

OPINION 6

RESIGNATION SHAKES TRINAMOL CONGRESS

WORLD 8

NORTH KOREA HAS FIRED BALLISTIC MISSILE TOWARD SEA: SOUTH

MONEY 10

RETAIL INFLATION RISES TO 3.65 PER CENT, REMAINS WITHIN RBI TARGET

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INDIA'S IMPRESSIVE 3-1 WIN OVER KOREA IN ACT HOCKEY 12 SPORTS



Delhi deluged as incessant rains bring Delhi-NCR to a grinding halt

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Incessant rain on Thursday brought the national Capital and adjoining areas including Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram to a screeching halt with severe water logging, potholes and breakdown of buses witnessed in several parts of the city amid the India Meteorological Department issuing an orange alert for the city. An orange alert denotes heavy rainfall and also potential disruptions to rail, road and air transport. This is the second consecutive day when the commuters and daily office goers were stuck in traffic jams and waterlogging in the Capital city. Besides torrential downpours since late night, the breakdown of buses on

major roads led to traffic jams during the morning and evening peak hours.

The ongoing metro construction works have also worsened the situation including disruptions in the Khanpur area. Traffic around Lutyens' Delhi was affected due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in Pragati Maidan.

Some of the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) had to issue caution to the locals to be alert while moving out from the colonies. With the traffic situation becoming a regular menace, the Sainik Farms Welfare Association in south Delhi took to its social media groups to issue alerts and updates particularly the disruption due to metro work and rains in the area that has



Khanpur metro work led to traffic jam from Panchsheel to the Sheikh Sarai road amid monsoons in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

disrupted the resident's daily lives. According to the MET department, in the past 24 hours till 8 am on Thursday,

city's primary weather station Safdarjung received 16 mm of rainfall, Ayanagar 15.7 mm of rainfall, Delhi University five mm of rainfall, Lodi road

16 mm of rainfall, Narela 1.5 mm of rainfall, Palam nine mm of rainfall, Ridge 11 mm of rainfall, Pitampura 13 mm of rainfall and Mayur Vihar's

Salwan Public School 13 mm of rainfall. Parts of Delhi-NCR, including India Gate, Janpath Road, R K Puram,

Kalindikunj, Gazipur, Indrapuram, Laxmi Nagar, Dwarka, Connaught Place, Noida, Safdarjung, Uttam Nagar, East of Kailash and Rohini witnessed light to moderate showers. Moti Nagar flyover, which was inaugurated in March this year by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, was waterlogged along with the potholes in several places. Public Works Department (PWD) pumps were also not working, irking commuters who were caught in major jams. Munda, Dhaura Kuan, Moti Bagh, Mehrauli-Badarpur road, Lajpat Nagar, Karol Bagh, Punjabi Bagh, Khanpur, ITO, Jahangirpuri, Safdarjung, Kashmere Gate ISBT and Okhla Estate among other areas were flooded after the showers causing slow traffic movement with

vehicles wading through knee deep water. Taking to social media platforms, Delhi police said that traffic was affected on Old Pankha Road in the carriageway from T point Uttam Nagar East Metro Station towards Pankha Road due to a large pothole on the Road. "Traffic is affected on GTK Road on both the carriageway from Mukarba Chowk towards Azadpur chowk and vice versa due to water logging near GTK Depot," Delhi Traffic Police wrote in a post on X. In another post, they said that traffic is affected on MB Road in the carriageway from Khanpur T Point towards Mehrauli and vice versa due to potholes and waterlogging. Similarly, potholes and waterlogging caused traffic jams on Rohtak Road.

SC verdict on Kejriwal bail plea today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will deliver its verdict today on the plea filed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking bail and quashing of arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Delhi Excise Policy case. As per the cause list of September 13 uploaded on the apex court website, a bench headed by Justice Surya Kant is slated to pronounce the verdict. The bench, also comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, had on September 5 reserved its verdict on the pleas. Kejriwal has filed two separate petitions challenging the denial of bail and against his arrest by the CBI in the corruption case filed by the central agency. Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on June 26. Manish Sisodia, K Kavitha, Vijay Nair and several other accused in the excise policy scam case have been given bail by the courts.



AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said they are "hopeful" and are waiting for the Supreme Court's decision on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail. "We are very hopeful. We are waiting for tomorrow," Chadha told reporters. AAP convener has challenged in the apex court the Delhi High Court's August 5 order which upheld his arrest in the corruption case. Kejriwal contended that his arrest was a strategic move. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi argued that the arrest, which followed Kejriwal's bail in a related money laundering case, was unexpected after nearly two years without action from the CBI. The high court had noted that the loop of evidence against Kejriwal was closed after the collection of relevant evidence following his arrest by the CBI and it cannot be said that it was without any justifiable reason or illegal. The high court had also granted him the liberty to approach a trial court with his plea seeking bail in the case. The matter relates to alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which has now been scrapped.

PM at CJI's residence; BJP plays defensive



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends 'Ganapati Poojan' at the residence of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the residence of Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Wednesday to attend 'Ganapati Puja' celebration has sparked a controversy with senior Supreme Court judges and some opposition leaders expressing concern over the event, the BJP and its ally hit out at the opposition parties on Thursday, calling their reactions "reckless" and said casting "baseless aspersions" on the highest court sets a dangerous precedent. The BJP reminded the Congress of the time when in 2009, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh invited then CJI, KG Balakrishnan, to attend an Iftaar party.

The video of Narendra Modi attending the Puja celebration alongside the CJI and his wife Kalpana Das has gone viral. In a video, Chandrachud and his wife Kalpana Das were seen welcoming Modi at their house. In a post on X, PM Modi shared his experience stating, "May Bhagwan Shri Ganesh bless us all with happiness, prosperity, and wonderful health". Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Lok Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra hit back at the opposition and asked if the then Chief Justice of India (CJI) did not attend the Iftaar party hosted by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "They do not have any objection to the prime minister meeting the chief justice of India but Ganpati Puja," he said and accused the Opposition leaders of indulging in politics. "I am surprised that if the prime minister meets the chief justice of India, you raise an objection. But when he (Rahul Gandhi) meets (US lawmaker) Iltihan Omar, who is with Pok, in America, you have no objection," Patra added. Sharing pictures of Singh in a candid laugh with Balakrishnan, BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla, in an X post, wrote, "Judiciary is safe". "PM Modi attends Ganesh Puja at current CJI House - oh God Judiciary compromised," Poonawalla mocked the Congress in his post. "Ganpati Utsav is being celebrated and people visit each other's house... I don't have information whether the

Prime Minister has visited anyone's house," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said.

Ganpati Utsav is being celebrated at several locations in Delhi and Maharashtra Sadan, he said. "However, the Prime Minister visited the CJI's residence. They performed 'aarti' together. We think that people will have doubts if guardians of the Constitution meet political leaders," Raut added.

In a post on X, senior lawyer Indira Jaising said the Chief Justice of India has compromised the separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary. "Lost all confidence in the independence of the CJI. The SCBA (Supreme Court Bar Association) must condemn this publicly displayed compromise of Independence of the CJI from the executive," she said in her post. Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora also flayed the critics and said it's unfortunate to see "reckless commentary" on Prime Minister Modi's visit to the CJI's residence for Ganapati Aarti. "When verdicts favour them, the opposition praises the Supreme Court's credibility, but when things don't go their way, they conveniently claim the judiciary is compromised," he charged in a post on X.

Casting such baseless aspersions on the highest court sets a dangerous precedent, he added. "This reckless attempt to undermine the credibility of the CJI by the opposition is not only irresponsible but also damaging to the institution's integrity. India's politics is taking an ugly turn," Deora said.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visits the replica of the East Gate of the Sanchi Stupa outside the Humboldt Forum, in Berlin PTI

Militarisation of frontier a big issue with China, says EAM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With tension persisting at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh for the last four years, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said roughly 75 per cent of the "disengagement problems" with China are sorted out but the bigger issue has been the increasing militarisation of the frontier. His remarks came in the backdrop of China trying to alter the LAC in May 2020 in Ladakh leading to a violent clash between the two armies in Galwan valley on June 15. Twenty Indian army personnel including the commanding officer were killed in the fight and more than 40 Chinese soldiers also died. Elaborating upon the current situation regarding the lingering border row, Jaishankar also said the Galwan Valley clashes affected the "entirety" of India-China ties, asserting that one cannot have violence at the border and then say the rest of the relationship is insulated from it. He made these assertions during an interactive session at a think-tank in Geneva. The external affairs minister said negotiations between the two sides to find a

solution to the problem are underway. "Now those negotiations are going on. We made some progress. I would say roughly you can say about 75 per cent of the disengagement problems are sorted out," he said at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. "We still have some things to do," Jaishankar said, responding to a question. But there is a bigger issue that both of us have brought forces close up and in that sense, there is a militarisation of the border, he said. The external affairs minister indicated that the relationship can improve if there is a resolution to the row. "We hope that if there is a solution to the disengagement and there is a return to peace and tranquility, then we can look at other possibilities," Jaishankar said. The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a standoff in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides have completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks. India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

Indian-origin Israeli soldier killed near West Bank

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

A 24-year-old Indian-origin Israeli soldier from the Bnei Menashe community was killed in a vehicle-ramming attack close to the West Bank's Beit El settlement, community members said on Thursday. Staff Sergeant Geri Gideon Hanghal was a resident of Nof HaGalil and a soldier in the Kfir Brigade's Nahshon Battalion, the Israeli Army said.



Community members told PTI that they were "in shock at the news of the loss of a young life" on Wednesday near Asaf Junction. Footage from the scene of the attack showed a truck with a Palestinian licence plate veering off a busy highway and barrel full speed into an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) guard post adjacent to a bus stop before coming to a halt. The suspect was named by Israeli security sources as 58-year-old Hayil Dhaifallah, from the central West Bank town of Rafat. Sergeant Hanghal's funeral will be held on Thursday, they said. Hanghal immigrated to Israel from the northeastern part of India in 2020. Some 300 Bnei Menashe youngsters are said to be doing Army duty during the current war, most of them serving in combat units. The Bnei Menashe, hailing from India's north-eastern states of Manipur and Mizoram, are believed to have descended from the Israelite tribe of Menasseh, one of the "lost tribes" of ancient times.

Veteran CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury breathes his last at AIIMS

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The CPI (M) finds itself orphaned by the unexpected demise of 72-year-old Sitaram Yechury, the general secretary of the party. It is not going to be an easy task for the comrades to find a suitable replacement for Yechury, considered to be suave and quite accommodative in the Left parties. Even his rivals held him in esteem for his soft manners, easy accessibility and approachability. The first time he was seen in an embarrassing situation was during the Press meeting convened by the CPI(M) immediately after the 2016 Assembly Election in Kerala. Yechury, with an anguished look, announced that Pinarayi Vijayan would be the Chief Minister of the State. Though it was widely

believed that V S Achuthanandan would be appointed as chief minister, the bigwigs in the party including the proprietor of a publishing house in Chennai had other ideas and they ensured the coronation of Vijayan. Yechury, who was highly critical of Vijayan's crony capitalist friends, wanted the mantle to be given to VS while others chose Vijayan. As a disciplined comrade, Yechury had no other option and he never forgot his crestfallen face during the presser. Though highly critical of the NDA Government at the Center, Yechury was open in private conversations about the good things done by the Vajpayee government (1998-2004). When India conducted a nuclear explosion at Pokhran in May 1998 there was an uproar in the USA,



12 August 1952
12 September 2024

Pakistan and China. The US even blacklisted India from dual technology deals and Indian scientists were denied permission to attend any international conferences on science and technology. Yechury, who was then a politburo member visited Chennai to address a Press meeting. "Pakistan assembled and exploded a nuclear bomb in such a short time only because of India. There was no need for India to conduct an

experiment at this juncture," said Yechury. He was adamant in his stance that India was responsible for Pakistan going nuclear soon after India did it. After the Press meeting, this writer got the opportunity for a tete-a-tete with Yechury when he was asked how a country (Pakistan) could assemble a nuclear bomb within 10 days. A smiling Yechury quipped: "Yaar, these are all to score some brownie points. You just report what I told in the press meet." During his younger days, Yechury was the superstar of the CPI(M). He was at ease while dealing with political leaders including rivals which had earned him the reputation that "Sitaram is always at a different level". Even RSS leaders, the only pronounced enemies of the

CPI(M) held Sitaram Yechury in high regard. Yechury, hailing from Telangana remained a popular politician in Tamil Nadu. Yechury's major achievement is the research paper "Oil Pool Deficit or Cesspool of Deceit" published in 1997 in which he questioned the propriety of the government hiking petroleum prices regularly citing the oil pool deficit account. With his demise, what the CPI(M) has lost is the best bridge between the party and the intellectuals as well as the common man. Yechury surpassed all his predecessors in his dealings with the public through his man next door image. He was tasked with selling an outdated ideology to the new generation which was impossible in this era. (Related story on Page 4)

Top priority must be given to saving people's lives: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that there is a possibility of rain in the state till September 30. Officers and employees have been instructed not to go on leave given the situation of excessive rainfall and floods. To ensure that life remains normal despite heavy rainfall, necessary precautions should be taken in time and rescue work should be done. The safety of people's lives must be prioritized, the concerned officer will be held responsible for any loss of life. Relief camps should be set up to provide safety and facilities to the people affected by excessive rainfall and floods. Cooperation of social organizations should also be taken. Assessment of crop damage

and animal loss caused by floods should also be started as soon as possible. There should be no delay in the distribution of relief funds to the victims of floods and excessive rains. Adequate budget is available for relief. The provision of clean drinking water, medicines, etc. should be ensured in relief camps. Yadav gave the above instructions in the emergency meeting held at Samatva Bhawan for prevention and control of the situation created due to excessive rainfall in the state. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav reviewed the situation in the districts through video conferencing. All Divisional Commissioners, IGS, Commissioners of Police, District Collectors, and SPs were present in VC. The Chief Minister has said

that due to the changing rainfall cycle, the rainfall in September is more than what it should be. People living in lower settlements should be alerted timely and shifted to relief camps as per need. He said necessary precautions and vigilance should be immediately increased on bridges and culverts. Yadav said that relief should be provided in case of loss of life and loss of animals due to excessive rainfall. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav instructed all Collectors to immediately provide assistance of Rs 4 lakh each in case of loss of life to the family members. Yadav said that wherever people are trapped in flood, immediate arrangements should be made to airlift them by helicopter. Old dilapidated buildings should be identified and protective arrangements should

be made. If necessary, residents should be shifted to a safer place. In the meeting held at Samatva Bhawan, Chief Secretary Smt. Veera Rana, Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Rajoura, Director General of Police Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Principal Secretary, Water Resources, Home, Panchayat and Rural Development, Public Works Department, Urban Development and Housing, Revenue, Public Health Medical Education were present. Yadav sought information related to excessive rainfall and floods from the collectors of Guna, Datia, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Rajgarh, and Tikamgarh districts through video conferencing. It was informed in video conferencing that 18 people are trapped

in the Pohuch river near Bhandar in Datia district, there is information about people trapped in water in Dabra also. One person is reported dead and three injured due to tree-fall in Morena. It was told in the meeting that helicopters are being dispatched from Jhansi, Bareilly, and Gorakhpur to rescue the people trapped in the flood. The NDRF team has been called for rescue and relief work in Tikamgarh. The SDRF team is active in the Gwalior Chambal area with boats and other rescue materials. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that because of the possibility of rain in the coming days in the state, proper arrangements should be made for awareness of floods. He instructed for adequate storage of essential commodities.



Students take a selfie after receiving their degrees during the Graduation Ceremony -2018 batch at Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

60-member NDRF team flies to Gwalior from Hyderabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is continuously monitoring the situation of waterlogging that has arisen due to recent heavy rains in Gwalior district. Instructions have been issued to the district administration to provide immediate relief to the people affected by water logging. In compliance with the instructions given by the Chief Minister, relief and rescue operations are being carried out on a war footing by the district administration. With guidance and coordination of senior officials of the state government including District In-charge Minister Tulsiram Silawat, Chief Secretary Veera Rana and Additional Chief Secretary Home SN Mishra, relief and rescue operations are being

carried out rapidly in the district. Also an NDRF team including a helicopter is reaching Gwalior from Hyderabad. People trapped due to waterlogging in Senkara village and Dabra town of Dabra tehsil of Gwalior district will be airlifted safely. For this, a 60-member NDRF team has left for Gwalior in a special Air Force aircraft from Hyderabad. This team will be divided into two teams from Gwalior airport and will help to airlift people to a safer place by helicopter. Three helicopters have also been dispatched for relief and rescue operations in Senkara village. Collector Smt. Ruchika Chauhan had contacted Hyderabad late Wednesday night at around 3:30 am to send an NDRF team after receiving information about people trapped on the island formed due to water filling all

around Senkara village. Collector Smt. Chauhan said that district administration teams are present in Senkara and Dabra and those trapped due to water logging are safe. They will be rescued as soon as the Hyderabad team reaches the spot. She said that if needed, people from other places in the district would also be rescued with the help of this team. The Collector said that the teams of District Administration, Police, Urban Bodies and District Panchayat were present in the field last night and carried out relief and rescue operations. She said that these teams with the help of SDRF, have safely evacuated about 325 people from various places in the rural areas of the district and taken them to relief camps. Adequate quantities of food items and medicines are available in all relief camps.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The continuous and heavy rainfall in the state has disrupted the normal life, people were trapped after they areas were flooded with heavy water and required district administration and SDRF rescue operations for relief. The incessant rainfall in several places resulted in swollen rivers and full level of dams. On Thursday, it rained in more than 16 districts including Bhopal. Holiday has been declared in schools from nursery to 8th class in Gwalior on 13 and 14 September. The highest rainfall of 1.25 inches was recorded in Damoh in the state. At the same time, more than half an inch of rainfall was recorded in Malajkhand, Shivpuri and Gwalior of Balaghat. Bhopal, Betul, Guna, Pachmarhi,

Khajuraho, Mandla, Sagar, Satna, Tikamgarh, Shajapur, Agar-Malwa, Dewas also received light rain. Around 25 feet high boundary wall of Dumna Airport in Jabalpur collapsed due to rain. This has created a danger of animals entering the runway. The Airport Authority said that the work of building the wall has been started. Two people trapped in the Dhasan river in Tikamgarh were rescued safely after 24 hours. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav spoke to them on video call from Ujjain. In Narmadapuram, the Narmada river is flowing 7 feet below the danger mark. Water is being released from 12 gates of Indira Sagar Dam, 11 gates of Omkareshwar Dam and 4 gates of Madikheda Dam. In Bhopal, 3 gates of Kerwa, 2 of Kaliyasot and 1 gate of Bhabhada are open.

