the latter. This is an abhorrent idea. It can't be implemented.

Besides, it will be a retrospective change of policy and send a wrong signal. The way forward is to make obvious and straightforward what the bureaucrats had already done in a 'subtle' way. The government should say that '100 per cent FDI is allowed in retail in all forms, single brand or multi-brand retail (MBR), online or offline (currently, while FDI in MBR online is completely barred, in MBR offline, 51 per cent foreign investment is allowed subject to riders which tantamount to completely barring it. All these distinctions should go). With this, even as Amazon et al can continue with direct selling to consumers alongside running a marketplace model, Indian retailers including the millions of mom-and-pop stores will also have 'unrestrained' access to foreign capital thereby ensuring a level playing field.

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

Envisioning a feminist world: Building a just and inclusive future

The 4th Asia Pacific Feminist Forum seeks to challenge the patriarchal systems that dominate the world today, writes SHOBHA SHUKLA

The 4th Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) is set to take place next month in Chiang Mai, Thailand, under the theme "Feminist world-building: Creative energies, collective journeys." This theme highlights the importance of uniting people of all genders who are dedicated to defending human rights and promoting gender equality. The forum aims to collectively resist the patriarchal, militarized, and greed-driven world we currently inhabit, envisioning instead a feminist world order. What is a Feminist World Order?

A feminist world order envisions a different kind of development model, one rooted in sharing and caring rather than power and violence. Unlike the

patriarchal systems that dominate today, where power is concentrated in the hands of a few through violence and exploitation, a feminist system emphasizes care, solidarity, and the equitable redistribution of power. This system aspires to be socially just and ecologically sustainable, ensuring justice and sustainability for everyone, everywhere. At its core, this vision is grounded in the principles of development justice.

Abia Akram, founder and CEO of the National Forum of Women with Disabilities in Pakistan, describes a feminist world as a place where women and all diverse genders can fully realize their strength and contribute meaningfully at the grassroots level. In her view, such a world would bring

about systematic changes through transformative laws and legal practices that are aligned with human rights. Migrant rights activist Eni Lestari, Chairperson of the International Migrants Alliance, shares her perspective on the feminist world order based on her decades of experience in feminist movements. She observes that neoliberal globalization has exacerbated structural exploitation, with each new crisis worsening poverty, displacement, and unemployment. Having migrated from Indonesia during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Eni highlights that migration has become an integral part of the economic development strategy for many capitalist countries, with nearly 300 million people now liv-

ing as migrants worldwide. Eni envisions a feminist world as one where economic and political environments treat everyone with fairness and equality, eliminating the need for migration or displacement as a means of survival. In such a world, women would lead and ensure that justice and equality are upheld for all members of society.

Feminist World: A Joyous and Inclusive World

Ivy Josiah, a women's rights activist and former President and Executive Director of Malaysia's Women's Aid Organisation, describes a feminist world as a joyous and inclusive one, where no one is left behind-not just as a tagline, but in reality. She believes that if feminists lead the world, it would be a peaceful one, as



war is a choice, and so is peace.

Feminist World: Anti-Capitalism

A feminist world would stand in stark opposition to capitalism, which prioritizes profit maximization for a tiny elite while subjecting the majority of people and the planet to unbridled exploitation. Ivy argues that a feminist world would not serve the interests of the wealthy few but would instead be characterized by equitable resource distribu-

tion.

Shrinking Spaces for Civil Society: Abia Akram raises concerns about the shrinking spaces for civil society organizations under the current political systems. She argues that creating an enabling environment where everyone has equal rights and opportunities is missing from the agendas of many countries. Budgetary allocations often fail to include a gender perspective, resulting in inadequate resources and opportunities for women and girls with disabilities, transgender individuals, and LGBTQI-AP+ communities. Abia asserts that meaningful engagement and equitable representation from feminist movements are essential for ensuring justice for all.

The Present World Order:

The present world order, driven by patriarchy, fundamentalism, militarism, and corporate capitalism, stands as the anti-thesis of a feminist world order. This model has transferred wealth, power, and resources from the working people to the rich, and from developing countries to wealthy ones. The resulting financial, environmental, food, and energy crises have devastated the lives of women, particularly in the Global South.

Transformative Shifts of the Development Justice Model

The current world order urgently needs to be replaced with a development justice model that addresses the inequalities of wealth, power, and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women

and gender-diverse communities. This model is grounded in five transformative shifts: redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice, and accountability to the people.

The Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) plays a crucial role in advancing the vision of a feminist world order. Organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), this tri-annual event brings together feminists and women's rights activists of all genders from across Asia and the Pacific.

(Shobha Shukla is the founding Managing Editor and Executive Director of CNS. Views are personal)

Strike in Israel over hostage deaths reflects political divisions

AP ■ TEL AVIV

A rare call for a general strike in Israel to protest the failure to return hostages held in Gaza led to closures and other disruptions around the country on Monday, including at its main international airport. But it was ignored in some areas, reflecting deep political divisions.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis poured into the streets late Sunday in grief and anger after six hostages were found dead in Gaza. The families and much of the public blamed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying they could have been returned alive in a deal with Hamas to end the nearly 11-month-old war. But others support Netanyahu's strategy of maintaining military pressure on Hamas, whose October 7 attack into Israel triggered the war. They say it will force the militants to give in to Israeli demands, potentially facilitate rescue operations and ultimately annihilate the group.



A labour court ruled that the strike must end by 2:30 pm local time, accepting a petition from the government saying it was politically motivated. The head of Israel's largest trade union, the Histadrut, said it would abide by the court decision and instructed members to return to work. Arnon Bar-David had

called for the general strike, the first since the start of the war. It aimed to shut down or disrupt major sectors of the economy, including banking and health care. Airlines at Israel's main international airport, Ben-Gurion, halted outgoing flights between 8 am and 10 am. Those flights either departed early or were slightly delayed. Arriving

flights continued as usual, according to the Israel Airports Authority. "There's no need to punish the whole state of Israel because of what is happening, overall, it is a victory for Hamas," said one passenger, Amrani Yigal. But in Jerusalem, resident Avi Lavi said that "I think this is fair, the time has come to

stand and to wake up, to do everything for the hostages to come back alive." The Histadrut said banks, some large malls and government offices had joined the strike, as well as some public transit services, although there did not appear to be major disruptions. Municipalities in Israel's populated central area, including Tel Aviv, participated, leading to shortened school hours. Other municipalities, including Jerusalem, did not participate. The demonstrations on Sunday appeared to be the largest since the start of the war, with organizers estimating that up to 500,000 people joined nationwide events and the main rally in Tel Aviv. Israeli media estimated that 200,000 to 400,000 took part. They are demanding that Netanyahu reach a deal to return the remaining roughly 100 hostages held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead, even if it means leaving a battered Hamas intact and withdrawing from the territory. Many Israelis support this position, but

others prioritize the destruction of the militant group over freedom for the hostages. Netanyahu has pledged "total victory" over Hamas and blames it for the failure of the negotiations, which have dragged on for much of this year. Israel said the six hostages found dead in Gaza were killed by Hamas shortly before Israeli forces arrived in the tunnel where they were held. Three were reportedly scheduled to be released in the first phase of a cease-fire proposal discussed in July. The Israeli Health Ministry said autopsies had determined the hostages were shot at close range and died on Thursday or Friday. Netanyahu blamed Hamas, saying "whoever murders hostages doesn't want a deal." Hamas blamed their deaths on Israel and the United States, accusing them of dragging out the talks by issuing new demands, including for lasting Israeli control over two strategic corridors in Gaza. Hamas has offered to

release the hostages in return for an end to the war, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile militants. One of the six hostages was Israeli-American Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23, a native of Berkeley, California, who lost part of his left arm to a grenade in the Oct. 7 attack. In April, Hamas issued a video that showed him alive, sparking protests in Israel. He was one of the best-known hostages, and his parents had led a high-profile campaign for the captives' release, meeting with President Joe Biden, Pope Francis, and addressing the Democratic National Convention last month. Around 400 mourners gathered ahead of Goldberg-Polin's funeral outside the family residence, still draped with posters reading "Bring Hersh Home." Waving Israeli flags, they marched toward the cemetery. "It feels like he could have been my son," said Irit Dolev, whose two sons

went to school with him. "I've buried so many friends this year, but this is the hardest one, because he was alive," said Amit Levy, who was among hundreds of others at the cemetery. Some 250 hostages were taken on Oct. 7. More than 100 were freed during a cease-fire in November in exchange for the release of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Eight have been rescued by Israeli forces. Israeli troops mistakenly killed three Israelis who escaped captivity in December. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, when they stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7. Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not say how many were militants. The war has displaced the vast majority of Gaza's 2.3 million people, often multiple times, and plunged the besieged territory into a humanitarian catastrophe, including new fears of a polio outbreak.