The wall of a kutch house collapsed due to heavy rain in Lahar. Ganeshran Tiwari (38) died while 10-year-old Bhoomi Tiwari got injured. A red alert for very heavy rain was issued by Met in Bhand, Shivpuri, Ashoknagar, Vidisha, Raisen and Sagar. There are chances of heavy rain in 29 districts including Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Gwalior, which remained untouched by rain this time in monsoon, received 8 inches of rainfall in the last 24 hours. With this, now more than 40 inches of rainfall has been received. About two and a half inches of rainfall has been recorded in Bhopal. Earlier, on Wednesday, there was heavy rain in 28 districts. Dams and ponds overflowed. Flood conditions arose in Damoh, Seoni, Balaghat, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Shivpuri districts due to overflowing of rivers. So

far, 4.9 inches more water than the quota has been recorded in the state. According to the Meteorological Department, it is raining in the state due to 3 systems - monsoon trough, cyclonic circulation and low pressure area. The way of the team going to rescue the youth drowned in the dam of Morena has been blocked by trees and electric poles fallen on the road. The work of removing them from the road is going on. Only after this the team will be able to leave for the spot. On Wednesday afternoon around 3, 5 youths drowned in the Pagara Dam of Jaura. The bodies of 2 of these youths were taken out. Two youths were rescued. At present one is missing. All these 5 youths had gone to worship in a temple built on top of the dam. After worshipping, all started bathing in the

dam. During this time, all five reached the middle of the strong current and were swept away. Read full news Meteorologist said, "The low pressure area has now turned into depression. The monsoon trough is also going through depression. A cyclonic circle has formed over South Gujarat. Due to these three systems, there is a period of rain. Red and orange alert has been issued in some districts during the next 24 hours. This time the monsoon is raining more than expected. In Bhopal, holiday was declared for children from class 1 to 5 and Anganwadi on Thursday. Here, the gates of all the dams of Bhopal are open. 3 out of 8 gates of Kerwa Dam, 2 out of 13 gates of Kaliyasot, 1 out of 11 gates of Bhabhada and 1 out of 8 gates of Kolar are open. As a precaution, low lying areas along the river have been alerted.



Leaders and other representatives of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh during 14th state level convention of Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Madhya Pradesh at Samanvay Bhawan in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

BMC organising National lok adalat at city wards on Sept 14

PNS ■ INDORE

In keeping with the schedule set by a top legal authority, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) will organise a National Lok Adalat at all wards and zones in the state capital on September 14. In accordance with the guidelines of Member Secretary of the National Legal Services Authority, Lok Adalat camps will be held at all BMC zone and ward offices. At the lok adalat, residents will be able to avail of exemptions in water cess and property tax surcharges in accordance with directives of the Urban Development and Housing Department. Commissioner Harendra Narayan has directed extensive preparations for the camps. He has issued directives to officials to aim for full recovery of outstanding amounts from property tax, water consumer charges, and other dues. He appealed to the public to take advantage of the exemption on surcharges for their property tax and water rates cases and to resolve these matters at their respective

At the lok adalat, residents will be able to avail of exemptions in water cess and property tax surcharges in accordance with directives

zone and ward offices. At the camps, citizens with property tax arrears between Rs 50,000-100,000 are being offered a full exemption from surcharges and penalties. A 25 per cent waiver is also being offered to residents with property tax arrears of above Rs. 100,000. Similarly, consumers with water tax arrears up to ₹10,000, will be given a full waiver of surcharges and a 50 per cent waiver will be given to consumers with arrears of over Rs.50,000. This exemption will be available only once and will apply only to arrears up to the financial year 2023-24. Those availing the exemptions will be required to clear their dues in a maximum of two installments.

Programme on urban good governance

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A program on 'Urban Good Governance - Human Rights' has been organized at Noronha Administration Academy on 13 September at 10 am to mark the foundation day of the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission. Urban Development and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya will be the chief guest in the programme. The program will be presided over by Manohar Mamtani, Chairman (Acting) of the Human Rights Commission. Commission member Rajeev Kumar Tandon will also be present on this occasion. This program will be held in the auditorium of RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management. The program will also include information about the schemes of the Urban Development and Housing Department, a presentation of Municipal Corporation Bhopal, the Town and Country Planning Department, and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis. On this occasion, a booklet published by the Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission will also be released.

Gyan Arjan week organised at BHEL Bhopal from September 5 to 11

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Gyan Aarjan Week was organized in BHEL, Bhopal from September 5 to 11. On the closing ceremony of this program organized the other day on the theme Align-Act-Achieve, SM Ramanathan, Executive Director, BHEL, Bhopal was present as the Chief Guest. Birendra Kumar Singh, General Manager (HR) and Swagata S Saxena, Additional General Manager (HRDC), along with all the General Managers and employees were present in the program. Ramanathan in his address that "We have to learn new things every day, we have to keep learning continuously as per the need of the organisation, only then we can be successful in the race of competition in the market." Appreciating the subject matter of the Gyan Aarjan Week, he told the employees that apart from their work, they should also keep an eye on the business environment. He emphasized on continuous improvement. On this occasion, Birendra Kumar Singh, General Manager (HR), in his welcome address, shared the importance of BHEL

Accused car driver still at large in hit and run case

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After five days of accident accused car driver who hit a speeding bike rider causing his death at Nehru Nagar remained absconding, victim died after the accident. After the collision, the driver was dragged with the car for about ten meters. The accused driver fled from the spot. The incident took place on the intervening night of September 7. Even after five days, the police failed to find any clue of the accused. Investigation is being done by establishing a case. The family has demanded to register a case of hit and run. The CCTV footage of the incident has also surfaced. However, TI Nirupa Pandey of Kamla Nagar police station said that

Bol organises essay competition at Navodaya Vidyalaya

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Official Language Department of Bank of India Regional office organized an essay competition in Hindi medium in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Ratibad Bhopal under the guidance of Regional Head Guru Prasad Gond. This essay was organized in different categories for students of class 8 to 11. On this occasion, prizes and certificates were given to the winning students. Leading District Manager Alok Chakraborty, Manager (Marketing) Amir Shah Khan and Manager (Official



Language) Pradeep Dhyani were present on behalf of the bank. Chakraborty said that our bank organizes such competitions every year to promote Hindi. So that students

2 trapped for 24 hours on Island of Dhasan River rescued

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is keeping a constant watch on relief and rescue operations and other arrangements in the flood-affected districts of the state. CM Yadav today discussed with Tikamgarh District Collector Awadhesh Sharma on video calling from Datana airstrip in Ujjain and inquired about the rescue work of 2 affected people trapped in the flood disaster. Collector Tikamgarh Sharma informed CM Yadav

that Ram Milan Yadav and Ramcharan Raikwar were stranded on the island of Dhasan river in Mahobiya Ghat village of Chanderkhars Gram Panchayat of Baldegarh block of Tikamgarh district for 24 hours. Attempts were first made to lift them by helicopter to save both of them. After this, both the villagers were successfully rescued by the NDRF team. Yadav talked to Ram Milan Yadav and Ramcharan Raikwar who were rescued safely and enquired about their well-being. Both of them expressed their gratitude to CM Dr. Yadav for saving their lives. CM Yadav congratulated the NDRF jawans for the successful rescue operation and directed SP Tikamgarh to honour these jawans for their active role in flood relief work. He also talked to the villagers and advised them to remain constantly alert and cautious in case of heavy rainfall.

Congress corporators, others from Satna join BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Welcoming several former Congress leaders into the party fold on Thursday, BJP State Chief Vishnu Shrivastava attributed the exodus in favour of his party to the policies and welfare initiatives of the state and central governments. Among those joining the party at the BJP state headquarters in Bhopal were Congress councillors in the Satna Municipal Corporation, Maya Kaul and Archana Anil Gupta, former councillor Engineer KL Yadav, and Anil Gupta. Welcoming the leaders by draping a ceremonial shawl, Sharma remarked that the arrival of the two councillors into the party has



provided a response to those bent on disrupting the political situation in Satna. Slamming the recent pronouncements of senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha, Sharma accused the opposition party of spreading falsehoods. Tankha had recently criticised the state govern-

ment's decision to allow the takeover of the state-owned milk brand 'Sanchi' by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). National Dairy Development Board is a Central Institution: VD Sharma. In a media communiqué issued later in the day, the Khajuraho MP accused

Congress leader Vivek Tankha and the Congress party of spreading falsehoods and working to defame the state government over the Dairy Federation. "Rahul Gandhi is tarnishing India's image abroad, and Congress leaders are doing the same within the state by spreading falsehoods," said an agitated Sharma. Reminding the Congress of the background of the National Dairy Development Board, Sharma stressed that the NDDB is not a state institution. Clarifying the government move, he said that control of the Dairy Federation was not being ceded to just any party. Highlighting the benefits of the move, he said that dairy farmers in the state will

gain from the vast experience and recognition the NDDB enjoys in the sector. Sharma cautioned the people of the state against Congress attempts to mislead and obstruct welfare initiatives of the state government. He said that the upgradation of the Dairy Federation will directly benefit 11,000 villages in the state. Providing statistics, the BJP state unit chief said that the production of 550 lakh litres of milk places the state as the third-largest milk producer in the country. Sanchi collects only 2.5% (10 lakh litres) of this milk, with no increase over the past 15 years. Seventy percent of our milk is sold in the open market, which leads to issues of adulteration, he added.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav goes through an exhibition at the launch of the Bahoriband micro irrigation project in Katni, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. Pioneer photo



A street washed away following continuous rain in Devki Nagar in Karond locality in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

CM launches construction works of lift micro irrigation project worth Rs 1011.05 cr

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that Lord Shri Ram had gone to Chitrakoot during his 14 years of exile. This is the Taposthali of Shri Ram. The scheme for which the people of this area have been waiting for the last 40 years is going to be completed on Thursday. Yadav addressed the gathering after inaugurating the construction works of the Bahoriband Lift Micro Irrigation Project worth Rs 1011.05 crore at Bahoriband in Katni district on Thursday. Yadav said that the Bahoriband project will irrigate 32 thousand hectares of land in 151 villages of 4 tehsils of Katni district. Farmers will be able to use every drop of water for their fields through sprinkler systems, drips, etc. Land will not be used to build the

canal; water will be directly available to the fields. Efforts will also be made to supply drinking water to the citizens of Katni through the project. The Chief Minister also dedicated and performed Bhoomi puja of various development works worth Rs 55 crore for development in Katni district. Yadav said that the Bahoriband Irrigation Project will be implemented on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve maximum production through the "Drop More Crop" i.e. using every drop of water. In this, water will be supplied to the fields for soil and water conservation. He said that today the people of Bahoriband are celebrating Holi and Diwali simultaneously. The immense enthusiasm among the people of Katni despite the rain, overwhelmed him. The Chief Minister said that

Chitrakoot Dham will be made grand and divine on the lines of Ayodhya. Geeta Bhawans will be built in all the Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Corporations, and Municipal Corporations of the state after Gopal Krishna and will focus on the 18 chapters of Bhagwat Gita. Besides, a model village like Vrindavan will be built in every block. Bahoriband will be made a municipal council by adding 15 wards. Along with building reservoirs in Gatakheda, Juhari, Jamunia, Sihariya, Bejnala, Jamunhai of the district, the Bahoriband reservoir will be revived and the ancient pilgrimage site of Bahoriband, Rupnath, Tigwa, Bilhari, Vasudha water fall, the origin point of Ken river will be developed as a tourist destination. He said that a Dharamshala will be built in Bahoriband after 'Haribaba Haridas'. Chief Minister Yadav distrib-

uted benefits to the beneficiaries of various departments in the programme. He honored Shradhanjali Shukla 'Anjan', the girl who translated Shrimad Bhagwat Gita from Sanskrit to Hindi. The Chief Minister was presented a silver crown on behalf of the people of Bahoriband in the programme. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also visited the exhibition organized by women groups of Livelihood Mission, e-Governance, Agriculture, Forest, Women Child Development and Industry Department at the venue. District in-charge and School Education Minister Rao Uday Pratap Singh said that he is working as a bridge with the state government for the welfare and development of the people of the district for which they will leave no stone unturned. Our government has made big decisions in

the last eight months for the welfare of the state. MP VD Sharma said that today is a historic day for the welfare of Katni. Yadav has launched work on an irrigation project costing Rs. 1011.5 crore today, which will change the image and destiny of 151 villages in Katni district. The people of the area had been demanding this project for many years. He said that work is being done to provide drinking water to every house under Jal Jeevan Mission. The project will provide irrigation and drinking water facilities to the people of the area. He said that the state government is committed to development and is providing easy access to facilities to the people. Local MLA Pranay Prashant Pandey, MLA Sanjay Satyendra Pathak, Sandeep Jaiswal, Dhirendra Bahadur Singh, public representatives, and a large number of farmers were present.

Seven killed as 400 year old wall collapses in Datia

PNS ■ DATIA

Seven persons were killed after a wall of a medieval-era fort adjacent to a house collapsed on Thursday due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh's Datia town. The incident took place around 4 am in Khalkapura area, said an official. As the wall collapsed, nine persons in the adjacent house were trapped under the debris. While two were rescued, seven died, said Datia district collector Sandeep Makin. The fort, called 'Rajgarh', is believed to be 400 years old, and once housed a museum which was later shifted elsewhere, said a local resident. The State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) team took part in the rescue operation that lasted more than six hours,

As the wall collapsed, nine persons in the adjacent house were trapped under the debris. While two were rescued, seven died

the collector said. The two injured persons are undergoing treatment at a local hospital, he added. Expressing grief over the incident in a post on X, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each for the kin of the victims. The SDERF team reached the spot quickly, but precious lives could not be saved despite strenuous efforts because of the narrow lane where the house is situated, the CM said. As per collector Makin, five of the deceased belong to one family, while the other two belong to another family. The deceased were identified as Niranjana Vanshkar (55),

Mamta Vanshkar (45), Shivam (20), Suraj (17), Radha (23), Kishan Vanshkar (55) and Prabha (50). Congress MLA from Datia, Rajendra Bharti, criticized the administration for the "slow" rescue operation, claiming that it was unprepared to deal with such situations. He also demanded Rs five lakh compensation each for the kin of the deceased, and Rs two lakh for the injured persons. Senior BJP leader and former state home minister Narottam Mishra also visited the spot, and expressed grief over the incident. He attended the last rites of the victims.

State Election Commission to opt for paperless voting process

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After making its office paperless, the State Election Commission has now started the process of making the voting process paperless as well. Under the direction of State Election Commissioner Basant Pratap Singh, a paperless voting process was carried out as a pilot project in polling station-295 in the voting for the post of Sarpanch in Gram Panchayat Ratua Ratanpur of Berasia block of Bhopal district under the Panchayat by-election on Wednesday. This use of paperless booth is being used for the first time in the country by the Madhya Pradesh State Election Commission. Secretary State Election Commission Abhishek Singh has said that a plan for



paperless booths has been made to conduct simple, easy, and transparent voting processes in Panchayats and urban bodies. In Panchayat elections, 26 forms are filled out to complete all the processes and reporting at the polling station. When mistakes are made in these, disputes arise and court

cases are also filed. These forms are being digitalized by making booths paperless. Its first experiment was successfully done in Ratua Ratanpur. In the paperless process, the identity of the voters and their signature were recorded electronically to record their

voting. Voting percentage and ballot accounting are being done online. The voting percentage is being received every 2 hours on all online platforms. After the end of voting, ballot paper accounts will also be made available to the candidates and polling agents on their e-mail ID. To give shape to the concept of this paperless booth, work is being done at both the hardware and software level, so that this system can be implemented in the polling stations of the entire state in the future. Secretary of State Election Commission Singh along with officials also visited the polling station on Wednesday to view the process.

CM expresses grief

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has expressed grief over the death of citizens due to the collapse of the old wall in Datia district. Yadav said that he is with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Yadav said that as soon as the information about the incident was received, the team of SDERF and Datia District Administration immediately started the rescue operation, but these citizens could not be saved due to the narrow road despite tireless efforts. Yadav has given instructions to provide financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

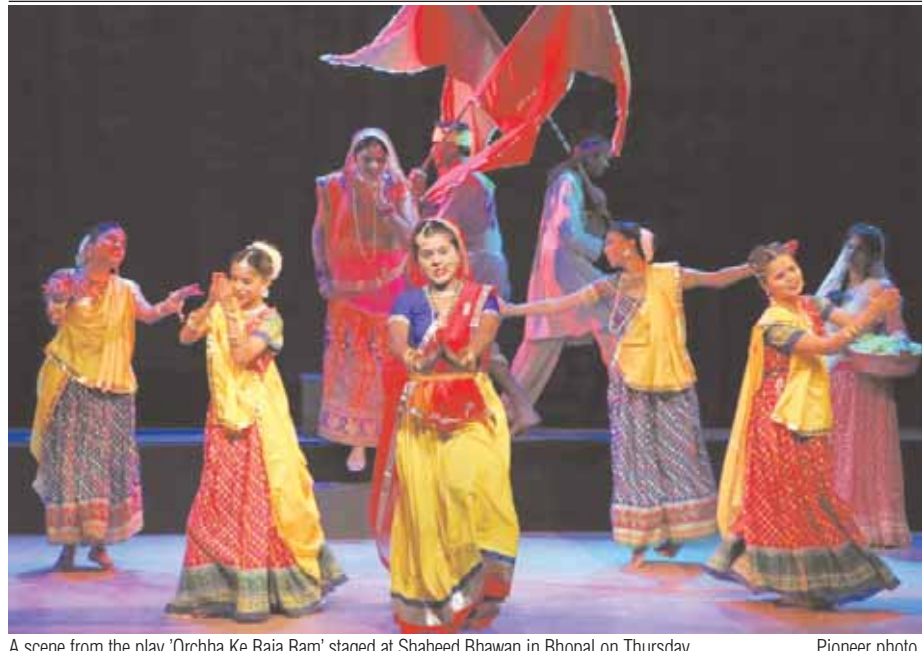
Filing complaint against govt authority is not defamation

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has rejected the petition filed by a retired Air Marshal challenging dismissal of his defamation suit against fellow residents of his housing society, who had filed complaints against him to the Collector. Justice Subodh Abhyankar sitting at Indore reviewed the documents, including the respondents' complaint and subsequent communications from the Co-operative Inspector and held that merely filing a complaint against a government authority cannot amount to defamation.

"Court is of the considered opinion that the aforesaid complaint filed by the petitioner is totally misconceived and is not tenable, as this Court is also of the considered opinion that merely filing of any complaint against the Government authorities would not tantamount to defamation as prescribed under Section 499/500 of IPC as the same would fall under the Eighth Exception to Section 499 of IPC." The court cited Eighth Exception to Section 499 IPC, which protects complaints made in good faith to authorized persons, and dismissed the petition. The residents of the former Air Marshal's society had

complained of his alleged misconduct. Petitioner claimed this caused him "extreme anguish" and "tarnished" his reputation. The respondents had earlier filed complaints with the district authorities and co-operative officials, accusing the Petitioner of improper behavior. No action was taken by the Collector, but an inquiry ensued after the complaint was forwarded to a Co-operative Inspector, leading to a show-cause notice being issued to the petitioner. Therefore, the petitioner filed a private defamation complaint against the respondents under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code.