Keir Starmer faces challenges after unrest-filled summer

AP ■ LONDON

There was no summer honeymoon for Keir Starmer. Britain's new prime minister, elected in a landslide less than two months ago, had to cancel a planned vacation after anti-immigrant unrest erupted across the country. He has spent his first weeks in office dealing with the aftermath, and issuing stark warnings about the state of the nation and the economy. As lawmakers returned to Parliament on Monday after a shortened summer break, Starmer's left-of-centre Labour Party government was preparing for a budget statement next month that's likely to include tax rises or public spending cuts — or both. The mood music is in stark contrast to the campaign song used by former Prime Minister Tony Blair, the last Labour leader to win an election: "Things Can Only Get Better."



"Frankly, things will get worse before they get better," Starmer told voters in a televised speech last week. Starmer is seeking to hammer home the message that the right-leaning Conservative Party, booted out by voters in the July 4 election, presided over "14 years of rot" that's left Britain weakened economically, structurally and even morally. During the election campaign, Starmer vowed to get the country's sluggish economy growing

and restore frayed public services such as the state-funded National Health Service. Since winning power he's said the situation is "worse than we ever imagined," with an unexpected 22 billion pound (USD 29 billion) hole in the public finances. Labour has decided not to increase taxes on "working people," but it has to find money somewhere. It has already scaled back a payment intended to help pensioners heat their homes in winter. Starmer said last week that a budget statement coming on October 30 will be "painful" and involve "short term pain for long term good." Conservative economy spokeswoman Laura Trott accused Starmer and his government of trying to "run from responsibility for the tax rises they always planned but hid from the public during the election." Paul Johnson, who heads economic think-tank the Institute for Fiscal Studies, has said

Labour is being "disingenuous" when it claims to be surprised by the state of the finances, but that the Conservatives had "left Labour a mess to clear up." Rob Ford, professor of political science at the University of Manchester, said Starmer's government was going to "have to grasp the nettle" and confront the fact that two key pledges — improving public services and not raising any of the main taxes — "aren't both achievable." Starmer faced a big test within weeks of taking office when anti-immigrant violence erupted after three children were stabbed to death in the town of Southport. The violence, fueled by online misinformation blaming a migrant and stirred up by far-right groups, spread across England and Northern Ireland over several days. Starmer responded firmly, condemning a "mindless minority of thugs" fueled by the "snake-oil of populism" and pledging swift justice and tough sentences for rioters.

Red sea ship hit by suspected Yemen rebel attack: Officials

AP ■ DUBAI

A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship in the Red Sea on Monday, authorities said, just north of where crews hope to salvage a tanker loaded with oil and still ablaze after another assault by the group. Monday's attack marks the latest in the Iranian-backed rebels' campaign that has disrupted the USD 1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip as well as halted some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen. Meanwhile, the efforts to salvage the still-burning Sounion seek to head off the potential ecological disaster posed by its cargo of 1 million barrels of crude oil. In Monday's assault, two projectiles hit the vessel, and a third explosion occurred near the ship, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said. "Damage control is underway," the UKMTO said. "There are no casualties onboard and the vessel is proceeding to its next port of call." The timing of the attack and coordinates offered by the UKMTO corresponded to

the reported path of the Panama-flagged oil tanker Blue Lagoon I, now travelling south through the Red Sea to an unlisted destination. The Blue Lagoon I was coming from Russia's port of Ust-Luga on the Baltic Sea and had been broadcasting that it had Russian-origin cargo on board. In recent months, the Blue Lagoon I travelled to India, which gets more than 40 per cent of its oil imports from Russia despite Moscow's ongoing war on Ukraine and the international sanctions it faces over it. The Greek-based firm operating the ship could not be immediately reached. The Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack. However, it can take the rebels hours or even days to acknowledge their assaults. The Houthis have targeted more than 80 vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a United States-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets. The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the US or the UK to force an end to Israel's campaign

against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran. Meanwhile Monday, a salvage effort appeared to be underway to tow away the Sounion oil tanker, which was earlier hit by the Houthis and abandoned by its crew. Jamel Amer, an official with the Houthis, wrote online Saturday that tug boats assigned to pull the Sounion away should arrive Sunday. However, NASA fire satellites showed a blaze at the site of where the Sounion had been abandoned on Monday morning. The Sounion was carrying some 1 million barrels of oil when the Houthis initially attacked it on August 21 with small arms fire, projectiles and a drone boat. A French destroyer operating as part of the European Union's Operation Aspidores rescued the Sounion's crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, after they abandoned the vessel and took them to nearby Djibouti. Last week, the Houthis released footage showing they planted explosives on board the Sounion and blew them up in a propaganda video, something the rebels have done before in their campaign.

Harris seeks Biden's boost in Pennsylvania at Labour Day parade

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden are co-headlining a campaign event Monday in the marquee battleground state of Pennsylvania as Harris balances presenting herself as "a new way forward" while remaining intensely loyal to Biden and the policies he has pushed. The pair will attend Pittsburgh's Labor Day parade and offer some remarks, the first time the two have shared a speaking slot on the political stage together since the surprising election shakeup that provided a fresh jolt of Democratic enthusiasm to the 2024 election. Harris' campaign has said Pennsylvania voters are newly energized since Harris moved to the top of the ticket six weeks ago, with tens of thousands of new volunteers signed up to canvass for her and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, the Democratic vice presidential nominee. Harris' and Biden's appearance at the parade, one of the largest such gatherings in the country, is part of a battleground state blitz with just over two months until Election Day. Harris, 59, has sought to appeal to voters by positioning herself as a break from poisonous politics, rejecting the acerbic rhetoric of her Republican opponent, former President Donald Trump, while looking to move beyond the Biden era as well. Yet while her delivery may be very different from Biden's, Harris' agenda is chock-full of the same issues he has championed: capping the cost of prescription drugs, the Affordable Care Act, the economy and helping families afford child care. "We fight for a future where we build what I call an opportunity economy, so that every American has the

opportunity to own a home, start a business and to build wealth and intergenerational wealth. And a future where we lower the cost of living for America," she said at a recent rally, echoing Biden's calls to grow the economy "from the bottom out and the middle up." Harris briefly appeared on stage with Biden after the president delivered his remarks on the opening night of last month's Democratic National Convention, but the two haven't shared a microphone at a political event since Biden himself was running for office. At that time, the campaign was using Harris mostly as its chief spokeswoman for abortion rights, an issue they believe can help them win in November as restrictions grow and health care worsens for women following the fall of Roe v. Wade. The pair have appeared at official events and met together at the White House since the ticket-swap. For more than 3 1/2 years, Harris has been one of Biden's chief validators. Now the tables are turned, as Harris looks to lean on Biden — a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania — to help win the potentially decisive state. Biden, for his part, has laid low since ending his reelection bid. He was last at the White House on Aug. 19 and has since been vacationing in Southern California and Delaware. But even as she's taken on the mantle of leading the Democratic Party, Harris has stood steadfastly at Biden's side. In her first sit-down interview of her candidacy, Harris delivered an impassioned defense of Biden's record and ability to do the job, even despite the events of the past two months that ended with her running for the Oval Office and Biden a lame duck.

Far-right success in German votes piles new pressure on Scholz's coalition

AP ■ BERLIN

The Alternative for Germany party's success in two state elections piled new pressure on Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious government and left the country's main opposition party facing political contortions on Monday to find a way to govern a pair of eastern regions without involving the far-right party. Alternative for Germany, or AfD, became the first far-right party to win a state election in post-World War II Germany in Thuringia on Sunday under one of its hard-right figures, Björn Höcke. In neighbouring Saxony, it finished only just behind the mainstream conservative Christian Democratic Union, which leads the national opposition. Voters punished the

three parties in Scholz's governing coalition, which took well under 15 per cent of the vote between them. Deep discontent with a national government notorious for infighting, inflation and a weak economy, anti-immigration sentiment and scepticism toward German military aid for Ukraine are among the factors that contributed to support for populist parties in the formerly communist east, which is less prosperous than western Germany. A new party founded by a prominent leftist was the second big winner on Sunday — and will probably be needed to form state governments since no one is prepared to govern with AfD. The debacle for the governing parties added to awful performances in the European Parliament election in June for

Scholz's coalition, and it's not obvious that they have any recipe to turn things around with Germany's next national election due in a bit over a year. Another state election on Sept. 22 in an eastern region — Brandenburg, which unlike the two that voted Sunday is currently led by Scholz's center-left Social Democrats — could add to their embarrassment. Voters "wanted to send a signal to Berlin above all," Jens Spahn, a senior CDU lawmaker, told ZDF television. "They want to send a signal to the (coalition) that the chancellor no longer has their confidence. Olaf Scholz is the face of failure in Thuringia and Saxony too." But the two elections also bring difficult decisions for the CDU, which leads national polls. AfD holds now more

than a third of the seats, at least in Thuringia's state legislature — which would, for example, allow it to block appointments of judges to the regional constitutional court — and that will make it hard to build workable governments. AfD's strength in the east has pushed other parties into unconventional coalitions as far back as 2016, but Sunday's results took that to a new level. In Thuringia, even a previously improbable combination of the CDU, Scholz's party and the new leftist Sähra Wagenknecht Alliance lacks a majority; to get one, the conservatives would also need help from the Left Party, which is descended from East Germany's communist rulers and led the outgoing state government. So far, they have refused to work with it.

Man fatally shoots 3 in Hawaii: Police

Honolulu (AP): Three people were killed and two others injured in a shooting at a home stemming from a dispute between neighbors on Saturday night in Hawaii, police said. The shooter was also fatally shot by a resident, who was arrested on a second-degree murder charge. Witnesses reported that a 58-year-old man was using a front-end loader to ram cars into the home where a family gathering was taking place, then opened fire at people gathered in the carport, fatally shooting three women at the residence in Wainanae, a community about 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of downtown Honolulu, Honolulu police detective Lt. Deena Thoommes said. At some point, a 42-year-old man who lived in the home fatally shot the suspect with a handgun, she said at a news conference. A police

spokesperson did not immediately respond to a telephone message or an email asking for details about why the resident was arrested. The women who were killed were 34, 36 and 29, Thoommes said. A 31-year-old man and a 52-year-old woman were taken to the hospital in critical condition, she said. The suspect, who was not identified, had four 55-gallon drums containing an unknown fuel in the front-end loader, Thoommes said. Witnesses reported that he fired rounds into them but police have not confirmed that yet, she said. The shootings are the latest of several shootings in recent weeks in the area that have led to police to pledge to work to fight gun violence, Police Chief Joe Logan said at the news conference. But he said Saturday's shootings were not related to the earlier ones.

Some Lebanese fearing war plan to move to Syria

AP ■ BEIRUT

Residents of Beirut's southern suburbs have been scrambling to make contingency plans since an Israeli airstrike on an apartment building in a busy neighbourhood killed a top Hezbollah commander and touched off fears of a full-scale war. For most, that means moving in with relatives or renting homes in Christian, Druze or Sunni-majority areas of Lebanon that are generally considered safer than the Shiite-majority areas where the Hezbollah militant group has its main operations and base of support. But for a small number, plan B is a move to neighbouring Syria. Although Syria is in its 14th year of civil war, active fighting has long been frozen in much of the country. Lebanese citizens,



who can cross the border without a visa, regularly visit Damascus. And renting an apartment is significantly cheaper in Syria than in Lebanon. Zahra Ghaddar said she and her family were shaken when they saw an apartment building reduced to rubble by the July 30 drone strike in her area,

known as Dahiyeh. Along with Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur, two children and three women were killed and dozens more were injured in the targeted Israeli attack. Previously, the Lebanese capital had been largely untouched by the near-daily cross-border clashes that have displaced around 100,000 people from southern Lebanon and tens of thousands more in Israel since October 8. That's when Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel in support of its ally Hamas, which a day earlier led a deadly raid in Israel that killed some 1,200 people and took another 250 hostage. Israel responded with an aerial bombardment and ground offensive in Gaza that has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians. In recent weeks, the conflict in Lebanon appeared on the brink of spiralling out of control. Ghaddar said her family first considered moving within Lebanon but were discouraged by social media posts blaming displaced civilians, along with Hezbollah, for the threat of all-out war. Also, surging demand prompted steep rent hikes. "We found the rents started at USD 700, and that's for a

house we wouldn't be too comfortable in," she said. That amount is more than many Lebanese earn in a month. Ghaddar's family found a four-bedroom apartment in Aleppo, a city in northwestern Syria, for USD 150 a month. They paid six months' rent in advance and returned to Lebanon. Israel periodically launches airstrikes on Syria, usually targeting Iranian-linked military sites or militants, but Bashar Assad's government has largely stood on the sidelines of the current regional conflict. Israel and Hezbollah fought a bruising monthlong war in 2006 that demolished much of southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs. At the time, some 180,000 Lebanese took shelter in Syria, many using refugee in schools, mosques and empty factories. Those who

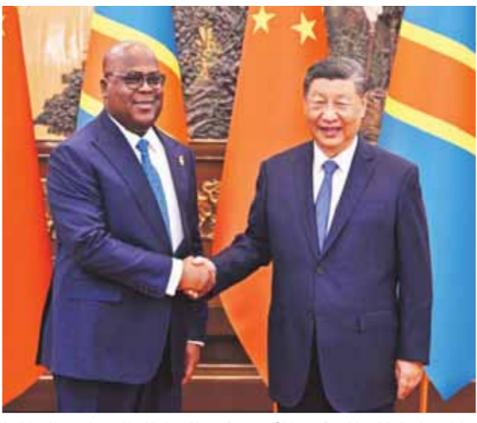
could afford it rented houses. Some put down permanent roots. Rawad Issa, then a teenager, fled to Syria with his parents. They returned to Lebanon when the war ended, but Issa's father used some of his savings to buy a house in Syria's Hama province, just in case. "That way, if another war happened, we would already have a house ready," Issa said. The house and surrounding area were untouched by Syria's civil war, he said. A few weeks ago, his sister and her husband went to get the house ready for the family to return, in case the situation in Lebanon deteriorated. Issa, who works in video production, said he initially planned to rent an apartment in Lebanon if the conflict expanded, rather than joining his family in Syria. But in "safe" areas of Beirut, "they are asking for fantastic prices," he said.

Russia launches drones, missiles at Kyiv school

Russia launched an overnight barrage of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, officials said on Monday, as children prepared to return to school across Ukraine.

Pacific summit removes Taiwan reference after Chinese backlash

Turmoil over China's push for influence in the South Pacific has overshadowed the region's most important diplomatic summit after a Pacific island leader apparently pledged to erase an affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the meeting from its closing statement.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, meets with President of Congo Felix Tshisekedi, at the Great Hall of the People, ahead of the China Africa Forum in Beijing, Monday.

crises of debt, health and security, including fundraising for a Pacific-led climate and disaster resilience facility in Tonga — while warning major powers against overshadowing the summit with geopolitical squabbling.

B'desh interim govt to re-investigate 2009 BDR mutiny

Bangladesh's biggest-ever criminal trial in which some 800 ex-paramilitary soldiers stood accused of killing 74 people. The rebel soldiers staged the revolt for what they said was "deprivation", coinciding with the annual Darbar or meeting of ordinary soldiers with the top brasses.

The mutiny occurred weeks after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government came into power in the December 2008 elections. In 2012, Bangladesh concluded another phase of the trial of the rebellion with 11 paramilitary courts sentencing 6,011 rebel soldiers of 57 units to jail terms of up to seven years under the relatively lenient BDR Act.

Russian officials recover 22 bodies from far east helicopter crash

Moscow (AP): Russian emergency officials said on Monday they had recovered all 22 dead from a helicopter that crashed with tourists on board in Russia's Far East. The crash occurred in Kamchatka — a pristine peninsula with numerous volcanoes, known for its rugged beauty and rich wildlife.

Storm causes floods, landslides in Philippines

A storm set off landslides and unleashed pounding rains that flooded many northern Philippine areas overnight into Monday, leaving at least 14 people dead and prompting authorities to suspend school classes and government work in the densely populated capital region.

of the capital, killing at least three people, including a pregnant woman. Four other villagers drowned in swollen creeks, Antipolo's disaster-mitigation officer Enrilito Bernardo Jr. told The Associated Press by telephone.

Expenditure violations lead to Presidential disqualification, says SL election commission

Colombo (PTI): Any candidate found to have violated campaign finance regulations in Sri Lanka's presidential election can face disqualification, the island nation's election commission said on Monday.

ORISSA SPONGE IRON & STEEL LIMITED (Formerly Orissa Sponge Iron Limited) (An ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified Company) Notice convening 44th Annual General Meeting, Book Closure and e-Voting Information.

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. Notice Inviting Tender for purchase and supply of following items: 1. For Verka Head office, Chandigarh...