A scene from the play 'Orcha Ke Raja Ram' staged at Shaheed Bhawan in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

CM, State BJP president address the Organisation Parv meeting of Mudwara constituency

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and BJP State President and Khajuraho MP Vishnu Shrivastava addressed the booth level organisation Parv of Mudwara Assembly at Arindam Hotel in Katni district on Thursday and got people enrolled in BJP. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that BJP is the largest democratic party in the world. In BJP, first a membership campaign is run through democratic process and then the organisation is formed in a democratic way. The worker is like a seed which gets closed in the fist, but when the time comes it becomes a banyan tree and gives shade to the people. BJP State President Sharma said

that the arrival of the Chief Minister of the state Mohan Yadav in the booth level programme of the organisation festival will infuse new energy in the workers. All of you workers should get busy in making history in the organisation festival like elections by connecting more and more people to the party. The Chief Minister and BJP State President inaugurated the programme by getting Katni's famous doctor Dr. Manish Gattani enrolled. District President Deepak Tandon addressed the program. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, while addressing the Sangathan Parv program, said that due to the hard work and efforts of all you workers, BJP has created history in the last elections. In Sangathan Parv also, we have to

work hard in the same way and make history by connecting more people than the target to the party. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP government at the Center and Madhya Pradesh is working for the welfare of the people. Today, the foundation stone of an irrigation project worth about 1100 crores has been laid in Bahoriband. This project has been started to deliver Narmada water for irrigation in the villages of Bahoriband assembly constituency. With this project, 32 thousand hectares of agricultural land of 151 villages will be irrigated with Narmada water, which will benefit 86 villages of Bahoriband tehsil, 43 villages of Sleemanabad tehsil, 17 villages of Rethi tehsil and five villages of Katni. This pro-

ject will prove to be a boon for the farmers of the area. Prime Minister removed the stigma from Jammu and Kashmir by removing Section 370. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Shyama Prasad Mukherjee ji agitated and sacrificed his life to remove Section 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. As soon as the government with full majority was formed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the work of removing the stigma from Jammu and Kashmir was done by removing Section 370, 35-A. Remembering late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chief Minister Yadav said that regarding the formation of our core committee, unit and the importance of our workers, late Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had said that "these responsibilities will keep chang-

ing". Atal ji worked to strengthen the ideology of his party as the leader of the opposition for 50 years with five Prime Ministers. State President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnu Shrivastava while addressing the Sangathan Parv program said that every worker of Bharatiya Janata Party is dedicated to his duties. No target can be too big for the party workers of a state whose Chief Minister is involved in the party's booth level program. All of you BJP workers are capable of achieving every target. I appeal to all of you workers to take the organisation festival like an election and go door-to-door and tell the people about the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and Chief

Minister Yadav's Madhya Pradesh BJP government and make them members of the party. BJP is a worker-based party, all of us workers together will work to create history in the organisation festival as well. BJP workers should form teams and go to every village, street, neighbourhood and hamlet and make people members of the BJP to strengthen the country and make India a developed nation by 2047. After the organisation festival program, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and BJP State President and MP Vishnu Shrivastava performed puja-archana at the temple of Lord Ganeshji, the destroyer of obstacles, located at Ganesh Chowk in Katni, and performed aarti of the grand Ganesha idol installed here.

Change of Name

My Old Name was MOHAMMAD ZAINUL KHALID. Written in my Old Passport. I have changed my name. My new name is now known as ZAINUL KHALID S/O KHALID RAIN. Resident 115-B Green Park Colony, DIG Bungalow, Bhopal (M.P.) 462001

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sharda W/o Brajkishor R/o Gram Mirpur Post Jigani Morena Madhya Pradesh-476001, have changed the name my minor daughter namely Divyanshi Yadav aged-11 years and she shall hereafter be known as Aaradhya Yadav.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) issued by the Company are informed to have been lost or misplaced and the registered holder thereof claimant has applied to the Company for issue of Duplicate Share Certificate:

S. No.	Name of Share Holder	No. of Shares	Folio No.	Share Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
1.	Damodar Lawande Jt. Name: Narmita Lawande	100	3286	17318	1731701-1731800
2.	Narmita Lawande Jt. Name: Damodar Lawande	100	3287	17319	1731801-1731900

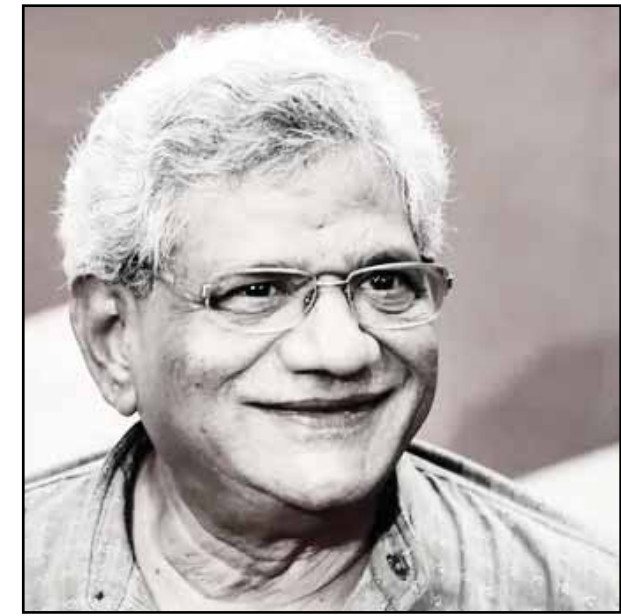
Any person(s) who has / have any claim(s) in respect of the said Share Certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the Company's Share Transfer Agent at the Registered Office, at the address given below:

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60, Electronic Complex, Pardeshipura, Indore-452010 (M.P.)
Within 15 days of publication of this notice, after which no claims will be entertained and the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificate.

For Vippy Spinpro Ltd.
Sd/-
Pulkit Maheshwari
CS, Compliance Officer & CFO

Place : Indore
Date : 12.09.2024

President Murmu, PM Modi condole Sitaram Yechury's demise



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed condolence on the demise of CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury. The President said Yechury, a committed ideologue, won friends cutting across the party lines. "Saddened to learn about the demise of CPI (M) General Secretary Shri Sitaram Yechury. First as a student leader and then in national politics and as a parliamentarian, he had a distinct and influential voice. Through a committed ideologue, he won friends cutting across the party lines. My heartfelt condolences to his family and colleagues," said Murmu. Modi said Yechury was a leading light of the Left known for his ability to connect across the

political spectrum. "Saddened by the passing away of Shri Sitaram Yechury ji. He was a leading light of the Left and was known for his ability to connect across the political spectrum," Modi said in a post on X. "He also made a mark as an effective parliamentarian. My thoughts are with his family and admirers in this sad hour. Om Shanti," the Prime Minister said. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said that Yechury was a protector of the idea of India with a deep understanding of the country. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge condoled Yechury's demise and said he was an excellent parliamentarian and an outstanding intellectual who served the people of India with pragmatism blended with idealism. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that

Yechury death is a loss to national politics. "Sad to know that Sitaram Yechury has passed away. I knew the veteran parliamentarian that he was and his demise will be a loss for national politics. I express my condolences to his family, friends and colleagues," she posted on X. Yechury's family has donated his body to AIIMS for teaching and research purposes, the hospital said in a statement. "It is with profound grief that we announce the passing away of CPI(M) General Secretary, our beloved Comrade Sitaram Yechury, at 3.03 pm today, 12th September, at the AIIMS, New Delhi. He was suffering from a respiratory tract infection which developed complications," CPI(M) said in a post on X. "We thank the doctors, nursing staff and the Director of the Institute for the excellent

treatment and care extended to Comrade Yechury. Details of public viewing and homage will be informed," the CPI(M) said. In a statement, the CPI(M) said Yechury's body will be kept at the party headquarters here between 11 am and 3 pm on Saturday for public viewing and paying homage. Subsequently, the body will be taken to AIIMS, where it will be donated for medical research, according to his wishes. Yechury was admitted to AIIMS on August 19 for treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection. He was critical and on oxygen support. Doctors said he had a fungal infection in his lungs. Yechury is survived by his wife Seema Chishti, an editor with news portal The Wire. He has three children -- two sons and a daughter. One of his sons Ashish Yechury passed away due to Covid-19 in 2021. His daughter Akhila Yechury teaches at the University of Edinburgh and University of St Andrews. Son Danish working in UK. Yechury was earlier married to Indrani Mazumdar. The leader, who started from the student's union of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as a member of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and went on to become a member of the Central Committee of the CPI(M) in 1984, got elected to the Politburo in 1992. He served as a Rajya Sabha MP for 12 years, from 2005 to 2017. He became the fifth General Secretary of the CPI(M) at the 21st party congress in Visakhapatnam on April 19, 2015, and took over from Prakash Karat. He also played a significant role in the joint opposition's INDIA bloc.

VP Dhankhar condemns Rahul Gandhi's US remarks as unpatriotic, accuses of treason



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said there was nothing more condemnable and intolerable than one in constitutional position becoming part of enemies of the Nation, in an apparent attack on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his remarks made in the United States. Dhankhar's assertion came a day after the BJP hit out at Rahul Gandhi over his meeting with US lawyer Ilhan Omar and others during his visit to the country, alleging that the Congress leader is indulging in "dangerous and mischievous" activities by reaching out to people abroad who are known for their anti-India stand. Addressing participants of the third batch of Rajya Sabha Internship Programme here, Dhankhar, also the chairperson of the upper house, said he was pained and disturbed that some people in position have no idea of national interest. The vice president did not name anyone in his address. He said, "If we are true Indians, we will never side with the enemies of the nation." The BJP has attacked Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on reservation

and religious minorities in India and China. "I am pained and disturbed that some people in position have just no idea of Bharat. They have no idea of our Constitution, they have no idea of our national interest... I am sure your heart must be bleeding at what you see," the vice president said. He said people have given supreme sacrifice in getting freedom. "Mothers have lost their sons, wives have lost their husbands. We can't ridicule our nationalism," he said. Dhankhar said every Indian outside the country has to be an ambassador of the nation. "How painful that one who holds a constitutional position is doing just the reverse of it. Nothing can be more condemnable, despicable and intolerable than that you become part of enemies of the nation," he said. Dhankhar was of the view that such people do not understand the value of freedom as also that the country has civilisation depth of 5,000 years. The vice president asserted that the Constitution is sacred and was structured over three years of painstaking work by the founding fathers of the document.

He said the members of the Constituent Assembly met without disruption, disturbance, sloganeering and any posters being raised. "And now, some people want to divide our nation. This is ignorance in extremity," he said. In a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington on Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi criticized the Narendra Modi government over its handling of the conflict with China, telling reporters that it is a disaster that 4,000 square kilometres of Indian territory is occupied by troops from the neighbouring country. But the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha indicated that the Congress is in broad agreement with the BJP-led government on other major foreign policy issues, including relations with the US, no talks with Pakistan unless terrorism ends and concerns over extremist elements in Bangladesh. Answering a question about China, Gandhi said, "Well, if you call having Chinese troops in 4,000 square kilometres of our territory handling something well, then maybe. We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster. Media doesn't like to write about it." Meanwhile, the BJP on Thursday upped the ante against Rahul Gandhi, saying the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has committed "treason" with his remarks in the US. "Rahul Gandhi has committed 'rashtradroh' (treason) in the US. The entire country is hurt by the kind of image of India he has projected in the US," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said at party headquarters here while replying to media queries.



Rajnath Singh urges global unity amidst wars

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India's aim is to walk hand in hand together at a time some countries are at war with each other. He also asked friendly nations to elevate their partnership and collaboration to new heights in view of the evolving global challenges. "Today, there is a race in the world to get ahead of each other, wars are going on between countries at different places. In this changing situation, India's goal is that we hold each other's hands and walk together," he said while speaking at 'Tarang Shakti' -- the largest multilateral air exercise in India (hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the air base here. "Seeing the way the world is changing and new challenges are emerging, we need to take our partnership and collaboration to new heights," the defence minister said. His remarks come in the backdrop of calls for India's potential role in pushing peace talks between Russia and Ukraine as New Delhi has good relations with both the nations. The minister said India is collaborating with friendly nations on a range of advanced and high-tech projects. While exercises like Tarang Shakti have significant tactical value, they also serve as a platform to foster greater mutual cooperation, coordination, and trust among participating countries, he noted. "Such initiatives build confidence among our partners, reinforcing our collective commitment to stand united when needed. Through Tarang Shakti, we have further solidified our defence relationships with partner nations," he said. Rajnath Singh urged the foreign dignitaries present on the occasion to thoroughly explore and study India's aerospace sector. "This first hand experience will provide insight into the rapid advancements and promising capabilities of India's defence manufacturing industry. It is an excellent opportunity to discuss how we can advance our collaboration in defence manufacturing," he said. The minister said India is enthusiastic about working together and aims for partnership to extend beyond political and technical realms. "We want our cooperation to be not limited to just political or technical synergy but to transform into a heart-to-heart synergy," he said. The defence minister said today, India stands not only as the fastest growing economy globally but also is home to one of the world's most formidable armed forces.



NSA Doval meets Vladimir Putin amid Ukraine conflict talks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Thursday met Russian President Vladimir Putin amid renewed efforts to find a solution to the Ukraine conflict. The meeting took place on the margins of a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) nations in St Petersburg. In the talks, Putin hoped that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Russia's Kazan next month to attend the annual BRICS summit. The Russian President also proposed a bilateral meeting with Modi on October 22 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit to analyse bilateral engagement and to discuss "future-oriented" actions. "We are waiting for our good friend Modi and best regards to him," the Russian media quoted Putin as saying in the meeting with Doval.

SC displeased with Punjab, Haryana HC inaction on judicial officer's reinstatement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has expressed displeasure over the Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision of not reinstating a judicial officer, sacked for an alleged affair with a lady judicial officer, despite the top court setting aside his termination letter in 2022. The issue has been moving between the high court and the apex court since 2009. A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice P B Varale, in its recent order, noted that the apex court on April 20, 2022, set aside the high court's October 25, 2018, order dismissing the male judicial officer's plea against his termination from service. It had directed the full court of the high court to reconsider its decision of sacking the judicial officer. The Supreme Court had also noted that on October 26, 2018, the same division bench of the high court allowed the petition of the lady judicial officer and set aside the termination order, after disbelieving the allegations of an illicit relationship. "Once the termination order is set aside (by SC in 2022) and the judgement of the high court dismissing the writ petition challenging the said termination order has also been



set aside, the natural consequence is that the employee should be taken back in service and thereafter proceeded with as per the directions," the top court bench said recently. The apex court bench said that once the termination order is set aside then the employee is deemed to be in service. "We find no justification in the inaction of the high court and also the state in not taking back the appellant (judicial officer) into service after the order dated April 20, 2022. "No decision was taken either by the high court or by the state of taking back the appellant into service and no decision was made regarding the back wages from the date the termination order had been passed till the date of reinstatement which should be the

date of the judgement of this court," the bench said. It added the judicial officer would thus be entitled to full salary for the period from the date of judgment dated April 20, 2022, till a fresh termination order was passed on April 2, 2024, to be calculated with all benefits admissible treating the appellant to be in continuous service. The bench directed that insofar as the period from December 18, 2009, that is after the termination order of December 17, 2009, was passed till April 19, 2022, the date prior to the judgement and order of this court, "we are of the view that ends of justice would be served by directing that the appellant would be entitled to 50 per cent of the back wages treating him to be in service continuously". It added such back wages to be calculated with all benefits admissible under law to the appellant as if he was in service. The bench granted liberty to the judicial officer to challenge before the high court, the resolution of the full court of the high court dated August 3, 2023, and the termination order dated April 2, 2024. The judicial officer joined Punjab Civil Services (Judicial Branch) in 2006. At the time of joining the service in December 2006, the appellant was already married.

BJP slams Congress for Police lathi-charge, violence in Himachal, Karnataka



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday slammed the Congress for police lathi-charge in Himachal Pradesh on protesters demanding demolition of an alleged illegal portion of a mosque in Shimla, asking the party to stop appeasement politics. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Lok Sabha MP and party national spokesperson Sambit Patra also flayed the Congress over violence in Mandya district of Karnataka, alleging that stones were pelted and slippers were thrown at Lord Ganesha's idol at the behest of the party. The Congress rules both Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. Protesters demanding the demolition of an alleged illegal portion of a mosque in Shimla's Sanjauli area clashed with security personnel on Wednesday, breaking barricades and pelting stones as the police used water

cannon and charged batons to disperse them. About 10 people including police and women were injured. Violent clashes broke out between two groups during Ganesh idol procession in Nagamangala town of Mandya in Karnataka. The police have arrested 46 people in connection with the incident, authorities said on Thursday. Accusing the Congress of pursuing appeasement politics in the two states under its rule, Patra said, "Rahul Gandhi's 'mohabbat ki dukan' is not only getting lathi charged and tear gas fired on Hindus in Himachal Pradesh, it is also engaged in getting stones pelted and slippers thrown at Lord Ganesha's idols in Karnataka." "Love for an illegal mosque and lathi-charge on Hindus will obviously happen when Rahul Gandhi meets (US law-maker) Ilhan Omar," he added. The BJP leader condemned the incident of police lathi-charge and demanded that the mosque in Shimla should be done away with if it is illegal. "It's surprising that the local municipal court has served several notices seeking documents but the mosque administration is yet to do so," he said. "Lathi-charge Hindus and recharge of the mosque will not be allowed."

IMD warns of extremely heavy rain in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh

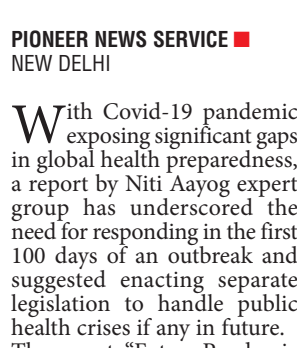
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday a depression that originated over central India is expected to bring heavy to extremely heavy rain in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and their adjacent region over the next two to three days. According to the latest IMD update issued at 1 pm, the system was located around 50 kilometres south-southeast of Agra and 50 kilometres north-northeast of Gwalior. It is expected to continue moving towards the north-northeast direction and gradually weaken on Friday. The IMD said Uttarakhand is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall from September 12 to 14, with heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in isolated areas. Haryana is expected to see light to moderate rain, with heavy rainfall at times between September 12 and 15. East and west Uttar Pradesh may experience heavy to extremely heavy rainfall during this period. In Madhya Pradesh, heavy rainfall is expected on September 12, followed by moderate to heavy rain over the next few days.

Niti Aayog suggests Public Health Emergency Management Act for future pandemics

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With Covid-19 pandemic exposing significant gaps in global health preparedness, a report by Niti Aayog expert group has underscored the need for responding in the first 100 days of an outbreak and suggested enacting separate legislation to handle public health crises if any in future. The report, "Future Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response - A Framework for Action", proposes the creation of a Public Health Emergency Management Act (PHEMA), which would facilitate a holistic approach to health management, covering prevention, control, and disaster response. The report which provides a blueprint for the country to prepare for any future public health emergency or pandem-



ic and have a rapid response system comes amid WHO warning to tackle the unknown deadly 'Disease X, which could be 20 times deadlier than COVID-19'. Led by Dr. Renu Swarup, with members including Dr. Soumya Swaminathan and Dr. Sujeet Singh, the expert group's proposals aim to better equip India and the global community for future pandemics and

health emergencies. "It will allow a holistic approach to health management, covering prevention, control, and disaster response, the report added. "The Act would also provide for the creation of skilled public health cadres at national and state levels," said the report which also outlines recommendations for establishing a dedicated Pandemic Preparedness and

Emergency Response (PPER) fund and creating institutionalised and empowered governance mechanisms. "The report highlights the need for a well-structured score-card mechanism to regularly monitor progress on key preparedness targets, especially in light of WHO warnings about potential new zoonotic outbreaks. As countries and international organizations work to enhance their readiness for novel pathogens, the WHO has identified approximately 30 viral and bacterial families with potential epidemic or pandemic risk. These targets necessitate focused research, development of advanced diagnostic techniques, and effective countermeasures. The report's recommendations align with global efforts to bolster pandemic preparedness and response capabilities.

Entod Pharmaceuticals to challenge suspension of PresVu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai-based Entod Pharmaceuticals said on Thursday that it has decided to move the court to challenge the national drug regulator's suspension of permission to manufacture and market its pilocarpine hydrochloride ophthalmic solution formulation, branded as PresVu. The company denied the regulatory authority's allegation that it has engaged in unauthorised promotion of the product through media. Nikkhil K Masurkar, CEO of the pharma firm, in a press statement said that this action is against a pharma company in the MSME sector, which is purely research and innovation driven and attempts to bring new therapeutic options to the Indian market.

As a result, we have decided to challenge this suspension in the court of law to get justice," said Masurkar. "Our fight will not only allow innovative medicines to be available in India but also encourage other pharmaceutical entrepreneurs and companies in the MSME sector to continue the research drive in India without facing similar obstacles," he said. The company also said that it has not made any unethical or false presentation of facts to the media or public when it comes to PresVu eye drops. All facts disclosed to the media were strictly on the basis of the recent approval by the Drugs Controller General (India) for



treatment of presbyopia in adults and the results of the phase 3 clinical trial conducted by us in India. "Announcing the new product launch to the media is a routine industry practice followed by all pharma companies in India and in the recent past, many such announcements have been made. In our case, media reports went viral and public imagination led to an unusual escalation for which Entod Pharmaceuticals is not responsible," he said. The approval by DCGI was based on a valid controlled clinical trial in 234 patients which was successful in showing efficacy and safety of these eye drops in patients of presbyopia, who used these drops without eye glasses and could read additional lines on Snellen's chart which is a yardstick of near vision improvement.

Political Parties to recalibrate poll strategy to nullify impact of AIP on vote bank

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

With the arrival of the Chief of Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) and Parliamentary from Baramulla, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, in Kashmir Valley on Thursday the mainstream political parties may have to recalibrate their poll strategy to nullify its impact on their traditional vote bank in the run-up to the first phase of polling on September 18. Rashid, lodged in Tihar jail since August 2019, was granted interim bail till October 2 in the terror funding case on Wednesday. Soon after stepping out of the Tihar jail in New Delhi on Wednesday Sheikh Abdul Rashid announced his party intends to contest between 35 to 40 seats in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections without forming coalitions with any political party. Around three dozen candidates have filed their nomination papers from different assembly

constituencies in Kashmir Valley. His presence during the campaign period is set to boost the poll prospects of his party candidates. On the other hand, it may also force the other key players to calibrate their campaign strategy to counter his campaign, especially in his strong bastion of North Kashmir. Rashid's party emerged ahead of National Conference during the Lok Sabha polls on at least 14 Assembly segments. He handed over a crushing defeat to former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah by a margin of over 2 lakh votes. As was expected, soon after landing in Srinagar, Rashid played to the galleries at every step. Moving out of the airport premises, he deboarded from his four-wheeler and went on his knees to kiss Mother Earth. Returning home after more than five years in prison, Rashid, in his first remarks said no one needs peace more



than the people of Kashmir but they want it on their conditions and not on terms set by the Centre. "We want to tell (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi that no one needs peace more than we do. But that peace will come at our conditions, not yours. Expressing gratitude to his supporters who had assembled outside the airport to welcome him, the Baramulla MP said he wants to convey to the people of

Kashmir that they are not weak at all. "The people of Kashmir will win as the people of Jammu and Kashmir are on the path of truth. He later drove straight to Delina, Baramulla where he addressed a public rally. In his trademark style, Rashid attempted to woo the jubilant crowd amid loud slogan shouting and passionate cheering. He called for an end to imprisoning Kashmiris in

Tihar Jail while urging the centre to resolve the Kashmir issue once and for all. "Tihar bhejna bandh karo, Kashmir ka masla hal karo." (Stop sending us to Tihar, resolve Kashmir's issue), he said as his supporters kept cheering. Later addressing a press conference Sheikh Abdul Rashid claimed his party would extend full support to the INDIA alliance if it brought a resolution about restoration of Article 370 in the Parliament.

"Let me clarify this. If the INDIA alliance gives me written assurance that it will introduce a resolution in the Parliament about restoration of Article 370, I along with my party leaders will extend full support to it." Seeking people's support Rashid appealed to the people to give him at least 40 seats in the upcoming elections in J&K. Targeting the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah, Er Rashid said that the NC has released a detailed manifesto promising this and that. "Why couldn't the party do the same when they were in power," he asked. He also attacked PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti continuously. Rashid said that it was the then PDP patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed who said that voting for PDP was a must to stop BJP's entry into J&K. "Then what happened? The same PDP provided a launching pad to BJP who bulldozed our dreams," Er Rashid said.



Two men held for attack on young Army officers near Mhow in MP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ INDORE

Police on Thursday said they have arrested two of the six persons who allegedly assaulted two army officers and raped their female friend near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi slammed the BJP over the incident. The incident took place near Mhow-Mandleshwar road, 30 km from Mhow in Indore district in the wee hours Wednesday. The six men assaulted the two young army officers and raped one of their two female friends, police said. The army officers, aged 23 and 24, undergoing the Young Officers course at the Infantry School in Mhow cantonment town, had gone out for a picnic along with their two female friends. A search is underway for the other four persons allegedly involved in the attack and rape, police said. The group of six reached the picnic spot around two a m and started assaulting one of the officers and his female friend, who were sitting in the car, police said. Upon hearing the commotion, the other officer and his woman friend, who were on a hilltop, reached the spot. After police reached the spot, the army officers and their female friends were brought to Mhow civil hospital, where a medical examination confirmed that one of the women was raped, an official said. A case has been registered under sections 70 (gang rape), 310-2 (dacoity), 308-2 (extortion) and 115-2 (voluntarily causing hurt) of

the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and under sections of the Arms Act based on the complaint filed by the officer. One of those arrested reportedly has a case of loot registered against him in 2016. Wednesday's incident took place in Jam Gate area of the hilly region surrounded by forests, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Hitika Vasal said. Badgonda police station in-charge Lokendra Singh Hirore said the accused held one of the couples captive while beating them up, and told the other couple that the hostages would be released only when they give them Rs 10 lakh. "The complainant has told us that the accused took his woman friend away to a place and he suspected that she was raped. The woman's statement is yet to be recorded," the official said. Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP over the attack, saying the negative attitude of the BJP government towards increasing crimes against women is "extremely worrying". Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the prime minister talks big about women's safety, but women across the country are still waiting for a serious effort for their safety. In a social media post, Rahul Gandhi said the violence against the two army men and the rape of their female companion in Madhya Pradesh is enough to shame the entire society. In her social media post, Priyanka Gandhi said the incidents of gang rape of a woman after holding army officers hostage in Madhya Pradesh and finding of the naked body of a woman on the highway in Uttar Pradesh are "heart-wrenching".

CPI(M) in quandary over next party chief election

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Race for the top job in CPI(M) has begun days ahead of the demise of Sitaram Yechury, the general secretary of the party. M A Baby, the polit bureau member from Kerala is the front runner for the post as he has set his eyes on the post of general secretary. Baby, who had won the assembly election once from Kerala and became the education minister in the government led by E K Nayanar was addressed as the Second Mundassery as he had tried to replicate the reforms initiated by the first education minister of the State Prof Joseph Mundassery (1957-1959). "While Joseph Mundassery revolutionized the education sector in Kerala, Baby could not make any impact other than making things worse," said A Jayasankar, Kerala's veteran political critic. Baby is known more as Prakkulam Che Guevara (Prakkulam being the village where he



was born and Guevara, his God). P Sujathan, a close observer of the CPI(M) politics, is of the view that it would be a tough job for the CPI(M) to find out an alternative to Yechury. "Sitaram Yechury is known for his articulation, communication skills and was a master strategist. The truth is that there is no one in the party who could take up the position held by him," said Sujathan. The names being heard are that of Brinda Karat and Prakash Karat. "The latter may continue till the next party congress scheduled for April-May 2025 and then

make way for a new person. We do not know how the Marxists will view the possibility of Brinda Karat becoming the party boss," said Sujathan. The death of Yechury comes at a time when the CPI(M) is facing severe crisis in Kerala, the one and only State which is ruled by the party. There is a strong move in the party ousting Pinarayi Vijayan from the Chief Minister's post and it is widely believed that Baby is the main force behind this mission. Hence the chances of Vijayan and his cohorts supporting Baby for the job look bleak. The names of Mohammed Salim, the Bengal State secretary and Surjya Kant Mishra are also in circulation. Salim being a member of the minority community has better prospectus than others because of his standing in the party. The truth is that there are no other members in the party's polit bureau who has wider acceptability among the cadre.

Former Congress MLA breaks down as party denies ticket

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ FARIDABAD/NEW DELHI

Former Haryana Congress MLA Lalit Nagar Thursday broke down in tears on being denied a ticket for the October 5 Assembly polls, saying even though he worked hard to strengthen his party, he was "stabbed in the back". Addressing a gathering of his supporters in Faridabad's Tigoan, Nagar said, "I had invited you all thinking I will perform a 'havan' and then go to file my nomination today as a Congress candidate. But some of our enemies conspired and attempted to commit my political murder." Lalit Nagar was a ticket hopeful from the Tigoan assembly segment, but the Congress has fielded a new face Rohit Nagar from the seat. Other ticket hopefuls who were not picked by the Congress for the elections, Sharda Rahore and Jitender Kumar Bhardwaj, also expressed anger over the party's decision.



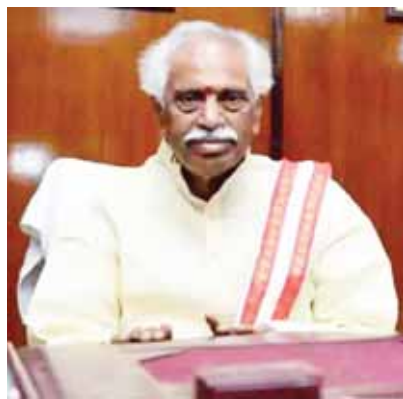
After the BJP, the Congress too is facing resentment in the state from some of the aspirants who have been denied tickets. Lalit Nagar told his supporters that he was hoping to get a ticket but "some conspirators stabbed me in the back". On the Congress picking Rohit Nagar instead to contest from Tigoan, the former MLA said, "Had my party filed a strong candidate, I could have understood. But such a candidate has given a ticket whom people don't even know." He also sought suggestions from his supporters who asked him to enter the fray as an independent candidate. "Now, you will have to fight my election," Lalit Nagar

added. Rathore, a former MLA and ticket hopeful from Ballabgarh, also broke down in tears in front of her supporters after she was denied a ticket by the Congress. Her supporters alleged that she had been "betrayed" by her party. Resentment also came to the fore in the Sohna assembly segment in Gurugram where strong contender and senior party leader Jitender Kumar Bhardwaj was not given a ticket. "Sorry friends, today, service, dedication and devotion have been lost," Bhardwaj posted in Hindi on social media. The Congress Thursday announced the candidature of new joiner Rohtash Khatana, who has been associated with JJP previously, as the party candidate from Sohna. The ruling BJP in Haryana also faced rebellion on a few seats after the party denied tickets to some leaders. Voting for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and votes will be counted on October 8.

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya dissolves the State Assembly

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Thursday dissolved the state Assembly with immediate effect, a day after the state cabinet recommended the move to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting. According to a notification issued by Haryana Vidhan Sabha secretariat, the Governor has dissolved the assembly with immediate effect in exercise of the powers conferred under Article 174 (2) (b) of the Constitution of India, which gives the Governor of a state the power to dissolve the state's legislative assembly. The Haryana cabinet had on Wednesday recommended to Governor Dattatreya to dissolve the Assembly to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting. The term of the current Vidhan Sabha expires on November 3. After the governor's move to dissolve the assembly, the Nayab Singh Saini government will continue as a caretaker government till a new one is formed, sources said. Official sources had earlier said that



summoning of the House before the end of the six-month period from the last session is a constitutional requirement. The cabinet move to recommend assembly's dissolution appeared to avert any constitutional crisis. The Haryana Assembly's last session was held on March 13 when the Saini government had won the trust vote and the next session had to be convened by September 12. Saini replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister in March. Khattar is now a Union Minister. Earlier, the Haryana Cabinet had met here Wednesday evening and accorded

approval to a proposal regarding the dissolution of the 14th Haryana Vidhan Sabha, an official release had earlier said. "The proposal will now be sent to the Haryana governor for approval," it had said. Polls have already been announced in Haryana which are scheduled to be held on October 5 and the results are slated to be out on October 8. The government has been summoning the monsoon session in August, mostly after Independence Day. However, polls were announced on August 16 after which the government did not summon a session. In the 90-member Assembly, which has been dissolved now, the present strength of ruling BJP members was 41 including the Speaker, Congress 28, JJP 6, Haryana Dal 1 member each, Independents 4, while 9 seats are vacant. Among the nine seats, while seven fell vacant as legislators across parties resigned after joining other outfits, Badshahpur seat is vacant after Rakesh Daulatabad, Independent MLA representing the seat died in May while Mulana seat is lying vacant after Congress' Varun Chaudhary, who represented it, fought parliamentary polls and got elected from Ambala.

Congress, BJP leaders file their nominations for Haryana Assembly polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Randeep Surjewala's son Aditya Surjewala, BJP's Shruti Choudhry, the granddaughter of former Chief Minister Bansi Lal, and Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal's mother Savitri Jindal were among several leaders who filed their nominations on Thursday for the Haryana Assembly polls. Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader Abhay Chautala filed his papers from Ellenabad while BJP nominee and minister Mahipal Dhand and former Haryana deputy chief minister Chander Mohan, a Congress candidate, filed their nominations from Panipat Rural and Panchkula seats, respectively. Polling for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and votes will be counted on October 8. Thursday was the last day for filing nominations.

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done on September 13 and nominations can be withdrawn till September 16. Aditya Surjewala filed his papers from the Kaithal assembly seat. He was accompanied by his father and the Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala. Shruti Choudhry filed her papers from the Tosham seat in the presence of her mother and Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhry and the BJP's Haryana in-charge Biplab Kumar Deb. The BJP's Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal's mother Savitri Jindal, who was an aspirant for a poll ticket from the party for the Haryana Assembly elections, filed her nomination from the Hisar seat as an independent. She had aspired for a BJP ticket to contest the polls from Hisar but the party renominated sitting MLA and state minister Kamal Gupta from the seat.

Forbes India has listed Savitri, the wife of noted industrialist late O P Jindal, as the richest woman in the country this year having a net worth of USD 29.1 billion. Savitri was elected as an MLA from the Hisar seat twice. She represented Hisar in the Haryana Assembly for the first time in 2005 as a Congress MLA and was reelected from the seat in 2009. She was made a minister in the Bhupinder Singh Hooda government in 2013. She quit the Congress in March this year when her son Naveen Jindal also left the party and later joined the BJP. After filing her nomination, she said, "I have pledged to serve Hisar for its development and transformation. The people of Hisar are my family and Om Prakash Jindal had established my relationship with this family." "The Jindal family has always served Hisar. I am fully

dedicated to living up to the expectations of the people and maintaining their trust," Savitri Jindal said. Congress nominee Ashok Arora, accompanied by senior party leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, filed his papers from the Thanesar seat in Kurukshetra district. Party nominee Nirmal Singh filed his papers from Ambala City, Akram Khan from Jagadhri, Bharat Singh Benival from Ellenabad, Ram Niwas Rara from Hisar, Anita Yadav from Ateli and Bhagwan Dass from Nilokheri. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be conducted on September 13 and nominations can be withdrawn till September 16. The ruling BJP is eyeing a hat-trick in the assembly polls but faces a stiff challenge from a resurgent Congress, which is looking to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor.

Four states join Kerala's push for reform in Central funding

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The finance ministers of four opposition-ruled states expressed solidarity with Kerala on Thursday in its quest for fiscal flexibility and a performance-based share of funds from the Central government. The non-BJP-ruled states -- Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Punjab -- took part in the conclave organised by the Left-ruled Kerala here, which was also attended by the senior officials of the participating states. Telangana Deputy Chief

Minister and Finance Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Karnataka Revenue Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda, and Punjab Finance Minister Sardar Harpal Singh Cheema took part in the conclave and raised voices against the fiscal policies of the BJP-led Central government. Earlier, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the conclave presided over by Finance Minister K N Balagopal and attended by Leader of Opposition in the

Kerala Assembly, V D Satheesan. Addressing the gathering, Karnataka Minister Gowda said there was no reciprocity from the union government for the states that have been contributing to the Centre. Punjab Minister Cheema said he expects the 16th Finance Commission to devise a formula for the allocation of the divisible pool that not only incentivises states to perform better on the development matters but also allocates ample resources to the states that need support to



enhance their performance. Telangana Minister Mallu said the Centre often exceeds its own fiscal deficit target

and creates an unjust situation where fiscally responsible states are restricted in their borrowing

capacity, while the union government enjoys greater financial flexibility. "It is necessary that the Kerala interpretation of Article 293 is followed and the powers of Centre are redefined in favour of state fiscal autonomy. The framers of our Constitution never intended centralised financial control. The Finance Commission was established to ensure fair and equitable distribution of resources between the Centre and the states. "I suggest that we study the impact of devolving more funds to the poorest states so

that we can explore changes if necessary," Mulla said. The Telangana Dy CM said there should be an increase in the states' share in Central taxes from 41 per cent to 50 per cent, resisting the Centre's increasing use of cesses and surcharges, reducing the Centrally sponsored schemes and allowing the states to spend on their local priorities. He said it was not just about technical adjustments but was about justice, equity and the future of Indian federalism. "We must ensure our states have the resources and autonomy needed to chart

their own development path," Mulla said. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Minister Thennarasu said the Indian polity has an "inherent imbalance" in the distribution of powers and responsibilities between union and the states. He said while the states are entrusted with the majority of responsibility related to the development of society and delivery of public services, including education, health, agriculture, and social welfare, the union retains the majority of the powers of revenue generation.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Ayushman bhav!