FICCI CASCADE underlines need for global cooperation to curb smuggling for sustainable growth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To combat the menace of smuggling and counterfeiting that feed into terror financing and organised crime, FICCI Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) will be organising the 10th edition of MASCARADE (Movement Against Smuggling and Counterfeit Trade) this month in the national Capital.

MASCARADE is an international forum that hosts senior officials from prominent international organizations, including the World Customs Organization (WCO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), INTERPOL, among others, and representatives from several countries to provide insights against smuggling and illicit trade.

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world and has been the sole 'bright spot' in an otherwise sagging scenario of slowing global economy, but the silent menace of smuggling and



illicit trade threatens its ambition of becoming a \$5 Trillion economy. "Smuggling and counterfeiting threaten Indian industries, hampering job creation and impeding economic growth, apart from depriving the government of tax revenue and bleeding resources for enforcement and public health measures," said Anil Rajput, Chairman FICCI CASCADE which has been running an incessant campaign against the menace. It has roped in the international community and organisations to highlight and underline the hidden links between smuggling, counterfeiting and terrorism

and organised crime. The body has also been organising awareness programmes on strategies to counter smuggling, including inter-school competitions to educate the young or the to-be-consumers. MASCARADE ropes in experts from various fields such as cyber-law, artificial intelligence, intellectual property rights and e-commerce, along with senior officials from the Government of India to brainstorm on the detection of connections between smuggling, organized crime and terror financing. Meanwhile, the MASCARADE discussions on solutions would revolve

around consumer awareness, stricter enforcement and calibrated government policies in terms of taxation, trade deals etc. There also needs to be a multinational collaboration to address the issue comprehensively. "This collaborative effort could involve optimizing intelligence sharing, conducting joint investigations and enforcement actions, sharing best practices, establishing bilateral and multilateral agreements and enhancing mutual legal assistance, among other measures," said Rajput. Additionally, the

collaboration should leverage the power of new-age and emerging technologies, such as AI and machine learning, to identify and analyse patterns of illicit trade, thereby enhancing detection and enforcement capabilities. The 9th edition of MASCARADE last year was a two-day event organised on the theme- "Tackling Illicit Trade: Socio-Economic Perspectives and Way Forward". A 2022 FICCI CASCADE study titled 'Illicit Markets: A Threat to Our National Interests' revealed a staggering 163% increase in tax losses due to smuggling in India from 2010 to 2020. The government faced a substantial financial impact, with losses reaching ₹58,521 crore, compared to ₹22,230 crore, spanning crucial sectors such as alcoholic beverages, mobile phones, FMCG household and personal goods, FMCG-packaged foods, and tobacco products. These industries collectively suffered an astounding 340% surge in sales losses, escalating from ₹59,046 crores in 2010 to ₹2,60,094 crores in 2020, highlighting the gravity of the illicit trade issue.



Sensex, Nifty hit all time high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty hit their fresh all-time closing high levels on Monday, tracking foreign fund inflows and a rally in the US markets. The US rate cut hopes and renewed foreign fund inflows are fuelling the recent rally in domestic equities, traders said. Surging for the 10th straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 194.07 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,559.84. During the day, it surged 359.51 points or 0.43 per cent to reach a new intra-day record peak of 82,725.28. The NSE Nifty climbed 42.80 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at a lifetime closing high of 25,278.70, taking its winning run to the 13th day in a row. During the day, it

soared 97.75 points or 0.38 per cent to hit a fresh all-time intra-day peak of 25,333.65. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, HCL Tech, IndusInd Bank, ITC, UltraTech Cement, Axis Bank and Infosys were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, Tata Motors, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled in the positive territory, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended higher on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,318.14 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. The market has entered a zone of steady

but mild up-move caused by the accumulation of quality large-caps. FIIs turning buyers last week mainly due to some large bulk deals also has improved sentiments in the market," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.14 per cent to USD 77.04 a barrel. Gross GST collections in August grew 10 per cent to about Rs 1.75 lakh crore, reflecting higher domestic consumption. On Friday, the BSE benchmark climbed 231.16 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at an all-time closing high of 82,365.77. In its best winning streak since its launch in 1996, the NSE Nifty soared 83.95 points or 0.33 per cent to hit a new lifetime closing high of 25,235.90.

Single filing with exchange to be reality very soon says SEBI chief

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Capital markets regulator Sebi Chief Madhabi Puri Buch on Monday said a single disclosure by listed companies on one stock exchange will soon be automatically uploaded on the other bourse.

This comes after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) recently proposed sweeping changes to disclosure as well as listing requirements by listed companies based on recommendations from a committee led by S K Mohanty, former whole-time member of Sebi. Speaking at a CII event, Sebi chairperson said, "a single filing with the exchange will be a reality very soon".

As part of the proposed changes, a filing made on one exchange will automatically collate on the other exchange, she said.



A filing made on one exchange will automatically collate on the other exchange. Additionally, Buch said soon investors will be able to start SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) with as low as Rs 250 per month. "We are on the way of Rs 250 SIP becoming a reality," she said. Buch avoided commenting on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), but said there are regulations simplifying such entities. "If I utter a word on REITs, I

will be accused of conflict of interest," she added. The remarks came as US short-seller Hindenburg Research raised questions about a potential conflict of interest involving Buch and private equity major Blackstone. Her husband Dhaval Buch is a senior advisor with Blackstone, a major player in the REIT space. However, the couple refuted the allegations. Also, Hindenburg alleged that Sebi's recent amendments to

REIT regulations 2014 favoured a specific financial conglomerate, which Sebi denied. The Sebi chief highlighted plans to make IPO documents available in multiple languages to remove language barriers and increase investor awareness. Also, she emphasised on the importance of the inclusion. Additionally, she said that creating capital for the industry and wealth creation for the citizens of the country are two very important areas of the regulator. Buch stressed on the need of adoption of technology in markets, complexity of the market (right product for the right person) and co-creation with the industry. On co-creation, Buch said, "It is not because that a regulator is magnanimous, it's out of sheer necessity, which will actually serve the market".

Rupee falls seven paise against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined 7 paise to close at 83.92 (provisional) against the greenback on Monday on disappointing domestic macroeconomic data. However, positive domestic markets, wherein both the benchmark indices scaled lifetime high levels and foreign fund inflows cushioned the downside. Moreover, easing crude oil prices and weakness of the American currency in the overseas market supported the local unit and restricted further slide. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened 2 paise lower at 83.87 against the American currency. It rose to the intra-day high of 83.85 but pared gains and slipped to the day's low of 83.93 before settling at 83.92 (provisional) against the US dollar, registering a decline of 7 paise over its previous close. "Indian rupee depreciated by 7 paise on Monday on



positive US Dollar and disappointing domestic macroeconomic data," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. India's manufacturing sector growth moderated in August as output and sales rose at slowest rates since January, while competitive pressures and inflation concerns hampered business confidence, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 57.5 in August, below July's reading of 58.1.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias as domestic markets are trading at fresh record highs with fresh FII inflows. A weak tone in crude oil prices may also support the rupee. However, any recovery in the US Dollar may cap sharp upside," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, in the domestic equity markets, Sensex climbed 194.07 points to settle at a new all-time closing high of 82,559.84, while Nifty rose 42.80 points to hit its fresh record peak of 25,278.70. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, dipped marginally

by 0.06 per cent to 101.64. Brent crude, the international benchmark, fell 0.23 per cent to 76.75 in futures trade. On the domestic macroeconomic front, gross goods and services tax (GST) collections in August grew 10 per cent to about Rs 1.75 lakh crore on Sunday, reflecting higher domestic consumption. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Friday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 5,318.14 crore, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, the Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first four months of the current fiscal year touched 17.2 per cent of the full-year target, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). India's forex reserves jumped USD 7,023 billion to touch a new high of USD 681.688 billion in the week ended August 23, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released on Friday.



Maruti Suzuki cuts prices of selected models of Alto K10, S-Presso

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Monday said it has reduced prices of select variants of entry-level models Alto K10 and S-Presso with immediate effect. The price of S-Presso LXI

Petrol has been reduced by Rs 2,000 and the price of Alto K10 VXi Petrol has been reduced by Rs 6,500, the auto major said in a regulatory filing. The Alto K10 range is priced from Rs 3.99 lakh and Rs 5.96 lakh while the S-Presso trims

are tagged between Rs 4.26 lakh and Rs 6.11 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). In August, sales of the company's mini segment cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, declined to 10,648 units last month as against 12,209 units a year ago.