The Union Cabinet extends Ayushman Bharat to senior citizens Above 70; a move that would benefit six crore people

In a significant move the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme to all citizens above 70 years of age, regardless of their income or social standing. The Cabinet's decision fulfils a key promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign. This move is expected to transform healthcare for senior citizens, providing much-needed relief to millions who have been struggling with rising medical costs and insufficient insurance coverage. Since its launch over five years ago, Ayushman Bharat has provided healthcare access to millions across India, covering hospitalisations and treatments for families that otherwise couldn't afford medical care. However, data has shown that nearly every fourth person admitted to hospitals under this scheme has been a senior citizen, highlighting their disproportionate need for medical support. Out of over one crore admissions, 24% were of citizens aged 60 and above, demonstrating how essential this safety net is for the elderly.



The latest decision to extend coverage to all citizens over 70 is particularly significant as this age group is often neglected by private insurers. Most health insurance companies either refuse to offer policies to those above 70 or charge prohibitively high premiums. Even when insurance is available, pre-existing conditions are often excluded for the first two to three years, leaving many senior citizens without immediate access to treatment for serious ailments like heart disease, kidney issues, and diabetes. With the new policy, six crore people over 70 years of age are expected to benefit, receiving health insurance coverage up to Rs 5 lakh per year. This applies on a family basis, ensuring that elderly individuals, even those abandoned by families or facing financial hardships, can now access free or affordable medical care. The extension of Ayushman Bharat to all citizens above 70 comes at a critical time. Procedures like dialysis, heart surgeries, and cancer treatments are not only expensive but also frequent among senior citizens. The new policy provides a safety net for seniors who have, until now, been forced to bear these expenses themselves or rely on insufficient public health programs. Rs 5 lakh coverage under Ayushman Bharat will lift much of this financial burden, enabling families to access quality healthcare without worrying about their savings. Apart from the direct medical benefits, this policy could have far-reaching social implications. India's senior citizens, especially those in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, often face neglect and abandonment when they become ill. This policy not only promises improved healthcare outcomes but also offers dignity and security to millions of older Indians at a time when they need it most. As this initiative rolls out, its impact on families, communities, and the healthcare system at large will likely be profound, marking a significant leap toward inclusive and accessible healthcare for all.

PICTALK



Visitors at the Taj Mahal during rain, in Agra.

Resignation shakes Trinamool Congress



SIDHARTH MISHRA

Jawahar Sircar's resignation from Rajya Saha highlights growing discontent in Bengal over the State's response to crimes against women

Trinamool Congress Member of Rajya Sabha and former Chairman of Prasar Bharati Jawahar Sircar has resigned both from parliament and the party. Sircar tendered resignation to protest the 'mishandling' of the trainee-doctor rape-cum-murder case at RG Kar Medical in Kolkata. The resignation is significant as Sircar is part of 'Kolkata Bhadrak' which has so far remained steadfast in its support of West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee. The move also indicates that the West Bengal assembly passing a 'very stringent anti-rape law' bill has not cut much ice with the people, who so far have resisted condoning the errors committed by the Mamata government in the matter.



The West Bengal bill, which has now been referred by the Governor to the President, has also not found much echo outside the state. The Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, passed by the West Bengal Assembly is not the first of its kind. In the past five years, Andhra Pradesh (Disha) and Maharashtra (Shakti) passed similar bills with a death penalty clause against the rapists but they are still to bring any change in the matter. All these bills were preceded by Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 through which Capital Punishment for rape made its entry into the Indian Penal Code. This followed the public outrage after the brutal gang rape and murder of a woman on a moving bus in Delhi on December 16, 2012, which shook the collective conscience of the nation. Parliament passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to allow the death penalty in rape cases where the accompanying brutality leads to death or leaves the victim in a persistent vegetative state. Whatever name you may give Aparajita, Disha or Shakti, these bills are meaningless as cases about rape remain pending in the courts for years together. In 2022, com-

combined with those brought in the previous years, courts had around 2 lakh cases for trial. However, trials could be completed in only a little over 18,000 cases, which was less than the number of incidents as well as police charge sheets filed that year. Finally, the conviction rate of 27.4% in rape cases means seven out of every 10 accused persons were acquitted. So just making the laws doesn't help. Speaking at a function some months back, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had quoted BR Ambedkar saying, "However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those responsible for its functioning happen to be a good lot." Maker of the Constitution in the concluding speech before the Constituent Assembly had said, "However good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot. The Constitution can provide only the organs of the State such as the Legislature, the



THE WEST BENGAL BILL, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN REFERRED BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE PRESIDENT, HAS ALSO NOT FOUND MUCH ECHO OUTSIDE THE STATE

Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." If the rapes are not stopping in this country or if the anti-rape laws are not proving to be effective in punishing the rapists, its a failure of culture more than the law. Our society is not very forthcoming the accommodating the woes of a rape victim, and in most cases, the survivor and the family are subjected to terrible humiliation. Those tasked with implementing the Constitution have to possess the spirit of public service rather than political expediency. There is a recent case study carried out by the Uttar Pradesh Police in Ghaziabad district which reiterates the premise. There is an existing government policy for establishing Pink Police Outposts under every police station. The rules have been there but not much work has been done beyond the customary launching of the programme with much fanfare. However, Ghaziabad Police last year

decided to implement the programme in mission mode, and 20 Pink Booths exclusively manned by female police personnel were established in September 2023. A year later the results were for all to see. The mere presence of a force for women's safety had its impact. According to the data released by Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems of Uttar Pradesh Police, crime against women which included dowry deaths, dowry-related cases, molestation, rape and kidnapping came down by approximately 24 per cent. The biggest fall of over 36 per cent was in dowry deaths thus at least securing women inside their homes. If such an initiative by Ghaziabad Police can achieve such results one is sure at the state government level such steps can be taken more effectively. One is not sure how effectively have these pink police outposts been functioning in West Bengal, where the government has just brought a more stringent anti-rape law. (Sidharth Mishra is the author & president Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Madam — The news on Niti Aayog's response to future public health crisis (12-9-24) recommending a legislation is strange. Legislations cannot solve these problems. The status of healthcare, access to nutrition and hunger relief puts India at a shabby bottom line in the global index. Without improving these factors planning to face a likely pandemic can only be an act of humour. Healthcare is made a commodity as understood from levying GST on availing medicines, medical devices and even on life and health insurance policies. Productivity of the nation depends on the productivity of its people. A sane idea would be to improve the health condition of the people by offering the best healthcare to all in the public healthcare institutions. If done so it would take care of major issues connected with pandemics. We have many legislations not implemented with enough seriousness. Therefore Niti Aayog should get down to understand the ground realities and plan accordingly.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

CHIP MAKING IN INDIA

Madam—Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy. During his speech at the SEMICON 2024 conference the PM made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors. A Year ago the Union Cabinet had approved a production linked incentive(PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display board, production in the country. Heavy surge in sales of electronic devices during the pandemic and the indefinite closure of giant chip companies during the lockdown had in fact given rise to a crisis of scarcity of semi conductors in the global market. These chips are infact the 'life' of millions of products in our daily life, ranging from automobiles to fridges and washing machines to computers and smartphones and so on. Insufficiency of these chips had slowed down the produc-

Differently abled deserve a better deal



In a world where able-bodied individuals are often seen as the norm, people with disabilities (PwDs) are frequently perceived as inferior. Can India's remarkable performance at the Paris Paralympics challenge this view? The answer is a resounding yes. With each Paralympic, athletes with disabilities continue to break barriers, proving that strength and resilience transcend physical limitations. India's

18th place finish, with 29 medals, is a testament to this shift, showcasing their growing impact in sports and society.

The Paralympics not only highlights athletic achievements but also emphasizes the right to participate in sports as a fundamental human right. Athletes like Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil, and 17-year-old Sheetal Devi have become global icons, demonstrating that perseverance can lead to greatness. Their success is supported by initiatives like Khelo India and the Sports Authority of India, ensuring that they receive the same recognition as their Olympic peers, such as Neeraj Chopra and Manu Bhaker.

This triumph inspires both the 2.66 crore disabled individuals in India and able-bodied people, showing that true strength comes from within. Learning from these athletes can benefit all sports and help reshape perceptions worldwide.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

REWRITING HISTORY AND SCIENCE

Madam — Should we trust the BJP or the facts proven by history and science? Some pseudo-nationalist leaders in India have cultivated a loyal following that supports their every claim, no matter how questionable. For instance, Madhya Pradesh's Higher Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar recently claimed that Indian ancestors, not Christopher Columbus, discovered America. He also asserted that students have been taught "wrong history," alleging that the Indian hero Vasulun reached America in the 8th century and built temples in Santiago. Such statements reflect a broader attempt to reshape both history and science. Previously, leaders have made bizarre assertions, here's even a claim that Rishi Kanad tested an atomic bomb millions of years ago. Despite the absurdity of these claims, experts remain silent, as dissent is neither allowed nor encouraged in this new system.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The erosion of local cultures and the rise of digital colonisation

We are increasingly relying on digital platforms which have a huge impact on local cultures and thought processes. This raises critical concerns about the future of our cultural identity

There was a time when people from a village knew each other. A minute change in a person's behaviour shall bring to the attention of others. Children were safe in that society. Every town or every place in our country has a uniqueness in its culture, traditions, language, food habits, products produced, and even a story to tell. Colonisation, both external and internal, characterised by the exercise of control by one group over another, has profoundly impacted rewriting history. The motivations behind it have been many, encompassing economic profit, territorial expansion, religious conversion, and geopolitical power, among other considerations. In earlier times, it was foreigners who intruded into the local community; now, the movement of native people from one place to another has changed the demographic profile of a region. For many individuals, the consequences of colonialism have been devastating, resulting in the deliberate destruction of cultural customs, the exploitation of individuals, and the forced



displacement of populations. The cultural erasure caused by colonisation is one of its most enduring impacts. Colonizers often portrayed their own cultures as superior, leading to the suppression of indigenous languages, religions, and customs. In that process, we even lost the local economies that were thriving in our society. Even the different dialects spoken by people of a state or region have been lost because of outside interaction. This has even been reflected in the literary works created during the time. Unfortunately, with colonisation, we made our society a homogeneous one. This can be observed when we travel across the country. The uniform way we built our infrastructure in our cities has made every city look the same. Until the late 90s, every place

in our country was known by some unique geography, a specific market, or even the presence of a person. Nevertheless, colonialism has also led to the exchange of knowledge, culture, food habits, concepts, and technology between the native and colonised populations. In the 21st century, the internet has brought about a new type of colonisation that has begun infiltrating our society. This new form of colonisation is known as digital colonisation.

The term "digital colonisation" refers to the dominance of numerous multinational technology businesses, the majority of which are based in the United States and a few wealthy nations, over the digital infrastructure and data of the entire world. For all of our day-to-day requirements, we began to rely more on digital platforms, reducing the amount of personal interaction. This new digital culture has infiltrated even the remotest parts of our country. These digital titans prioritise everything in our lives, including what we should buy, who we should be friends

with, where to study, which course to study, and even where to give birth. This can potentially destroy local traditions and languages, as most language formats used today are designed to suit digital platforms. People started believing blindly whatever is available on digital platforms. The addiction is so severe that the auto and taxi drivers of Delhi-NCR, who had excellent navigation skills earlier using the brain, have shifted to Google Maps. Global IT giants promote a universal digital culture for various reasons, many of which are tied to their business models and growth strategies. Although this digital culture promotes global connectivity, information accessibility and collaboration, it also has the potential to obscure regional diversity and traditional lifestyles. The concentration of power in the hands of a few tech companies, cultural erasure, and privacy are all concerns raised by the dominance of these corporations.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARMAPALAN



FIRST COLUMN

DIPLOMATIC BOOST TO SEMICONDUCTORS

India and Singapore are building a resilient semiconductor supply chain



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Domestic politics may be a key issue for the ruling NDA alliance, however, it has not taken away Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on constantly working on fine-tuning India's foreign policy. PM Modi recently was in Brunei a first for any Indian Prime Minister on a bilateral state visit, to a country located strategically in the South China Sea. Brunei's visit was topped by the PM's visit to Singapore, an important technology ally for India in the region. India and Singapore will be entering into the 60th year of diplomatic relationship next year and both countries have decided to upgrade their existing bilateral partnership to a Comprehensive strategic partnership, which would in turn expand the areas of cooperation.

One of the key focus, during PM Modi's visit to Singapore was expanding the digital cooperation between the countries. The joint statement released read "Both Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the MoU on cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies and affirmed common interests in data, AI and cybersecurity. Building on this, both Prime Ministers agreed to deepen collaboration in the digital space, including in facilitating trusted cross-border data flows, cybersecurity, and the interoperability of digital systems." A crucial element of the partnership was a demonstration under the trade trust framework. Singapore is home to many large Technology companies, many of whom have regional headquarters in the island state, with the business geography, spread all across Asia primarily India.



Advance technology manufacturing and semiconductors formed another crucial element of the PM's visit. The statement read "Both Prime Ministers agreed to explore cooperation in the area of critical and emerging technologies. Both Prime Ministers agreed that advanced manufacturing, particularly in developing resilient semiconductor supply chains, can be a new pillar of bilateral cooperation.

Both Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the MoU on the India-Singapore Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership. Immediately after the PM visited Singapore the US government also announced a new partnership with India to explore supply chain opportunities in India. Funded under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund, created by the CHIPS Act of 2022 (CHIPS Act) of the US, it allows the department to spend some money on developing a trusted supply chain ecosystem with partners and allies. A US State Department press release read, "The initial phase includes a comprehensive assessment of India's existing semiconductor ecosystem and regulatory framework, as well as workforce and infrastructure needs. The state anticipates that key Indian stakeholders, such as state governments, educational institutions, research centres, and private companies, will participate in this analysis steered by the India Semiconductor Mission. The insights gained from the assessment will serve as the basis for potential future joint initiatives to strengthen and grow this critical sector. The United States and India are key partners in ensuring the global semiconductor supply chain keeps pace with the global digital transformation currently underway. Manufacturing of essential products ranging from vehicles to medical devices relies on the strength and resilience of the semiconductor supply chain."

This week India also hosted SEMICON a global conference that attracts investments in the Indian semiconductor ecosystem. India is trying to attract investments for a crucial component of most modern equipment and machinery called chips. The recent visits by the PM to Singapore and the Memorandum of Understanding with the US may provide the much-needed kickstart for India's semiconductor ecosystem.

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

India's Paralympic journey of resilience and triumph



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Through sheer determination and perseverance, para athletes have steadily overcome the odds, earning global recognition and bringing glory to the nation



The Paris Paralympics unfolded as a captivating display of athletic excellence, particularly for the Indian contingent. It was a spectacle, with each athlete embodying a harmonious blend of strength, determination, and skill – almost like poetry in motion. As an avid follower, I found myself engrossed in nearly every performance, regardless of the challenging (IST) time difference that saw events commence under the glowing silhouette of the Eiffel Tower. On the rare occasions when I could not watch live, social media provided timely updates, fuelling my enthusiasm and admiration for these remarkable athletes.

Their tenacity and commitment to realizing their dreams on the global stage were evident as they competed and excelled across multiple disciplines, leaving an indelible mark on the world of sports. India delivered its best-ever performance at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, achieving a historic 29-medal haul that included seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze medals. This outstanding achievement surpassed the 19-medal tally from Tokyo 2020, where India had won five golds, and marked a significant milestone as the country crossed the 50-medal mark in its Paralympic history. A record 84 para-athletes represented India across 12 disciplines, including the debut participation in para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo. Among the shining stars, Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win two golds at the Paralympic Games, defending her title in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 shooting event with a world-record score. Meanwhile, India saw its first-ever one-two finish in athletics, with Dharambir and Parnav Soorma clinching gold and silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also set a new Asian record of 34.92m. In athletics, several Indian para-athletes etched their names in the record books. Praveen Kumar set an Asian record en route to winning the high jump T64 title, securing India's sixth gold medal – their highest total at the Paralympics. Javelin thrower Sumit Antil made history as the first Indian man to defend his Paralympic title, winning gold in the men's javelin throw F64 with a stunning throw of 70.59m, breaking his record from Tokyo 2020 not once but



INDIA BEGAN ITS PARALYMPIC JOURNEY IN 1968, OVERCOMING NUMEROUS CHALLENGES SUCH AS LIMITED RESOURCES, INADEQUATE FACILITIES, AND LOW PUBLIC AWARENESS. DESPITE THESE HURDLES, INDIAN PARA-ATHLETES GRADUALLY ROSE TO PROMINENCE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

three times. Mariyappan Thangavelu, with a bronze in the high jump T42 class, became the first Indian to win medals at three consecutive Paralympic Games, having previously won gold at Rio 2016 and silver at Tokyo 2020. Preethi Pal secured India's first-ever medal in a track event at the Paralympics with a bronze in the women's 100m T35 race and won another bronze in the 200m, becoming India's most successful athlete at the Games with two medals. The track events also saw Deepthi Jeevanji become the first intellectually impaired Indian athlete to win a Paralympic medal with a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class. India's achievements extended beyond the track and field to other disciplines. In archery, armless archer Sheetal Devi briefly set a world record in the ranking round and later teamed up with Rakesh Kumar to achieve a world record score in the compound mixed team qualification event. It was a perfect example of poetry in motion.