Indian manufacturers see softer increases in new business: PMI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's manufacturing sector growth moderated in August as output and sales rose at slowest rates since January, while competitive pressures and inflation concerns hampered business confidence, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 57.5 in August, below July's reading of 58.1 but above its long-run average of 54.0, signalling a substantial improvement in operating conditions. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. "The Indian manufacturing sector continued to expand in August, although the pace of expansion moderated slightly. New orders and output also mirrored the headline trend,



with some panellists citing fierce competition as a reason for slowdown," Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said. According to the survey, new business rose sharply through the second quarter of the fiscal year, but the pace of expansion eased to a seven-month low. New export orders, likewise, increased at the weakest pace

since the start of the 2024 calendar year. On the prices front, goods producers benefited from a moderation in cost pressures during August. "On a positive note, the rise in input costs slowed sharply. Manufacturers increased their raw material buying activity in order to build safety stocks. In line with input costs, the pace of output price inflation

also decelerated, but the deceleration was to a much smaller extent, thereby increasing margins for manufacturers," Bhandari added. The survey further noted that job creation softened midway through the second fiscal quarter as a few firms trimmed headcounts. Nevertheless, the overall rate of employment growth was

solid in the context of historical data. According to the survey, business confidence retreated and panellists were at their least optimistic level since April 2023. "Business outlook for the year ahead moderated slightly in August, driven by competitive pressures and inflation concerns," Bhandari said. Meanwhile, India's economic growth slowed to a 15-month low of 6.7 per cent in April-June 2024-25, mainly due to poor performance of the agriculture and services sectors, government data showed on Friday. The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 8.2 per cent in the June quarter of 2023-24. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

INBRIEF

VIT-AP UNIVERSITY, ARCT SIGN MOU
VJAYAWADA: The Vellore Institute of Technology-Andhra Pradesh University and Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies Private Limited sign a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU signifies the start of a 5-year collaboration aimed at advancing research and innovation, facilitating knowledge transfer, and developing the workforce.

GM OF NFR INTERACTION WITH TRAIN RUNNING STAFF
NEW DELHI: Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of N. F. Railway today interacted with various categories of field officials at New Jalpaiguri under Katihar Division who plays an important role in safe train operations. General Manager in his speech asked all railway officials to be alert and ensure safety at any cost.

Godrej Properties wins bid for two housing plots in Gurugram costing ₹515 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Godrej Properties has won bid for two residential plots in Gurugram costing Rs 515 crore and will develop luxury homes worth Rs 3,400 crore on these land parcels. In a regulatory filing on Monday, Godrej Properties informed that it has "emerged as the highest bidder and has secured the Letter of Intent to develop two group housing plots at premium locations in Gurugram through an e-auction conducted by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP)". The combined bid value for

both plots is Rs 515 crore, it added. The plot measuring 3.6 acres is located in the prestigious Golf Course Road micro-market whereas the plot measuring 1.97 acres is strategically located in Sector 39 with proximity to NH 48. "The land parcels together will offer a development potential of over 1 million square feet and an estimated revenue potential of over Rs 3,400 crore comprising luxury residential apartments of varied configurations," Godrej Properties said. In the last fiscal, Godrej Properties Ltd had bought two prime parcels of 5.15



acres and 2.76 acres in Golf Course Road micro-market from HSVP at auction and plans to launch both these projects during this fiscal. The company also won

Delhi-NCR portfolio having a total estimated revenue potential in excess of USD 1 billion. Gaurav Pandey, MD & CEO, Godrej Properties, said, "We have witnessed strong demand for our projects in NCR market demonstrating huge trust and confidence which the customers have placed in us. I am very confident that these two new acquisitions will further strengthen our development portfolio in NCR as well as cater to strong demand for our products in this market." Godrej Properties is one of the leading real estate developers in the country.

It became the largest player last fiscal in terms of sales bookings. The company sold properties worth Rs 2250 crore in 2023-24 and has set a target of Rs 2750 crore for the current fiscal. In the first quarter of this fiscal also, Godrej Properties has retained its number one position in sales bookings by selling properties worth Rs 8637 crore. Godrej Properties is focusing on Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad markets for group housing projects. It is also coming up with plotted developments in smaller cities.

Kathuniya bags second consecutive Paralympic silver in men's discus throw F-56 event

PTI ■ PARIS

India's Yogesh Kathuniya clinched his second consecutive Paralympic silver medal in men's discus throw F-56 event with a season's best effort 42.22m at the ongoing Games here on Monday.

The 27-year-old hurled the discus to the podium-clinching distance in his very first attempt to add to the silver he won in the Tokyo Paralympics three years ago. Brazil's Claudiney Batista dos Santos registered a hat-trick of Paralympic gold medals, creating a new Games record with an effort of 46.86m in his fifth attempt.

Greece's Konstantinos Tzounis won the bronze with 41.32m.

The F-56 classification covers limb deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power and impaired range of movement. At the age of 9, Kathuniya developed the Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare autoimmune condition which causes numbness, tingling and muscle weakness that can progress to paralysis. He was bound to the wheelchair during his childhood but overcame the



odds with the help of his mother Meena Devi, who learnt physiotherapy to help him regain muscle strength to walk again. His father has served in the Indian Army. Kathuniya is a commerce graduate from Delhi's prestigious Kirori Mal College.

Besides two Paralympic silver medals, he has three world championship medals, including two silver and a bronze.

On Monday, Kathuniya won't be satisfied with his performance given that he won the silver in Tokyo with a much better effort of 44.38m.

Kathuniya's toughest competitor, the 45-year-old Dos Santos broke the Paralympic record twice on Monday, first registering 46.45m in his second attempt and then hurling the discus to 46.86m in his penultimate throw.

Dos Santos is a three-time world championships gold-medallist, and has also held the Paralympic record of 45.59m in this category which he achieved in the last edition in Tokyo.

Slovakia's Dusan Laczko finished fourth and last with a best effort of 41.20m.



Shuttler Thulasimathi Murugesan makes Paralympics final with win over fellow Indian Manisha Ramadass

PTI ■ PARIS

Thulasimathi Murugesan outlasted compatriot Manisha Ramadass in an all-India affair to reach the women's singles SU5 badminton final at the Paralympics here.

Murugesan, the top-seed from Tamil Nadu, defeated Ramadass 23-21, 21-17 in the semifinal played on Sunday night.

"It is like a dream come true. There is happiness but I need to prepare for the final. I mentally prepared for this match. We have a healthy competition every time (Manisha). Strategy for final, we are playing after a long time, we will see. It has been a very hard journey for me," Murugesan said after the win.

The SU5 category is for

athletes with impairment on the upper limbs, which could be in the playing or the non playing hand.

Assured of at least a silver medal, the 22-year-old Murugesan will face a stiff test from China's Yang Qixia in the final on Monday.

Only six athletes are competing the women's singles SU5 category at the Paris Paralympics.

Having started at a tender age of seven, Murugesan has gone on to become an accomplished para athlete. She won three medals at the 2022 Para Asian Games including a gold in women's singles.

She was born with a congenital deformity in her left hand resulting in the loss of her thumb finger. A major accident further limited the mobility of her left hand.

Para-athletes Preethi, Nishad win silver and bronze; shuttlers Suhas, Manisha assure medals

PTI ■ PARIS/CHATEAURoux

Para-athletes Nishad Kumar and Preethi Pal fetched a silver and bronze for India respectively while shuttler Suhas Yathiraj positioned himself for glory by reaching the summit clash for a second consecutive time at the Paris Paralympics here on Sunday.

Another shuttler, Manisha Ramadass also assured India of a medal but star shooter Avani Lekhara missed out on repeating her medal-winning feat in her pet event.

India ended the Day 4 of competitions at 27th spot in the rankings with seven medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze).

Preethi created history as she became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics while Nishad Kumar clinched his second successive silver at the showpiece in the men's high jump T47 category.

The 23-year-old Preethi, a farmer's daughter from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, bagged a bronze in the 200m T35 category with a personal best time of 30.01 seconds. She also won a bronze in the 100m T35 category on Friday.

She faced significant physical challenges when she was born as

her lower body was plastered for six days after birth. Weak legs and an irregular leg posture made her prone to various diseases.

Preethi also became only the second Indian woman to win two medals -- both bronze -- in a single Paralympics after shooter Avani Lekhara who won a gold and a bronze in Tokyo three years ago.

T35 classification is meant for athletes who have coordination impairments such as hypertonia, ataxia and athetosis.

Later in the day, the 24-year-old Nishad, who hails from Una in Himachal Pradesh, won India's third medal from para-athletics and seventh overall for the country in Paris Paralympics with a season's best effort of 2.04m.

He lost his right hand in a grass-cutting machine when he was six-year-old.