At just 17, Sheetal made history as India's youngest Paralympic medalist by winning a bronze in the mixed team event. Moreover, India's dominance in archery was further confirmed when Harvinder Singh became the country's first-ever Paralympic archery champion. The outstanding performances by Indian para-athletes at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games underscored India's emergence as a formidable contender on the global stage. Originating in 1948 with a sports event for World War II veterans with spinal injuries, organized by Sir Ludwig Guttmann in Stoke Mandeville, England, the Paralympics evolved into an international event in 1960 in Rome with 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then, the Games have grown significantly, challenging stereotypes and promoting inclusivity, while celebrating the exceptional talents and resilience of athletes

with disabilities. India began its Paralympic journey in 1968, overcoming numerous challenges such as limited resources, inadequate facilities, and low public awareness. Despite these hurdles, Indian para-athletes gradually rose to prominence on the global stage. A pivotal moment came in 2004 when Devendra Jhajharia won India's first Paralympic gold, setting a world record in the F46 javelin throw. This achievement heralded a new era for Indian para-sports, culminating in 35 medals across 12 Paralympic Games. The Paralympics exemplify India's commitment to inclusiveness, reflecting a broader national strategy to promote equity in sports. Government initiatives such as the "Target Olympic Podium Scheme" (TOPS), 'Khelo India,' and increased funding for para-sports provide athletes with special abilities access to advanced training facilities, coaching, and financial support. To foster a more inclusive sports ecosystem, India regularly hosts events like the National Para Games and Para Athletics Championships, enhancing visibility and opportunities for para-athletes. What is needed is corporate sponsorships and media coverage which are crucial in transforming societal perceptions of disability, empowering athletes and promoting social inclusion and awareness. Globally, several countries have successfully promoted inclusiveness through sports. The United Kingdom, for example, has been a pioneer in fostering an inclusive sports culture. Looking back at the success of Team GB at the London 2012 Paralympics, where they ranked third with 120 medals, which stemmed from years of investment in para-sports proves this point. The UK government, along with organizations like the British Paralympic Association, provided substantial funding, advanced training facilities, and comprehensive

support for athletes. The extensive broadcasting and marketing of the London 2012 Paralympics also helped transform public perceptions of disability, inspiring a new generation of para-athletes. Similarly, Australia has excelled in promoting inclusivity in sports through the Australian Paralympic Committee, which focuses on talent identification, athlete development, and grassroots inclusivity. Further, Japan's efforts during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics highlighted its commitment to accessibility, with significant investments in inclusive infrastructure, such as accessible public transport, venues, and accommodations, demonstrating a strong commitment to para-sports. Moreover, the Paralympic Committee's 'ImPOSSIBLE' program, an educational initiative by the Agitos Foundation, was introduced in schools across Japan to educate children about the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration, and equality, fostering a culture of inclusivity from a young age. In India, the road to achieving inclusiveness in sports has been long and challenging, but progress is evident. The success of para-athletes at the Paralympics 2024 has helped break down barriers and challenge stereotypes, paving the way for a more inclusive society. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that people with special abilities have equal access to sports and the opportunity to compete at the highest level. The future of Indian para-sports looks promising, as it is a powerful reminder that success in sports is not limited by physical ability but defined by determination, skill, and the spirit to overcome adversity. WE CAN is the catchword.

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

Ozone Therapy: A holistic approach to enhancing health and wellness

Ozone therapy's ability to complement and enhance conventional therapies makes this old treatment a modern-day tool

We live our healthiest when we can balance the demands life places on us with opportunities that heal our bodies. Ozone therapy is emerging as a key wellness treatment that is a transformative addition to conventional medical practices with a multitude of health benefits. The growing concern over managing lifestyle diseases finds a hopeful answer in ozone therapy with doctors appraised of the latest and most effective practices. Developed over 100 years ago in Germany, this complementary medical treatment is proving to be a highly effective integrative treatment that is pocket-friendly and safe for several clinical conditions. Ozone therapy, with judicious doses of ozone administered by a



MILHI SHAH

doctor, brings powerful antioxidant capabilities to restore tissues and body fluids. **Harnessing Ozone's Power:** Ozone therapy involves the administration of ozone gas (O3), a reactive form of oxygen, into the body to stimulate healing and improve overall health. Ozone therapy enhances traditional medical treatments, offering a synergistic approach to health and wellness, where

pain and the side effects of conventional treatment are alleviated by it. It has shown promise in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and autoimmune disorders. For instance, in diabetes management, ozone therapy can improve oxygen utilisation and glucose metabolism, helping stabilise blood sugar levels. In cardiovascular ailments, ozone therapy can enhance blood circulation and reduce oxidative stress, improving heart health. **Pain Alleviation** Ozone therapy's analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties make it effective in pain management. Conditions like arthritis, fibromyalgia, and musculoskeletal injuries often cause chronic pain that is dif-

ficult to manage with traditional methods. Ozone therapy can alleviate pain by reducing inflammation and promoting tissue repair. For example, in arthritis, ozone therapy helps decrease joint inflammation and improves mobility. Compared to conventional pain management techniques, ozone therapy offers a less invasive option, with fewer side effects. **Detoxifying with Ozone** Ozone therapy supplies the body with potent oxygenation, increasing the life-giving gas' availability for cells, and improving their functioning and energy production. The resulting detoxification eliminates toxins, harmful free radicals and waste from the minutest units of our bodies. The result: Rejuvenated,



healthy and energetic selves. **Stress Reduction** Ozone therapy can aid in stress reduction by increasing oxygen delivery to tissues, promoting relaxation and a sense of calm. This is particularly beneficial in our fast-paced world where stress is a common issue. **Athletic Performance:** Ozone therapy's unique restorative abilities are also extremely relevant to meeting the high performance and health needs of athletes. The increased oxy-

genation provided by ozone therapy improves endurance, enhances recovery, and boosts overall performance. **Skin Rejuvenation:** The skin, the body's largest organ, is happiest when we have healthy cells and tissues. Ozone therapy, in promoting healthy cells, leads to several skin benefits. It is effective in treating skin conditions such as acne, eczema, and fungal infections due to ozone's antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. Ozone therapy promotes skin healing by increasing oxygen supply to the affected areas. Additionally, it has anti-ageing benefits. By improving blood flow and stimulating collagen production, ozone therapy can enhance skin elasticity and reduce wrinkles, resulting in a

more youthful and vibrant appearance. **Multiple Ozone Therapy Applications:** Ozone therapy can be administered in various ways, including rectal insufflation, intravenous ozone mixed with saline, and major autohe-motherapy. These methods help activate cellular circulation, enhancing overall health. With over 20 different applications, ozone therapy offers versatile treatment options for a wide range of disorders, promoting healing and well-being through improved oxygen utilization and cellular function. **The Science of Ozone Therapy:** The scientific reason ozone therapy works is its ability to stimulate the mitochondria, the energy powerhouse of the tiniest units of our

bodies - cells. By providing a fresh supply of oxygen, ozone therapy boosts cellular health, bodily functions and energy production. Ozone therapy also helps neutralise free radicals, reducing oxidative stress and preventing cellular damage. Ozone therapy is safe when administered correctly and has been supported by numerous studies demonstrating its efficacy and safety. Ozone therapy's ability to complement and enhance conventional therapies, combined with its wide range of applications, makes the centuries-old treatment a modern-day tool in the quest for holistic health and wellness.

(The writer is trustee of Bisleri Charitable Trust and president Ozone Forum of India; views are personal)

Israel's crackdown on West Bank insurgency killing youths

AP ■ JENIN

As the world's attention focuses on the deadly war in Gaza, less than 80 miles away scores of Palestinian teens have been killed, shot and arrested in the West Bank, where the Israeli military has waged a months-long crackdown. More than 150 teens and children 17 or younger have been killed in the embattled territory since Hamas' brutal attack on communities in southern Israel set off the war last October. Most died in nearly daily raids by the Israeli army that Amnesty International says have used disproportionate and unlawful force. Amjad Hamadneh lost son Mahmoud when the 15-year-old's school dismissed students at the start of a May raid. "He didn't do anything. He didn't make a single mistake," says Amjad Hamadneh, whose son, a buzz-cut devotee of computer games, was one of two teens killed that morning by a sniper. "If he'd been a freedom fighter or was carrying a weapon, I would not be so emotional," says his father, an unemployed construction worker. "But he was taken just as easily as water going down your throat. He only had his books and a pencil case."

It is clear from statements by the Israeli military, insurgents and families in the West Bank that a number of the

Palestinian teens killed in recent months were members of militant groups. Many others were killed during protests or when they or someone nearby threw rocks or home-made explosives at military vehicles. Still others appear to have been random targets. Taken together, the killings raise troubling questions about the devaluation of young lives in pursuit of security and autonomy. The Israeli army said in a statement to the AP that it has stepped up raids since Oct. 7 to apprehend militants suspected of carrying out attacks in the West Bank and that "the absolute majority of those killed during this period were armed or involved in terrorist activities at the time of the incident."

On the June afternoon that 17-year-old Issa Jallad was killed, video from a neighbor's security camera shows, he was on a friend's motorbike with an Israeli armored vehicle in close pursuit. Days later, a poster outside his family's home in Jenin showed him cradling an assault rifle and declared him a holy warrior. But the grainy tape, reviewed by the Associated Press days after the raid, and others from nearby cameras do not explain where he fit in the conflict. The Israeli army said that its soldiers had spotted two militants handling a powerful explosive



device. When the pair tried to flee, troops opened fire and "neutralized them." But an Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem, says its review of multiple security camera videos showed Jallad and his friend posed no threat. "We all expected to be in this situation," said the teen's brother, Mousa Jallad. "It could happen to any of us."

Jenin's refugee camp has long been notorious as a hotbed of Palestinian militancy, raided repeatedly by Israeli forces who have occupied the West Bank since seizing control in their 1967 war with neighboring Arab states. The embattled territory was already seeing deadly clashes before the war began. But Israeli forces, which police about 3 million Palestinians while assigned to protect 500,000 Jewish settlers, has significantly stepped up raids in the months since. Youths represent almost a quarter of the nearly 700 Palestinians slain in the West Bank since the war began, the most since the violent uprising known as the Second Intifada in the early 2000s. More than 20 Israeli civilians and soldiers have been killed in the territory since October. A military spokesman said the Israeli army makes great efforts to avoid harming civilians during raids and "does not target civilians, period." He said human rights group focus on a few outlier cases. Military operations in the West Bank are fraught because forces

are pursuing militants, many in their teens, who often hide among the civilian population, said the spokesman, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani. "In many cases many of them are 15, 16 years old who are not wearing uniforms and might surprise you with a gun, with a knife," he said. Critics say the crackdown is shaped by retribution, not only military strategy. When sirens erupted at the start of the May raid, Amjad Hamadneh says, he called Mahmoud on his cell phone and was relieved to hear that the brothers had reached their school. But then Mahmoud's twin brother, Ahmed, called back to say that the principal had dismissed classes. As students poured into the street, the brothers were separated in the chaos. Four bullets hit Mahmoud as he fled, and another pierced his skull. He was the third student from his school killed in a raid since the war began. A former classmate, Osama Hajir, who had dropped out of school to work, was also killed, along with a teacher from a nearby school and a doctor from the hospital down the street. "Now when I hear the sound of sirens I go to my room and stay there," says Karam Miazneh, another classmate, who was shot during the raid but survived. "I'm still in fear that they will come to shoot me and kill me."

Immediately after the May raid, a spokesman for the army said it had carried out the operation with Israeli border police and the country's internal security agency, destroying an explosive device laboratory and other structures used by militants. But police recently declined to comment, and three weeks after the AP asked the military to answer questions about the May raid, an army spokesman said he was unable to com-

ment until he could confer with police. When Amjad Hamadneh heard his son had been wounded, he sped through Jenin's twisting streets, drawing gunfire as he neared the hospital. But Mahmoud was already gone. Nearby, Osama's father, Muhammad, broke down as he leaned over his son's body. Months earlier he'd snapped a photo of the smiling teen beside graffiti touting Jenin as "the factory of men," tirelessly cranking out fighters in the resistance against Israel. Now, he pressed that same, still-smooth face between his hands. "Oh, my son. Oh, my son," he sobbed. "My beautiful son."

Since Mahmoud Hamadneh was killed, his siblings ask frequently to visit his grave. His younger sister now sleeps in his bed so her surviving brother, Ahmed, will not be in the room alone. "I feel like I cannot breathe. We used to do everything together," Ahmed says. His father listens closely, despairing later that such grief could drive the teen into militancy. If the risk is so clear to a Palestinian father, he says, why don't Israeli soldiers see it? "They think that if they kill us that people will be afraid and not do anything," he says. "But when the Israelis kill someone, 10 fighters will be created in his place."

Starmer plans 'major surgery' to reform country's health service

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday announced plans for "major surgery" that is needed to reform the National Health Service (NHS) after a damning new review warned that the country's state-funding health service is in "serious trouble". Starmer pledged the "biggest reimagining of our NHS since its birth" in a speech after former surgeon Lord Ara Darzi's probe concluded the service is in a "critical condition" amidst surging waiting lists and a deterioration in the nation's underlying health, identifying serious and widespread problems for people accessing services.

Based on Darzi's diagnosis of the challenges facing the NHS, Starmer outlined greater digitisation, reducing care burden on the hospitals and a greater focus on prevention rather than cure as the fundamental areas of reform. "What we need is the courage to deliver long-term reform — major surgery not sticking plaster solutions," Starmer said in his major speech at the healthcare charity King's Fund in London. "The NHS is at a fork in the road, and we have a choice about how it should meet these



down approach of the past, this plan is going to have the fingerprints of NHS staff and patients all over it," said Starmer. "And as we build it together, I want to frame this plan around three big shifts — first, moving from an analogue to a digital NHS. A tomorrow service not just a today service. Second, we've got to shift more care from hospitals to communities... and third, we've got to be much bolder in moving from sickness to prevention. Only fundamental reform and a plan for the long term can turn around the NHS and build a healthy society. It won't be easy or quick. But I know we can do it," he said. Darzi is an independent House of Lords peer and practising surgeon with 30 years of experience in the NHS. He examined over 600 pieces of analysis from across the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and external organisations during his investigation. He notes a deterioration in the nation's health over the past 15 years, with a substantial increase in the number of people living with multiple long-term conditions. At the same time, NHS waiting lists have swelled and waiting times have surged.

rising demands. Raise taxes on working people to meet the ever-higher costs of aging population, or reform to secure its future," he said. "We have to fix the plumbing before turning on the taps. Hear me when I say this: No more money without reform," he added. The rapid review into the taxpayer-funded service, which employs a large number of Indian doctors and nurses, had been commissioned by the newly elected Labour government soon after the July 4 general election. It sets out the problems in the NHS and themes for the government to incorporate into a 10-year plan for reforming the health service. "This government is working at pace to build a 10-year plan; something so different from anything that has come before. Instead of the top-

UK waives settlement fees, unveils new visas for bereaved partners

London (PTI): Eligible foreign nationals dealing with the death of a partner and facing financial hardship will soon be able to apply to have the application fee for settlement in the UK waived, under new rules laid out in Parliament this week. Currently, people who wish to apply for settlement in the UK following the death of their British citizen partner are required to pay a GBP 2,885 fee, irrespective of a change in financial circumstances following a loss. Indian-origin migration and citizenship minister Seema Malhotra told Parliament on Tuesday that this fee will now be waived from October 9 as part of a "fairer and more compassionate approach" to those wishing to stay in the UK and facing acute financial vulnerability during times of grief. "Losing a loved one is a deep and unimaginable pain, all too often compounded by the immense financial strain faced by those left behind," said Malhotra. "Widows, widowers, and their dependent children who had become integral parts of our communities can now apply for a fee waiver if facing destitu-

US to sell anti-submarine sonobuoys to India

Washington (PTI): The US has decided to sell High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare (HAASW) sonobuoys worth USD 52.8 million to India, a move that would enhance New Delhi's capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations. Sonobuoys are air-launched, expendable, electro-mechanical sensors designed to relay underwater sounds to remote processors. These are effective and affordable anti-submarine warfare (ASW) that are capable of being used by airborne ASW warfighters. "The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations from its MH-60R helicopters. India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces," the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week. As per the Arms Export Control Act, Congress has 30 calendar days to review the sale.

N Korea has fired ballistic missile toward sea: South

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Thursday, South Korea's military said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to put his nuclear force fully ready for battle with its rivals. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the missiles launched from North Korea's capital flying 360 kilometers (about 220 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed officials to ensure the safety of ships and aircraft, but there were no immediate reports of damage. The reported fight distances suggest the missiles were designed to attack South Korea. The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff condemned the launches as a provocation that poses a serious threat to peace on the Korean Peninsula. The launches were North Korea's first public weapons firing activities in more than two months. On July 1, North Korea claimed to have tested a new tactical weapon capable of delivering a "super-large" 4.5 ton-class warhead. In a Monday speech marking his government's 76th foundation anniversary, Kim said he would redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies. Kim made such a pledge saying North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of what he called "the reckless expansion" of a U.S.-led regional military bloc that is now developing into a nuclear-based one. Kim has made similar vows numerous times, but his latest threat came as outside experts believe North Korea could carry out a nuclear test explosion or long-range missile test-launches ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November to boost its leverage

Billionaire takes pvt spacewalk from SpaceX capsule

Cape Canaveral (AP): A billionaire stepped out for the first private spacewalk Thursday, teaming up with SpaceX on the daring endeavour hundreds of miles above Earth. Tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman and his crew waited until their capsule was depressurised before popping open the hatch. Isaacman emerged first, joining a small elite group of spacewalkers who until now had included only professional astronauts from a dozen countries. "Back at home, we all have a lot of work to do. But from here, it sure looks like a perfect world," said Isaacman. The commercial spacewalk was the main focus of the five-day flight financed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's company, and the culmination of years of development geared toward settling Mars and other planets. All four on board donned SpaceX's new spacewalking suits to protect themselves from the harsh vacuum. They launched on Tuesday from Florida, rocketing farther from Earth than anyone since NASA's moonwalkers. The orbit was reduced by half — to 460 miles (740 kilometres) — for the spacewalk. This first spacewalking test, expected to last close to two hours, involved more stretching than walking.

Spanish PM meets exiled Venezuelan opp leader

AP ■ MADRID

Venezuela's opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González met with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Thursday, four days after fleeing to the European country in a negotiated deal with Nicolás Maduro's government. González's flight to exile — after weeks of seeking refuge in the embassies of the Netherlands and Spain in Caracas — had dealt a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his opposition campaign. His supporters in Venezuela and beyond, along with the United States gov-

ernment, consider him the legitimate winner of the July 28 presidential election. Sánchez, who was on a trip to China when González arrived, posted a video of their meeting Thursday on the social media platform X. The two are seen strolling together in the Moncloa Palace gardens in Madrid. Spain has welcomed González as a sign of its "humanitarian commitment and solidarity with Venezuelans," Sánchez said in his post. On Wednesday, the Spanish Parliament approved a proposal from the conservative Popular Party urging Sánchez's left-wing coalition government to recognise the opposition leader as the elected president of Venezuela. The motion is non-binding. Spain's government supports the European Union position of demanding that Maduro make public the raw polling results before the bloc recognises a winner. The European Parliament will debate the outcome of the Venezuelan elections on Tuesday in Strasbourg, France. González's arrival has further strained relations between Madrid and Caracas. On Wednesday, Jorge Rodríguez, president of Venezuela's National Assembly, asked

for "the immediate rupture of all diplomatic relations, of all commercial relations." "Let all the representatives of the Spanish government delegation leave, and let us bring our own," Rodríguez said in the Assembly and also called for "the immediate closure of all commercial activities of Spanish companies." González, who was Venezuela's former ambassador in Argentina during the presidency of late Hugo Chávez, landed Sunday at a military airport near Madrid. He travelled aboard a Spanish military plane. Following the election, González and the

Pope lauds S'pore's skyscrapers, calls to remember migrants

Singapore (AP): Pope Francis on Thursday praised Singapore's economic strength as a testament to human ingenuity but urged the city-state to look after the weakest, too, especially foreign workers, as he opened the final leg of his tour through some of Asia's poorest countries in one of the world's richest. Singapore celebrated his arrival by unveiling a new hybrid orchid named for him, the "Dendrobium His Holiness Pope Francis." Presented during an official welcome ceremony, the orchid "exudes a serene and pure beauty" of ivory white petals with a pink tinge at the center, according to

the National Parks Board. Francis arrived in Singapore from East Timor and began his official program Thursday by meeting with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong before addressing government authorities and the diplomatic corps at the National University of Singapore. There, Francis marveled at Singapore's modern skyscrapers "that seem to rise from the sea" and the government's commitment to providing public housing and quality education and health care to its people. But he urged authorities to beware of rewarding excel-

lence at all costs, a reference to Singapore's highly competitive work and educational culture. "I would like to highlight the risk entailed in focusing solely on pragmatism or placing merit above all things, namely the unintended consequence of justifying the exclusion of those on the margins from benefiting from progress," he said. In a common appeal from history's first Latin American pope, Francis called especially for dignified pay and conditions for migrant workers, who have helped build Singapore into one of the world's most advanced economic powerhouses. "These workers contribute a



Pope Francis gestures to attendees after presiding over a holy mass at the SportsHub National Stadium in Singapore on Thursday AP/PTI

Blinken wraps up Europe trip with arms request

AP ■ WARSAW
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is wrapping up a three-nation, Ukraine-focused European tour in Poland after hearing repeated appeals from Ukrainian officials to use Western-supplied weaponry for long-range strikes inside Russia.