Nishad, who had also won a silver in Tokyo Paralympics three years ago with a jump of 2.06m, had a tough fight with world record holder and defending champion Townsend Roderick of the USA, who clinched the gold after clearing 2.12m.

STRONG SHOW BY SHUTTLERS: Tokyo Games silver medalist Suhas is set to become the first Indian shuttler to win

back-to-back medals at the Paralympics after outplaying compatriot Sukant Kadam in straight games to reach the men's singles SL4 final.

The 41-year-old Suhas, a 2007 batch IAS officer, beat Sukant 21-17, 21-12 to make another final at the global showpiece.

Later, Nitesh Kumar also guaranteed a medal for himself in SL3 with a 21-16 21-12 victory over Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the semifinal.

Before Suhas sizzled, it was Manisha who set up an all-Indian women's singles SU5 semifinal with compatriot Thulasimathi Murugesan, assuring the country of at least a silver.

The 19-year-old Manisha, who was born with Erb's palsy which affected her right arm, had no trouble in dispatching Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21-13 21-16 in the quarterfinals.

The second seeded Indian left-hander needed 30 minutes to down her unseeded rival.

Erb's palsy is a nerve disorder in the shoulder and arm that results in weakness or loss of muscle function.

In the last four, Manisha will meet top seed Thulasimathi, who had defeated Portugal's Beatriz Monteiro in group A on Saturday.



In the SU5 category, the players have impairment of the upper limbs. The impairment could be on the playing or non-playing hand. However, Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli were eliminated in the quarterfinals.

NO SUCCESS IN SHOOT-

ING RANGE: After the high of four medals in two days, there was disappointment in store for India in the shooting range with Lekhara failing to qualify

for the final following a 11th-place finish in the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH1) qualification in which Sidhartha Babu ended 28th.

Ukrainian badminton player chasing first Paralympic medal with an unexpected guest in the stands



AP ■ PARIS

Oksana Kozyna's Paralympic debut was sure to have some unexpected moments, but the surprise she received might beat anything that could have happened on the court. The Ukrainian para badminton player was raised in an orphanage for disabled children in Dnipro, Ukraine, alongside teammate Oleksandr Chyrkov. Before her first singles match in the SL3 classification (standing with lower limb impairment), she met one of her former teachers from the orphanage - a reunion that brought back memories of learning the sport while also featuring all the emotions felt by Ukrainians as the war continues back home.

"I didn't recognize her at first and then, when I recognized her, I just couldn't believe it," Kozyna said of her teacher, Svitlana Shabalina, while meeting with reporters Sunday evening. "It's like a dream."

Shabalina had left the orphanage years earlier and recently emigrated to Sweden.

Kozyna fled Ukraine shortly after Russia attacked in 2022 and now lives with Chyrkov, two other Ukrainian athletes and their families in France, where she trained for the Paralympics. Kozyna has been a key player in Ukrainian para badminton since winning silver at the European Championships in 2017. The 29-year-old also won Ukraine's first world para badminton championship in 2022.

Shabalina didn't plan to see her former students. Chyrkov actually surprised Shabalina while training near where she lives in Sweden. The two had stayed in touch in the years after Chyrkov left the orphanage, and he invited Shabalina to watch him and Kozyna compete. Two weeks before the games began, Shabalina decided to go.

"Ever since we began the war, we've tried to figure out how to do it in a proper way," Chyrkov said.

"It really helped because a lot of Ukrainians came and supported."

Kozyna said the trio has spent

the last few days discussing how life has changed since they left the orphanage. Kozyna had not seen Shabalina since before the war began.

Kozyna had her first women's singles loss on Sunday, falling in straight sets to No. 1 seed Qonitah Ikhtiar Syakuroh of Indonesia. She will play Nigerian Mariam Bolaji for the bronze medal on Monday.

INDIAN BANK
BIMR Branch, Gwalior (M.P.)

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002, (SARFAESI ACT)

In respect of loans availed by below mentioned borrowers/Guarantors through Indian Bank, BIMR Branch which have become NPA with below mentioned balance outstanding on dates mentioned below. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated below under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered post with acknowledgement due to you. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of securities owned on one of you as per sec. 13 (4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned within 60 days. Details are hereunder :-

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of the Secured Assets	Amount Outstanding Demand Notice Date
1. Mr. Naveen Singh Gurjar S/o Mr. Gajraj Singh Gurjar (Borrower/Mortgagor) Address: Meera Nagar, Singhpur Road, Near Baradari Chorah, Gwalior-474006	Mortgaged Asset: All the part and parcel property bearing no 26/846, ward No 26, survey No 572/min 7, Patwari Halka No. 92 of village Morar, Near Adarsh Gausahala, MORAR Gwalior (MP) Admeasuring Total Area of 1200.00 sq ft in the name of Mr. Naveen Singh Gurjar S/o Mr. Gajraj Singh Gurjar. Boundaries: North: Property Of Other, South: Property Of Other, East: Comman Road/way, West: Plot of Rajak	as on 06.06.2024 ₹ 5,21,427.26/- +int. w.e.f. 06.06.2024 & other charges 11.06.2024 NPA Date 29.05.2024
2. Mr. Bharat Singh Gurjar S/o Mr. Gajraj Singh Gurjar (Co-Borrower) Address: Meera Nagar, Singhpur Road, Near Baradari Chorah, Gwalior-474006		
3. Mr. Akash Rana S/o Shri Jitendra Singh Rana (Guarantor) Address: H No 32, Tyagi Nagar, petrol Pump House, Morar, Gwalior		
1. Mr. Rajendra Prasad S/o Shri Jwala Prasad (Borrower/Mortgagor) Address: Municipal house No. 721, Ward no. 61, Part of Survey No. 1527, Madhuwan Vihar, Village-khureri. District Gwalior (M.P.) Pin 474006	Mortgaged Asset : Residential building part of Survey No. 1527 Min 1 of VIII Khureri, Municipal No. 61/721, Ward No. 61, patwari Halka No.113, Old No. 52, madhuwan Vihar Colony VIII- Khureri, Morar, Dist Gwalior (M.P.) Admeasuring total measure of 1000 Sq.Ft Owner of Property: Mr Rajendra Prasad S/o Shri Jwala Prasad, Boundaries: North-Property of Kaptan Singh, South Road, East: Property of Kaptan Singh, West: Property of Kaptan Singh	as on 29.05.2024 ₹ 17,81,284.96/- +int. w.e.f. 29.05.2024 & other charges 29.05.2024 NPA Date 29.04.2024
2. Mr. Ravi Jatav S/o Shri Nathu Ram (Guarantor) Address R/O Gram- Mugalpura, Post-Bijoli, Morar, Mohanpur Gwalior 474006		

You all are advised (1) To collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and / if returned by Postal Authorities from the undersigned for more and complete details (2) To pay the outstanding amount Interest and costs etc. within 60 days from the date of notice referred to above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI Act. & (3) To refrain from disposing of dealing with the securities without our prior written consent.

Place: Gwalior
Date : 03/09/2024
Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

मध्य प्रदेश लघु उद्योग निगम मर्यादित
कार्यालय संपदा एवं निर्माण सभाग
आई.आई.डी.सी.प्लाजा, 39 सिटी रोड, ग्वालियर (म.प्र.)
दूरभाष: 0751-2439024
क्रमांक: लउनि.निर्माण/सं.-ग्वा./2024-25/03 दिनांक: 02.09.2024

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निम्न कार्य की निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति (Online System) से वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। 1. कम्पोजिट उद्योग भवन ग्वालियर जिला ग्वालियर (म.प्र.) का निर्माण कार्य अनुमानित लागत ₹ 11,23,17,743/- निविदा की बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 17.09.2024 सायं 5.30 बजे निविदा की समस्त जानकारी उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो उसकी जानकारी मात्र उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर दी जावेगी, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा, बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा को स्वीकृत अथवा अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार निगम के पास सुरक्षित है।
म.प्र. माध्यम/16128/2024 महाप्रबंधक (सं./नि.)

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Vidisha Branch Vidisha

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas:
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 27.06.2024 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Chhaya Yadav w/o Ram Kumar Yadav (Borrower) Mrs. Kiran Yadav w/o Shiv Kumar Yadav (Borrower & Mortgagor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 7,71,120.71 (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy-One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Rupee & Seventy-One Paise Only), within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this, 30th day of August of the Year 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs.7,71,120.71 (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy-One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Rupee & Seventy-One Paise Only), and interest thereon.