Blinken traveled to Warsaw on Thursday after spending a day in Kyiv with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during which they pledged to bring the Ukrainian requests to their leaders. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are to meet in the United States on Friday amid signs both Washington and London are growing more receptive to allowing the Ukrainians to use their arms to hit targets farther inside Russia than previously okayed. NATO member Poland, which shares a border with Ukraine, has been supportive of the Ukrainians and Blinken is likely to hear further requests for easing weapons-use restrictions from Polish President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski.

On Wednesday, Blinken and Lammy announced that the United States and Britain had pledged nearly \$1.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine during their visit to Kyiv. Blinken announced more than \$700 million in humanitarian aid, while Lammy confirmed that his country would provide another \$782 million in assistance and loan guarantees. Much of the effort was aimed at bolstering the energy grid that Russia has repeatedly pounded ahead of an expected difficult winter. Ukraine's wish list is long and non-military assistance is certainly on it, but Ukrainian officials made clear their most important ask is for easing restrictions on where Western weapons can be used. Air-raid sirens sounded repeatedly during the visit, causing delays in their schedule and forcing them to cancel a wreath-laying ceremony.

Blinken would bring the discussion with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the missiles "back to Washington to brief the president" and that Biden and Starmer will "no doubt" talk about the issue when they meet in Washington. "Speaking for the United States, we have adjusted and adapted as needs have changed, as the battlefield has changed. And I have no doubt that we'll continue to do that as this evolves," Blinken told a news conference. His language was very similar to that which he used in May, shortly before the U.S. green lit Ukrainian use of U.S. weapons just inside Russian territory.

Court seeks clarification of Imran's military trial

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
A Pakistani high court on Thursday asked the government to clarify the uncertainty surrounding the possible military trial of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was hearing a petition filed to prevent Khans possible military custody and trial over his involvement in the May 9, 2023 violence in which supporters of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party allegedly attacked military installations following his arrest.

The court raised concerns over the potential trial of a civilian in a military court, emphasising that the issue is a matter of serious concern for both the petitioner and the judiciary.

During the hearing, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb asked Assistant Attorney General Azmat Bashir Tarar to seek directions from the Attorney General's office over the issue and provide a clear response to the court. "You are saying there is no case now, but could there be one later?" the judge asked, highlighting the uncertainty surrounding the matter. The court adjourned the hearing until September 16, giving the federal government time to submit its response. PTI in a WhatsApp message also confirmed that the IHC ordered the government to file a reply on "possible military trial of Imran Khan by Sep 16". If the government denies any plans for a military trial, the petition will be rendered moot.

Lawyers for Kremlin's foe Navalny face trial

AP ■ PETUSHKI
Three lawyers who once represented the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny went on trial Thursday in Russia, part of the Kremlin's unrelenting crackdown on dissent that has in recent years reached levels unseen since the Soviet times. The three — Vadim Kobzev, Igor Sergunin and Alexei Liptser — were arrested in October 2023 on charges of involvement with an extremist group.

Petushki (AP): Three lawyers who once represented the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny went on trial Thursday in Russia, part of the Kremlin's unrelenting crackdown on dissent that has in recent years reached levels unseen since the Soviet times. The three — Vadim Kobzev, Igor Sergunin and Alexei Liptser — were arrested in October 2023 on charges of involvement with an extremist group.

MECHANIZED CLEANING OF COACHES OF THROUGH PASSING TRAINS
E-Tender Notice No: GEM/2024/B/5371559; Dated: 06-09-2024. Open tender in "Two Packet System" are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Name of work: Mechanized cleaning of coaches of through passing trains at New Jalpaiguri platform during halt under "Clean Train Station" (CTS) scheme for a period of four years. Tender Value: ₹2,07,74,61,63.30. Earnest Money: ₹11,88,600.00. E-Tender will be closed at 19:30 hrs. on 27-09-2024 and opened at 10:00 hrs. on 27-09-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website <http://www.gem.gov.in>

Punjab & Sind Bank
Bank invites offers, under two bid system for premises measuring carpet area 1000 Sq. Ft. to 1200 Sq. Ft. on ground floor, on lease for a minimum period of 15 Years (Fifteen Years) for new PSB branch office along with onsite ATM at prime location in Goverdhan District Mathura (U.P.) For details, visit our website: www.punjabandsindbank.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that We Dr. Nareesh Vaid & Dr. Ashok Vaid are filing application in L&DO for substitution / mutation of the Property No. B-111-12 Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007 in the name of Sh. Kedar Nath Vaid, on the grounds of inheritance. If there are any objections / claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mohd. Ibrahim Khan who is the owner of the Residential Flat A-159, First Floor, Jhalwa 655A Yards, Kharsa No. 512, Village Chhotpur, Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. (owner vide Sale Deed dated 23.02.2017 (vide Doc No.1078) executed by Mr. Chandra Prakash Sharma to be financed by Gritium Housing Finance Limited, Ghaziabad, That Original Sale Deed dated 24.03.2006 (vide Doc No.2421) executed by Mr. Mandeep Singh in favour of Mr. Chandra Prakash Sharma has lost. If any person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-9/3B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301>Contact No: 91-98299373

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
No. AD/SC-23-10/2024/1930
Dated, the 10th Sept, 2024
Advertisement
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement 01 no. of Asst. Teacher Cum NCC Officer on contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.
For further details visit our website- <https://paradiport.gov.in/Carrer.aspx>.
Sd/-
Sr. Assistant Secretary, Paradip Port Authority

PUBLIC NOTICE
Re: Property Bearing No. 222, area measuring 50 sq. yds., Out of Kharsa No. 36/45, situated in the area of Shastri Nagar, in the area of Village/Khureji Kharsa, Illaga Shastri Nagar, hereinafter referred to as the "said Property".
Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Ms. Shama Praveen, she is the sole and absolute attorney holder of the said property vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS, and Will dated 03/10/2005 executed by Mr. Azam Ali in her favour. Mr. Azam Ali has owned the said property vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS, and Will dated 28/08/2023 executed by Mr. Manish Arora in his favour. Now our clientless intends to mortgage the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., for availing loan facility.

Punjab & Sind Bank
Bank invites offers, under two bid system for premises measuring carpet area 1000 Sq. Ft. to 1200 Sq. Ft. on ground floor, on lease for a minimum period of 15 Years (Fifteen Years) for new branch office along with onsite ATM at prime location in Kosi Kalan District Mathura (U.P.) For details, visit our website: www.punjabandsindbank.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that the Original Allottee of a Residential Flat No. A-159, First Floor, Jhalwa Vihar, Sector-21 Noida, WG. CDR. H.K. NAGPAL (RETD.) S/O. B.D. NAGPAL R/O. A-159, SECTOR-21 Noida had executed a General Power of Attorney in favour of MRS. BEENA MATHUR W/o. SHRI RAKESH S. MATHUR R/O. A-301 GARIMA VIHAR, SECTOR-35 Noida vide GPA Dated 14/08/1992 and the same was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Noida and an Agreement to Sell is also been executed in favour of MRS. BEENA MATHUR W/o. SHRI RAKESH S. MATHUR which is not registered. On the basis of the aforesaid General Power of Attorney MRS. BEENA MATHUR wishes to transfer the said Residential Flat in favour of SHRI ABHISHEK SHARMA S/O. LATE SHRI HARSHANKER SHARMA R/O. A-158, JALVAYU VIHAR, SECTOR-21 Noida. Because the aforesaid Agreement to Sell is not registered. So with the help of this notice it is informed that on the transfer of the aforesaid Residential Flat if any one has/have any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Office of AGM/OSD (Group Housing) Noida Authority along with the proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice.
Beena Mathur W/o. Shri Rakesh S. Mathur R/O. A-301 Garima Vihar Sector-35 Noida.

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mrs. Ashima Gupta has acquired the Third Floor, Front Side, LHS, with roof rights, area measuring 60 sq. yds., built on Property bearing No. C-15, out of Kharsa No. 333, situated in the area of village Bindapur, Delhi State colony known as Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059 by way Sale Deed dated 11.12.2022. Decree No. 28501, in the Court of Municipal Corporation Hapur, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Hapur vide Gift Deed dt. 23.08.2022 executed by Mrs. Kanta Devi and Sale Deed dt. 07.08.1974 executed by Mr. Mangra Mal in favour of Mrs. Kanta Devi in respect of the said property lost in Original.
OR
Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance, howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address.
After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) N. No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi - 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Ayush Gupta had acquired Plot No. 22, area 200 sq. yds., MPL No. HPLW/30/174 Kharsa No. 65M, situated at Mohalla Pakka bagh Hapur in the area of Municipal Corporation Hapur, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Hapur vide Gift Deed dt. 23.08.2022 executed by Mrs. Kanta Devi and Sale Deed dt. 07.08.1974 executed by Mr. Mangra Mal in favour of Mrs. Kanta Devi in respect of the said property lost in Original.
OR
Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance, howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address.
After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) N. No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi - 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Om Prakash Rai had acquired Back side portion of Ground Floor without roof rights, measuring 50 sq. yds., built on Property No. A-515, Kharsa No. 773, situated at Budha Mang Mandawali, Village Mandawali, Fazalpur, Ilaka Sitarkhanda, Delhi vide GPA, ATS & Will, dated 07.08.2024 executed by Mr. Ram Prakash Sharma and Shri Om Prakash Rai is the undisputed owner of the above said property.
OR
Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance, howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address.
After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) N. No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi - 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public that Mr. Manish Kumar Agarwal R/O - E-52 Sector-40 Noida District - Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh is the sole and absolute owner of the said property bearing No. C-165 (Plot no. 165, Block-C, area measuring 70 sq. mtrs situated in the layout plan of Hyderabad residential no known as Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110065 (The said Property).

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Shreya Prasad D/o Shiv Prasad, R/O A-106 Unesco Apartments, 53 ID Extension, Patparganj, Delhi, East Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as Shreyas Prasad Saxena and Shiv Prasad Saxena in my Passport Number Z6489010. The actual name of mine and my father are Shreyas Prasad and Shiv Prasad respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.
SHREYA PRASAD

PUBLIC NOTICE
Reg. Old House Bearing No. 84 & New No. 118, 2/3A measuring 104.5 sq. mtrs., situated in Mohalla Mirzajaban, Ghaziabad, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P. (Hereinafter referred to as the "said Property").
Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Mr. Mohd. Amir & Mrs. Raseeda (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said property from Mr. Vipin Kumar Garg, Mr. Sachin Garg, Mr. Pranshu Sharma (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are joint owners of the said property. The seller has informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mrs. Neeru Garg vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 15613, Book No. 4, Volume No. 7725, pages 311-326, on 22.10.2013. Mrs. Neeru Garg executed and the said property developed on her legal heirs viz., Mr. Vipin Kumar Garg, Mr. Sachin Garg, Mr. Pranshu Sharma. Thus, the said property became the joint owners of the said property. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said property is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Re: P.Vt. Flat Bearing No. 204, on First Floor without roof rights, (hereinafter referred to as the "said flat"). Built up on Property of Land area measuring 104.5 Sq. Mtrs., Out of Kharsa No. 37/2, situated Village Shabbad Dault Pur, abadi known as Shabbad Part II, Delhi, (hereinafter referred to as the "said Property").
Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Ms. Tiny Mohanty, she is the sole and absolute attorney holder of the said flat vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS, and Will dated 28/08/2023 executed by Mr. Bhavani Singh in her favour. Later on, an Authorization Slip dated 12.08.2024 was executed by President of India through Delhi Development Authority in her favour, in respect of the said flat of the said property. The said authorization slip is registered as Document No. 2024/02/154, Book No. 1, Volume No. 1023, pages 156-66 on 20.08.2024 (SRO-VIE). Thus the said flat is owned by her. Now our clientless intends to mortgage the said flat with SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., for availing loan facility.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that the Original Allottee of a Residential Flat No. A-159, First Floor, Jhalwa Vihar, Sector-21 Noida, WG. CDR. H.K. NAGPAL (RETD.) S/O. B.D. NAGPAL R/O. A-159, SECTOR-21 Noida had executed a General Power of Attorney in favour of MRS. BEENA MATHUR W/o. SHRI RAKESH S. MATHUR R/O. A-301 GARIMA VIHAR, SECTOR-35 Noida vide GPA Dated 14/08/1992 and the same was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Noida and an Agreement to Sell is also been executed in favour of MRS. BEENA MATHUR W/o. SHRI RAKESH S. MATHUR which is not registered. On the basis of the aforesaid General Power of Attorney MRS. BEENA MATHUR wishes to transfer the said Residential Flat in favour of SHRI ABHISHEK SHARMA S/O. LATE SHRI HARSHANKER SHARMA R/O. A-158, JALVAYU VIHAR, SECTOR-21 Noida. Because the aforesaid Agreement to Sell is not registered. So with the help of this notice it is informed that on the transfer of the aforesaid Residential Flat if any one has/have any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Office of AGM/OSD (Group Housing) Noida Authority along with the proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice.
Beena Mathur W/o. Shri Rakesh S. Mathur R/O. A-301 Garima Vihar Sector-35 Noida.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower/s mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(14) of the said Act and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.
Sr. No. Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession Date of Demand Notice/ Amount (Rs) Name of Branch
1. Anubhav Pandey/ Shalija Mishra/ LBNO00006262683/ UNCOVERED Car Parking, Tower-C, Nri Residency, Built On Plot No.GH-01, Situated at Sector-Omega-II, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ September 9, 2024 May 31, 2024 Rs. 57,03,591/- Delhi/ NCR
2. Minni Tiwari/ Sanjay Kumar Tiwari/ VIVEK TIWARI/ DLBE00003876309 Flat No.147, 1st Floor, New LIG Flats, Village Kondli Ghazoli, Mayor Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi- 110096/ September 10, 2024 March 22, 2024 Rs. 15,88,929/- Delhi/ NCR
3. Shyam Nandan Yadav/ Kaushalya Devi/ TBDFZ00006263585 Lig Flat No.A-2, First Floor, Without Roof Rights, Plot No.324, Situated at Residential Colony Shalimar Garden Extension-1, Village-Pasoda Tehsil and District Ghaziodad, Uttar Pradesh- 201005./ September 10, 2024 May 22, 2024 Rs. 14,75,945/- DELHI/ NCR
4. Ratnesh/ Parnesh/ DLBE00002377176 Plot No.24, Ground Floor, Sector G-8, Pocket 3 Block B4 Narela Delhi- 110090/ September 10, 2024 February 08,2024 Rs.6,36,353/- Delhi/NCR/ Sonapat
5. Krishna Kumar/Rekha/ DLBN00001365152 Plot No-S-2, Plot No-C-1/93 (SF Front Side LHS) DLF Dilshad Extd, Ghaziabad/ September 10, 2024 June 19, 2021 Rs. 5,03,188/- Delhi/ NCR
The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: September 13, 2024 Place: Delhi/NCR
Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Deepika W/o Upendra Kumar Rathi R/o House No-1022, Sector-5, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P) 201012 have changed my name to Deepika Rathi for all future purposes.
PD(742)A I, Neeraj Kumar S/o sh. Pawan Kumar R/o Flat No-302, Tower-A6, Jaypee Classic, Sector-134, Noida, PO: Maharishi Nagar, DIST: Gautam Buddha Nagar-201304, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Neeraj Gupta for all future purposes.
Pd(744)C I, hereto known as Gayatri Singh W/o. Mr. Manoj Kumar, R/o. 62/F1, Masjid Moth, South Ex-2, Near Ansal Plaza, South Delhi, Delhi-110049 changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gayatri for all future purposes.
PD(745)A I, hereto known as Manoj Singh S/o. Mr. Kanwar Singh, R/o. 62, F1, Masjid Moth, South Ex-2, South Delhi, Delhi-110049 changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manoj Kumar for all future purposes.
PD(746)A

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
Plaintiff's Advocate Mr. B.G.Rajprohit Public Summons In the Court of Small Causes at Ahmedabad Court No.6
New Small Cause Court Summary Suit No.-52023 Exh.23 (Old City Civil Commercial Civil Suit No. 232/2021) (Old Small Cause court Commercial Civil Suit No. 358/2020) (Old City Civil Summary Suit No.-3049/2013)
Plaintiff: 'Ms. 'MAGRAJ KANTIL FAB PVT LTD.' Office At: 705/1, Rangwala Market, Sakar Bazar, Kalupur, Ahmedabad- 380001. Usual offices at: 272, New Chok Market, Sagar, Ahmedabad Through Director SHRI KANTIL S/O MAGRAJ SANGHAVI Age: 66 Yrs. Occ. Business, religion: Hindu.
Versus Defendants: (1)MS. 'SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD.' (Registered Under the Provision of Company Act) OFFICE: 73, G.Fir, Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN:110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P) PIN:201301. (2) SHRI AMIT K. MITTAL managing Director of Ms. 'SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD.' OFFICE: 73, G. Fir, Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN: 110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P) PIN: 201301. RESI: 45, Defence Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110032. (3) SHRI PUJA MITTAL a Director of MS. 'SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD.' OFFICE: 73, G. Fir, Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN: 110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P) PIN: 201301. RESI: 45, Defence Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110032. (4) SHRI RAKESH KUMAR SHARMA a Director of MS. 'SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD.' OFFICE: 73, G. Fir, Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN:10051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P) PIN: 201301 RESI: 1309/98, Kung Gali, Ramnagar Shahdara, DELHI-110032. SUIT valued at Rs. 19,58,422/-
You, The Defendant is hereby informed that the above named Plaintiff has instituted the above mentioned Primary Suit against you for recovery of Rs. 19,58,422/-
The court has tried to serve the summons as well as the court process was returned unexecuted. In the above circumstances, the Public Summons is hereby issued by way of publication in the daily News paper as per the Order passed below Exh-22 by the Hon'ble Court.
Where the Plaintiff above named has instituted a suit against you, the Defendant under Order XXXVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for Rs. 19,58,422/- and interest. You are hereby summoned to cause an appearance to be tendered for you, within 10 days from the date of the publication of this public summons in the News paper, in default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled, after the expiration of the said period of ten days, to obtain a decree for any sum not exceeding the sum Rs. 19,58,422/- and such amount as the court may award for costs together with such interests, if any as the court may order.
If you, the Defendant cause an appearance to be entered for you, the Plaintiff will thereafter, serve upon you a summons for judgment at the hearing of which you will be entitled to move the court for leave to defend your suit.
Leave to defend may be obtained if you satisfy the court by affidavit or otherwise that there is a defence to the suit on the merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to defend suit.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 07th day of August, 2024. Sd/- (J.H. Nayak) Registrar, Small Cause Court, Ahmedabad.