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

Description of the Immovable Property
EMT of commercial shop at ward no.15, Bazariya, Vatrawati marg, Top Pura, Vidisha (M.P.). Total Area -154.75 Sqft Boundaries: East: House of Radhe Lal Yadav, West: House of Kamla Bai Yadav, North: Vatrawati marg, bazaria to Top Pura, South: House of Radhe Lal Yadav

DATE: 30/08/2024
PLACE: Vidisha
Authorised Officer CANARA BANK

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saidapet, Chennai - 600015
Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010

NOTICE OF SALE THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY
SALE OF IMMOVABLE (SECURED) ASSETS CHARGED TO HHFL UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (SARFAESI ACT).

Borrower (s) / Co-Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount Bid Increase Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserved Price (In Rs.) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Date of Inspection of Property EMD Last Date Date/ Time of Auction
Loan Account No. MP/BPL/ASTH/A000000001 1. Mr. Inder Parmar (Borrower) 2. Mrs. Prem Bai (Co Borrower)	27.09.2023 Rs.15,93,152 (RupeesFifteen Lacs Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two) Rs. 10,000/-	Residential House which is Construct upon diverted land part of Kh. No. 151/2 Total Plot area 30 x 20 = 600 sq. ft (55.76 Sq. Mtr.) Situated at ward no. 16 PH.No. 27/49 Sunder Nagar Tehsil, Ashta District, Sehore (M.P.). Bounded as per sale agreement under-East: 18 ft. Wide Road, West: House of Mukesh Mewada & Rajesh Bairagi, South : Open land of Dilip Jain, North : Plot of Hemraj Mewada & Mahesh Mewada	31/01/2024	Rs 12,20,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs Twenty Thousand Only) Rs. 1,22,000/- (Rupees One Lac Twenty Two Thousand Only)	12.09.2024 between 11 AM to 5 PM 14.09.2024 between 10 AM to 4PM. 17.09.2024 between 11 AM to 1PM.

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of HHFL has taken over possession of the schedule property us/ of the SARFAESI Act. Public at large is informed that the secured property as mentioned in the Schedule are available for sale through Private Treaty, as per the terms agreeable to HHFL for realisation of its dues on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". Standard terms & conditions for sale of property through Private Treaty are as under: 1. Sale through Private Treaty will be on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". 2. The purchaser has to pay 10% of Bid amount prior to 14/09/2024 for participating in Private treaty 3. The purchaser will be required to deposit 25% of the sale consideration on the next working day of receipt of HHFL's acceptance of offer for purchase of property and the remaining amount within 15 days thereafter. 4. The Purchaser amount paid in EMD i.e. 10% will be adjusted in total payment of 25% of the deposit to be made as per clause (2) above. 5. Failure to remit the amount as required under clause (2) above will cause forfeiture of amount already paid including 10% of the amount paid along with application. 6. In case of non-acceptance of offer of purchase by the HHFL, the amount of 10% paid along with the application will be refunded without any interest. 7. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to HHFL. The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims / rights / dues. 8. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property (under sale through private treaty) to his satisfaction. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor in this regard at a later date. 9. HHFL reserves the right to reject any offer of purchase without assigning any reason. 10. In case of more than one offer, HHFL will accept the highest offer. 11. The interested parties may contact the Authorized Officer for further details / clarifications and for submitting their application. 12. The purchaser has to bear all stamp duty, registration fee, and other expenses, taxes, duties in respect of purchase of the property. 13. Sale shall be in accordance with the provisions of SARFAESI Act / Rules. 14. AND WHEREAS the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor - Hinduja Housing Finance Limited has decided to dispose off the said secured asset. This notice of sale is published today that the secured asset detailed above will be sold on 17/09/2024 at Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, Branch Office : Hinduja Housing Finance Limited- Plot No.240, GRP Colony, Near Hotel Alankar Palace, M.P Nagar zone II, Bhopal - 462011
Place-Bhopal Date-03.09.2024
Authorised Officer

Saina Nehwal reveals struggles with arthritis, to decide on retirement by end of year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As Indian shuttler and former Olympic bronze-medallist Saina Nehwal has revealed that she is battling arthritis and will have to decide on her future in badminton by the end of this year as the ailment has made it impossible for her to train the usual hours. The 34-year-old former world No.1, who was the first Indian shuttler to win an Olympic medal with her bronze in London 2012, participated in three editions of the Games before being hampered by injuries.

The 2010 and 2018 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist said she can no longer overlook the fact that her career is in its final leg. "The knee is not very good. I have arthritis. My cartilage has gone to a bad state. It is very difficult to push for eight-nine hours," Nehwal said on the House of Glory podcast hosted by shooting great Gagan Narang, who was India's chef-de-mission in the recent Paris Olympics.

"How will you challenge the best players in the world in such a state? I think I will have to accept it somewhere. Because two hours of training is not good enough to play with the highest level of players and get the desired results," she added.

Nehwal said she is still considering the impact retirement will have on her but admitted that she would eventually have to take a call. The trailblazing star, who is also a BJP member now, was last seen in action more than a year ago in the Singapore Open where she lost in the opening round.

"I am also thinking about it (retirement). It will be sad



because it is like a job that a normal person does. Obviously, a sports person's career is always a short one. I started at the age of 9. I will be 35 next year," she said. "I have also had a long career and I am very proud of that. I have broken my body to a great extent. I am happy with what I have done and given it all. (I) will assess how I feel by the end of this year," she added. The Padma Shri awardee said competing at the Olympics was

her childhood dream and missing the showpiece for two consecutive editions has been hurtful. "Competing at the Olympics is a childhood dream for all. You prepare to reach that level for years. Hence, at times, when you realise you will not be able to make it, it hurts a lot," she expressed. "Because it is not like you do not want to play, but your body is telling that you are not doing well and you have injuries."

Nehwal, however, said she would look back at her run in the Games with pride. "But I have done a lot of hard work. I competed in three Olympics. I gave my 100 per cent in all of them. I can take pride in that and be happy about it," she said. Nehwal also spoke about the pressure of expectations and said as a top athlete, she has faced it not just from observers of the game but also from near and dear ones.

"When you become a big player, your friends, family, coaches, sponsors, everyone wants you to perform. There are a lot of stakeholders involved," she said. "With already a short career span, athletes cannot afford to take a four-year break and have to keep performing continuously. If you wish to become an international champion, you have to be strong to make tough decisions," she added.

Nagal pulls out of Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to back injury

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal on Monday pulled out of the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden due to a back injury.

Nagal recently lost his first round singles contest to Tallon Griekspoor at the US Open. The indoor hard-court contest in Stockholm will be played on September 14-15. Reserve player Aryan Shah has been drafted into the main team after Nagal's withdrawal while Manas Dhame has been put on standby.

"I was really looking forward to representing in the upcoming Davis Cup tie against Sweden," Nagal wrote on social media.

"However, due to a back issue that's been bothering me for the past few weeks, doctors have advised me to rest for the next two weeks, leaving me without enough time to



prepare and compete in Sweden. This same issue also led to my withdrawal from the US Open doubles. "I'm deeply disappointed to be missing this tie, but I have to listen to my body to prevent the back from worsening, so that I can finish the season strong and healthy. Good luck to the Indian team - I'll be cheering for you all from

home!" he added. Nagal reached a career-high ranking of 68 in July but has dropped to 82 in the latest rankings. India's highest-ranked singles player not being part of the Davis Cup tie is a big blow to the team. Former national champion Ashutosh Singh has been named as new coach of the national team.

Bopanna-Ebden ousted from US Open

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's challenge in the men's doubles event of the US Open ended with the defeat of Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden in the third round, here.

The second seeded Bopanna-Ebden pair lost 1-6 5-7 to the 16th seed Argentine combo of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni in 66 minutes on Sunday night.

Bopanna and Ebden had won the Australian Open early this year.

The 44-year-old Bopanna has already announced retirement from Davis Cup and it will be interesting to see if he will return to defend his Australian Open crown in January 2025.

Sumit Nagal had exited the men's singles with an opening round defeat while Yuki Bhambhani and N Sriram Balaji earlier lost in men's doubles at different stages of the tournament.



Bopanna's challenge is still alive in the mixed doubles event with Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi and interestingly, he and Ebden will now be up against each other. Ebden and Czech Republic's Barbora Krejčíková are seeded fourth in the mixed doubles.

Juventus remains unbeaten following a 0-0 draw with visiting Roma in Serie A

AP ■ ROME

For Thiago Motta Juventus, it was a well-earned point that kept the Bianconeri unbeaten.

For Daniele De Rossi Roma, it was a step in the right direction after a difficult start to the season.

Juventus was held to a 0-0 draw at home by Roma in Serie A on Sunday with each side producing only one shot on goal.

Roma dominated the possession early on before Juventus grew more dangerous through Dusan Vlahovic.

De Rossi kept former Juventus forward Paulo Dybala on the bench at the start then sent the Argentina international, who recently turned down an offer from Saudi Arabia, on midway through the second half.

But Dybala produced little with both sides slowing down by then on a warm evening in Turin.

Juventus moved level on seven points with defending champion Inter Milan, Torino and Udinese in Motta's first season since coming over from Bologna.

Winless Roma, which was coming off a dispiriting defeat at home to Empoli, has two points in De Rossi's second campaign after replacing Jose Mourinho in January.

Having grown more offensive under De Rossi last season, Roma has produced only one goal in three matches this season.



Udinese beat promoted Como 1-0 with a first-half volley from Brenner. Como forward Patrick Cutrone missed a late penalty.

MALDINI FROM DISTANCE: Robin Gosens scored a late equalizer on debut for Fiorentina, which came back from two goals down for a 2-2 draw with

Alessandro Nesta's Monza. Gosens, who was signed on loan from Union Berlin on deadline day, redirected in a corner with a looping header in stoppage time.

Monza went ahead with early goals from Milan Djuric and Daniel Maldini before Moise Kean pulled one back for Fiorentina before the break.

It was a third consecutive draw in Serie A for Fiorentina under new manager Raffaele Palladino, who previously coached Monza.

Fiorentina was coming off a penalty-shootout win over Puskas Akademia in the Conference League. Fiorentina also drew the first leg with Puskas, and the second leg was locked at 1-1 before the shootout.

Maldini's long-distance effort was his third goal from outside the box in 2024, tied for the joint lead in Serie A over that span with Dusan Vlahovic, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Alexis Saelemaekers and Michael Folornsho.

Hellas Verona beat Genoa 2-0 with goals from Jackson Tchatchoua and Casper Tengstedt for its second win in three matches after defeating Napoli 3-0 in its opener.

Kylian Mbappé ends scoring drought in Spanish league and scores 2 in Real Madrids win over Betis

AP ■ MADRID

With two goals in less than 10 minutes, Kylian Mbappé ended his scoring drought in the Spanish league, leading Real Madrid to a 2-0 win over Real Betis.

Madrid's biggest signing in years, Mbappé had scored once in the teams win over Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup final last month, but he had yet to find the net in his previous three Spanish league matches.

"I was looking forward to scoring in this legendary stadium, the best in the world," Mbappé said. "But the most important thing was the victory."

He opened the scoring at the Santiago Bernabeu with a low left-footed shot from inside the area after a neat backheel pass by Federico Valverde in the 67th minute.

Mbappe then added to the lead by converting a 75th-minute penalty kick after a foul on Vinicius Junior.

Madrid had drawn two of its first three games, with its lone victory coming against

Valladolid two rounds ago, also at the Bernabeu. This win moved the defending champion four points behind leader Barcelona, the only team to win all four matches to start the season.

"After the game against Las Palmas we knew that we had to win and we did it," Mbappé said. "It was a tough match, but we are Real Madrid and in the end we won it."

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said there was never any pressure on Mbappé to end his drought in the league.

"For him it was important to score, but we evaluate the work of the team as a whole, which was better than in the previous match. It was a step forward."

The result kept Betis winless after three matches. Manuel Pellegrini's team had drawn its first two games.

Vitor Roque, a young Brazilian forward, was a second-half substitute for the Seville club where he is playing on loan from Madrid rival Barcelona.

Madrid has not conceded in its last five league games at



Bernabeu, going back to last season, a first for the club in the competition since 1996.

Madrid is unbeaten in 26 home games in the league, with 22 wins and four draws, the best run under Ancelotti.

The five points from three matches until now had meant Madrid's worst start in the league since 2019-20, when it won the competition.

SEVILLA CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE: Sevilla lost 2-0 at home to Girona to remain winless after four matches.

Ivan Martin and Abel Ruiz scored a goal in each half for Girona, which has now won two in a row. It will play the Catalan derby against Barcelona in the next round.

Sevilla had drawn two of its first three matches, both on the road, with a loss to Villarreal at home.

OTHER RESULTS: Getafe, another team without a victory, drew 0-0 with Real Sociedad at home, while Las Palmas - also winless - lost 2-0 at Alaves. Osasuna won 3-2 against Celta Vigo, which had opened with two straight wins but now has lost two in a row.

Coco Gauff loses at the US Open to Emma Navarro

AP ■ NEW YORK

This is pretty much all anyone needs to know about defending champion Coco Gauff's 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 loss to Emma Navarro in the U.S. Opens fourth round: Gauff wound up with more double-faults, 19, than winners, 14.

It was the latest in a series of early-for-her exits in recent weeks, including bowing out in the third round at the Paris Olympics, then going 1-2 at hard-court tuneup events before arriving in New York.

"I feel like there's 70 other players in the draw that would love to have the summer that I had, even though it's (the) least, probably, (I've) done well during this time of the year," said the No. 3-seeded Gauff, who went 18-1 during the North American swing on hard courts 12 months ago, including the run to her first Grand Slam title. "So many people want to be in the fourth round. So many people want to make the Olympics. So many people want to be flag bearer. It's perspective."

The 20-year-old from Florida did fight her way back into the match with a four-game run in which she

claimed 14 of 17 points and grabbed the second set. "Had a little bit of a lull there," said the 13th-seeded Navarro, an American who was 0-2 at the U.S. Open until this year, "but I was able to regroup."

After each of her past two contests in New York, Gauff headed back out onto the practice courts to work on her serve. That didn't help much on Sunday, when she tied her career high for double-faults: She also had 19 in a loss at the 2020 French Open. Against Navarro, Gauff delivered a trio of double-faults in four different games. Eleven of the double-faults came in the final set alone.

Gauff attributed her problems to a mix of issues with her mechanics - "I go down on my left side a lot on my serve, and it's something I'm aware of, but it's tough in the moment to, I guess, try not to do it," she explained - and in her mind.

"It's sometimes more of an emotional, mental thing, because if I go out on the practice court right now, I would make, like, 30 serves in a row. I've done it before," Gauff said. "I think it's also just kind of a mental hurdle that I have to get over

Ending her title defense with 19 double faults



when it comes. ... But I definitely want to look at other things, because I don't want to lose matches like this anymore."

She finished with a total of 60 unforced errors - a whopping 29 on her forehand side.

The 23-year-old Navarro, who also eliminated Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon in July, was far steadier on Sunday, although she still did have 35 unforced errors. "It was a little bit of a battle of will there for a bit. But proud of just my effort today," said Navarro, a U.S. Teammate of Gauff's at the Paris Games. "I was able to stick in there through some tough moments."

This result follows a third-round loss by defending mens champion Novak Djokovic on Friday, meaning the lengthy droughts without anyone winning consecutive titles in New York will continue. The last woman to win at least two in a row was Serena Williams with three from 2012-14; the last man to do so was Roger Federer with five from 2004-08.

At the French Open, the player who

stunned Djokovic, with a 6-4, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3 victory on Sunday night. The No. 20 seed advanced to his third straight U.S. Open quarterfinal and will play No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov, who held off

Andrey Rublev 6-3, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 3-6, 6-3 with 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams watching and offering a thumbs-up at matches end.

Also moving on Sunday was No. 12 Taylor Fritz, who beat three-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. Fritz's quarterfinal opponent will be 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev, who got past Brandon Nakashima 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

"I'm at the point now where I'm still happy to make quarterfinals, but I wouldn't be happy with it ending here," said Fritz, who has yet to reach a Grand Slam semifinal. "I definitely am at the point where I really want more than that."

The Wimbledon win over Gauff earned Navarro, the 2021 NCAA singles champion for the University of Virginia, her first appearance in a major quarterfinal. Her second will come Tuesday in New York against

No. 26 Paula Badosa, a 6-1, 6-2 winner against Wang Yafan. The other women's match that day will be between No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka - she was last year's runner-up to Gauff and beat Elise Mertens 6-2, 6-4 on Sunday - and either No. 7 Zheng Qinwen or No. 24 Donna Vekic.

The quarterfinals will give Navarro another chance to play at Arthur Ashe Stadium in front of a big crowd. She'd never hit a ball in the place until Sunday - and felt rather at ease, anyway.

"I've been out on big courts before, where I just felt totally overwhelmed and almost like it's an out-of-body experience. But I didn't feel like that today," Navarro said. "I felt comfortable from the time I stepped out onto the court, which I was a little bit surprised about. I know I had prepared myself for the worst, just in terms of feeling overwhelmed and nervous."

Sure didn't perform that way. Gauff was the one who was unable to bring her best.

"I expect better, but at the end of the day it happened," Gauff said, and I know I can turn it around.