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : lob1836@job.in)
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Rule 8(1)]
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD, Faridabad, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20/05/2024 Calling upon the borrower's/mortgagor's/guarantors Shri / M/s:-
1. M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
2. Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
3. Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
4. Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
5. Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
6. Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
7. Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
8. Mr. Susheel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
9. Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
10. Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
11. Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
12. Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)
(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/mortgagor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh fifty three thousand four hundred twenty three and seventy one paisa) including bank guarantees as on 17/05/2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc. till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers 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 of the said rules on this 11th day of September the year 2024.
(2) The borrowers 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 Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs.31,91,93,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 09/09/2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayment, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on 31/08/2024 is Rs.31,91,93,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
(3) The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Residential property - Flat No 771/F-B, Sagar Presidency, 7th Floor, Sector 50 Noida In The Name Of Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh S/o. Shri. Janardhan Singh Area of the Property as per Title Deed - 146.87 Sq. Mtr.
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No/Flat No 771 7th Floor In survey No F-8 Sagar Presidency //City or Town Survey No.-Kharsa No within the registration sub-district Noida and District Noida (UP)
Bounded On the North by On the South by On the East by On the West by
Dated: 13.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai- 400 070. IN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Website: www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address : Dhiraaj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Nilas Circle, Naupada, Bhat (West) - 400 602.
DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 1190001237 of Noida Branch) Indu Bala (Borrower) Rohit Goyal (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1931193 / (R) Nineteen lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Three Only) NPA (09-08-2024)	Flat No-1009 Ground Floor Pocket Gh-58/7 Paschim Vihar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110063
(LC No. 0100004950 of Chennai Branch) Mohan V (Borrower) Vanitha M (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 2657798.22 / (R) Twenty six lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Eight Only and Twenty Two Paise) NPA (03-11-2019)	Plot No 3316 First Floor Block C33, Tiv Svaya Sriperumbudur Village Kancheepuram Chennai Tamil Nadu - 602105
(LC No. 2490000225 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Hari Prasad Nath (Borrower) Beauty Moni Salkia (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1407203.02 / (R) Fourteen lakh Seven Thousand Two Hundred Three Only and Two Paise) NPA (09-08-2024)	Dda Janta Flat No. 62, second Floor Sunrise Apartments, pocket 6 Nasirpur, dwarka New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 1980041484 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Parveen Kameer Hans (Borrower) Shanti Devi Hans (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 3991406.66 / (R) Thirty nine lakh Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Only and Sixty Six Paise) NPA (09-08-2024)	T/3/0302, tower-3, third Floor, second Flank Lakeside Heights, lake Grove City, Kundli Hospital, South West Delhi, Delhi-110030
(LC No. 1330000610 of Cannaught Place Branch) Jitendra Omare (Borrower) Alka Devi (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 2383828.4 / (R) Twenty Three lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight Only) NPA (09-08-2024)	Plot no. c-32, Second Floor Block L H Kh No. 730, Mohan Garden, Villa Nawada Uttam Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi
(LC No. 2340000205 of Agra Branch) Uday Bir Singh (Borrower) Sashi Devi (Co Borrower 1) Amit Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 780865.1 / (R) Seven lakh Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Five Only) NPA (09-08-2024)	Plot No. 25 On kharsa No. 130, Deep Puram Colony Noida - Aurganabad Bagh Agra Mathura Uttar Pradesh - 281006
(LC No. 196DE36759 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) SANDEEP GUPTA (Borrower) Pooja Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1343902.6 / (R) Thirteen lakh Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Two Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (09-08-2024)	H/flat No.1223, Floor No. 12th, Unit No R0230h1223, Sector. 17a, Village Yamuna Expressway Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201205
(LC No. M0268962 of Noida Branch) Zahidur Rahman (Borrower) Taslima Rahman (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 3090111.24 / (R) Thirty one lakh Ninety Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only and Twenty Four Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	Property No. C 50 B, Block C, Kharsa No. 79, Village-Babarpur, Sushila Public School, Kabir Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094.
(LC No. M0268962 of Noida Branch) Zahidur Rahman (Borrower) Taslima Rahman (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1341480.36 / (R) Thirteen lakh Forty One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Only and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	Property No. C 50 B, Block C, Kharsa No. 79, Village-Babarpur, Sushila Public School, Kabir Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094.
(LC No. BLSA00016063 of Delhi Branch) Aryanam Roy (Borrower) Rina Roy (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1229565.6 / (R) Twelve lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	C3 Flat No.12, Second Floor, Rhsb Side, Flat Without Roof, Kharsa No.1151/3, Property No 602 B/4, Abadi Lal Dora Village Mehrauli West Huz Kharsa Mehrauli, Zentod Hospital, South West Delhi, Delhi-110030
(LC No. M00597509 of Noida - Sector 4 Branch) Rajesh Rajesh (Borrower) Rishabh Barta (Co Borrower 1) Shilpa (Co Borrower 2)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 2291442.06 / (R) Twenty Two lakh Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two Only and Six Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	Plot No B 35, Western Front Side Portion Of 2nd Floor, Flat No SF 1, Plot Bearing No B 35, Village Ganga Vihar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201202
(LC No. M0103938 of Noida Branch) Dishu Sharma (Borrower) Pinki Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 640715.91 / (R) Six lakh Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Fifteen Only and Ninety One Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	Shop

Retail inflation rises to 3.65 per cent, remains within RBI target

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation marginally increased to 3.65 per cent in August and remained within the Reserve Bank's target of 4 per cent, the government data showed on Thursday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 3.6 per cent in July 2024 and 6.83 per cent in August 2023. Inflation in the food basket was 5.66 per cent in August, marginally up from 5.42 per cent in July, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The inflation also was below 4 per cent in July.

The government has tasked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.



The combined inflation (rural and urban) fell to 3.65% in August 2024, compared to 6.83% in August 2023. However, it has increased by 110 basis points when compared to the previous month's 3.54%.

This was the second time in nearly five years that overall retail inflation fell below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target. The last time was July 2024.

The RBI's inflation target is

4% with a tolerance band of +/- 2 percentage points, meaning that the target is within the range of 2% to 6%.

Urban inflation fell to 3.14% in August 2024, compared to 6.59% in August 2023. Rural inflation fell to 4.16% in August 2024, compared to 7.02% in August 2023.

The combined Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), which shows food inflation was 5.66% in August 2024, compared to 9.94% in August

2023. Urban food inflation fell to 4.99% in August 2024, compared to 10.42% in August 2023.

Rural food inflation fell to 6.02% in August 2024, compared to 9.67% in August 2023.

Tomatoes have exhibited the lowest year on year inflation (-47.91%) as well as lowest MoM change in index (-28.8%).

The prices of vegetables rose the most by 10.71%, compared to the other item categories. In urban areas, the rise was 13.22% and in rural areas, it was 13.22%.

Bihar witnessed the highest combined inflation among all Indian states in August 2024 at 6.62%, followed by Odisha at 5.63% and Assam at 5.03%.

On the other hand, Telangana had the lowest combined inflation of 2.02% followed by Uttarakhand at 2.37% and Delhi at 2.52%.

Nifty hits lifetime high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex hit the historic 83,000 level for the first time on Thursday and the Nifty settled at a lifetime high after a rally in blue-chip shares, surge in global markets and foreign fund inflows.

A sharp fag-end rally drove the 30-share BSE Sensex to the 83,000 level for the first time. The barometer surged 1,593.03 points or 1.95 per cent to hit its lifetime intraday peak of 83,116.19 in the last hour of trade. The index closed at a record high of 82,962.71, up by 1,439.55 points or 1.77 per cent.

The NSE Nifty surged 470.45 points or 1.89 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 25,388.90. The benchmark hit its fresh all-time intra-day high of 25,433.35, a jump of 514.9 points or 2 per cent. Nifty and Sensex opened higher and traded in a range till late afternoon trade.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, JSW



Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest gainers.

Nestle emerged as the only laggard from the blue-chip pack.

While the session remained subdued for the most part, strong buying in heavyweight stocks across sectors propelled the indices sharply upward in

the final hours, Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled with significant gains while Shanghai ended marginally lower. European markets were trading higher. Wall Street ended with sharp gains on Wednesday.

Latest US inflation numbers are mildly positive for markets. August CPI inflation coming at 0.2 per cent has brought down the

12-month inflation to 2.5 per cent from 2.9 per cent earlier.

"This paves the way for a rate cut by the Fed in September. But since core inflation continues to remain high at 3.2 per cent the Fed is likely to be cautious and refrain from a 50 bps rate cut, finally settling for a 25 bps rate cut," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,755 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

FIIs turning buyers in the cash market during the last three days is another indication that the market will continue to be resilient, Vijayakumar added. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.39 per cent to USD 71.59 a barrel. The BSE benchmark dropped 398.13 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 81,523.16 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty declined 122.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 24,918.45.

DGCA orders audit of flying schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a special audit of flying training organisations in the country amid recent accidents involving training aircraft. The audit of flying training organisations (FTOs) will be conducted in three phases from September to November 2024. It will cover 33 FTOs.

"This audit aims to thoroughly assess the safety standards, operational procedures, and systemic deficiencies within flying training organisations to ensure the highest levels of safety and compliance," DGCA said in a release on



Thursday.

The regulator said the move follows a series of recent training aircraft incidents that have sparked concerns regarding the compliance of FTOs with respect to the established aviation regulations and safety protocols. The last such special audit was conducted in 2022.

"The audit will scrutinise each FTO's adherence to DGCA's regulatory standards, including aircraft maintenance, airworthiness, and training operations," the release said.

India, China talk aviation cooperation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and China on Thursday discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the civil aviation sector, including resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam and other senior officials met with representatives from China on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in the national capital.

In a post on X, Naidu said he along with senior officials had a courtesy meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Song Zhiyong.

The meeting focused on

exchange of views regarding "further strengthening civil aviation cooperation between the two countries, especially promoting early resumption of scheduled passenger flights between us," the minister said in the post.

Later, Naidu told reporters that the Chinese side mentioned about resumption of direct flights but no decision has been taken. A decision will be taken after discussions with the external affairs ministry and other stakeholders.

Currently, there are no direct flights between India and China. The services stopped at the time of coronavirus pandemic.

IndiGo and Air India had flight services to China.

Oil prices drop, fuel costs may follow

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Price of international crude oil - the raw material for making petrol and diesel - dropped to a three-year low before marginally recovering but a revision in domestic petrol and diesel rates is likely only if lower rates are sustained, industry sources and officials said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell below USD 70 per barrel on Tuesday - the first time since December 2021 - but gained thereafter after Hurricane Francine hit crude supply in the Gulf of Mexico. Brent rose above USD 71 a barrel on Thursday while West Texas Intermediate advanced to trade near USD 68.

Petrol and diesel prices - which have been on a freeze for over two years now



barring a pre-election reduction earlier this year - will be revised if the declining trend sustains, they said.

Oil Secretary Pankaj Jain speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, said the oil companies will be taking appropriate decisions on reducing fuel prices if international oil prices were

to settle lower on a sustained basis.

Industry sources said the three state-owned fuel retailers are making good profits on petrol and diesel but want the trend to continue before deciding on a revision.

"They don't want a situation where they cut prices and are faced with a situation where international prices rise," an official explained.

Brokerage Emkay Global Financial Services in a note said it expects Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to cut petrol and diesel prices before elections in Maharashtra.

"We believe there are expectations of a retail price cut in auto-fuels for oil

marketing companies (OMCs) amid the upcoming state elections. While we do not rule out the same, the model code of conduct for J&K and Haryana is on for a month. There could be a cut only toward Diwali and before Maharashtra election's model code of conduct, which could be Rs 2 per litre each for petrol and diesel and possibly coupled with an equivalent increase in excise duty," it said.

However, during the next month, OMCs can earn supernormal marketing margins, covering LPG under-recoveries and inventory losses to a large extent. We estimate implied July-September gross marketing margins at Rs 9.7/8 per liter for petrol/diesel vs Rs 4.7/3.8 in Q1 (April-June) and a normative range of Rs 3.5-4 each," it said.

Health cover for age 70 and above to bring relief to million families: Industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government's move to provide health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly, industry players said on Thursday.

The Union Cabinet had on Wednesday approved health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens. The Rs 5 lakh free

health insurance cover would benefit senior citizens of around 4.5 crore families.

Reacting to the announcement, Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH President Abhay Soi said, "We believe this initiative will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and strengthen India's position as a leader in inclusive healthcare."

The benefit package needs to be tailored to the population segment so that it encompasses the entire continuum of care, he said, adding that NATHEALTH is ready to support the government with the rollout.

Similarly, Organisation of

Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai described the initiative as "a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly."

"It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move," he added.

Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private



health insurance schemes, as "These individuals represent a segment that must be

brought into the fold of financial protection," he asserted.

Welcoming the government's move, Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) Chairman Pavan Choudhary said the decision to extend health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above - irrespective of income under AB PM-JAY is commendable.

"MTAI, having consistently advocated for this inclusion, recognises this move as a landmark step toward equitable healthcare for India's ageing population," he added.

Paras Health Group Chief Operating Officer Santy Sajan described the government's

step as a much-needed step towards ensuring that India's elderly population has access to essential healthcare services.

"As India's senior population grows, the demand for geriatric care is increasing, and this initiative is a timely response to that need. By providing comprehensive health coverage to our senior citizens, the scheme not only alleviates the financial burden on families but also reinforces the importance of accessible healthcare for all age groups," he added.

Similarly, FICCI (Health Services) President Harsh Mahajan said, "As our elderly population grows, so does the

need for specialised geriatric care, and this expansion will enable more families to access essential services without the burden of overwhelming medical expenses."

However, he said, expanding the beneficiary base by such a significant margin presents real-life challenges, particularly regarding the viability of the scheme for smaller and medium-sized hospitals.

"These institutions often operate on tight margins, and the added pressure of accommodating a larger patient base, especially with senior citizens requiring more intensive care, could strain their resources," Mahajan said.

WhatsApp Business introduces verified badge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With more businesses embracing messaging to engage with their customers, Meta on Thursday announced a slew of new features and programmes including full availability of verified badge - a trust marker - for small businesses to establish credibility and credentials with consumers.

At the WhatsApp Business Summit in Mumbai, Meta also spotlighted Artificial Intelligence

tools for enhancing the messaging experience. To start with, Meta will make it easy to activate AI directly from WhatsApp Business app to enable businesses to engage more efficiently with their customers - it has recently started testing this in India, and says early results are exciting. The US social media giant also announced customised messages on WhatsApp Business app, as it pledged commitment to supporting the growth of small businesses in India.

Industrial output growth slows down

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production growth slowed down to 4.8 per cent in July this year mainly due to poor show by mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released on Thursday.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) witnessed a growth of 6.2 per cent in July 2023.

India's Index of Industrial Production increased by 4.8 per cent in July 2024, an official statement said.

The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew 4.6 per cent in July 2024 against 5.3 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production rose by 3.7 per cent and power output increased 7.9 per cent in July 2024.

In the April-July period, the IIP grew 5.2 per cent against 5.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

Tata Power offers settlement chance at National Lok Adalat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), a leading power utility supplying electricity to the populace of over seven million in North Delhi, is participating in a National Lok Adalat in association with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) on Saturday, to settle cases of electricity theft and disconnected connections.

The Adalat will be held from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at PLA-I, Sub Station Building 2/13, Sector - 13, Rohini, Delhi - 110085, near Venkateshwar Global School.

"Those who want to take part in the proceedings of National Lok Adalat, need to register at helpline 19124 or by writing to eac.care@tatapower-

ddl.com. Registered litigants should carry their Photo ID, along with a copy of theft bill or disconnected connection," Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), said in a statement.

"This is a good opportunity for consumers seeking amicable on-the-spot settlement of power theft cases and disconnected connections.

In case of a default, the company will be obliged to initiate criminal/ civil proceedings against the consumers under the relevant provisions of Electricity Act, 2003 and DERC Regulations. Consumers can pay their bills through various means, such as Cheque, Demand Draft (DD), Debit Card, Credit Card and various online modes, or Cash.

Soyabean oil imports surge amid price drop

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's crude soyabean oil imports reached a seasonal high of 4,54,639 tonnes in August, even as local soyabean prices have dropped below the minimum support price (MSP), industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said on Thursday.

According to SEA, crude soyabean oil imports in August 2023 stood at 3,57,890 tonnes.

The share of non-palm oils, including soyabean oil, made up 48 per cent of the total vegetable oil imports.

The surge in imports comes as local soyabean prices dropped below the MSP, raising concerns about farmers' income with the new crop's arrival expected in the coming weeks.

SEA praised the government's efforts to procure soyabean at MSP in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, but suggested increasing import duties on crude and refined edible oils by 20 to 25 per cent across the board as a more effective solution. "This



will translate into remunerative price to the farmers for his produce and the market forces will be able to pay above MSP price to the farmers and at the same time the government does not have to procure at MSP," SEA said in a statement.

The industry body noted that in the last two months, soyabean ex-mandi prices were Rs 550-600 per quintal below the MSP of Rs 4,892 per quintal causing unrest among farmers.

However, total vegetable oil imports declined to 15.63 lakh tonnes in August from 18.66 lakh tonnes a year ago. In the non-palm oils segment, crude sunflower oil imports fell 22.34 per cent to 2.84 lakh tonnes in August.

KS Rana named trade commissioner, Sultanate of Oman



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dr. KS Rana who had been Vice Chancellor of various universities and Institutions as well as advisor to various ministries of the Government of India has been appointed as Trade Commissioner of the Sultanate of Oman. Addressing the India - Oman Trade Conference on Thursday attended by Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman HE Issa Saleh Abdullah Alshibani, diplomats, delegates from UNO countries, Rana said today is a historical day in the relations between India and Oman as the Sultanate of Oman recently visited to India. Rana welcomed the initiatives of GoI and further added that on behalf of all India GCC Council- Oman as Trade Commissioner, he will help build and strengthen trade spanning thousands of years.

मध्य प्रदेश लघु उद्योग निगम मर्यादित
कार्यालय संपदा एवं निर्माण संभाग, आई.आई.डी.सी. प्लाजा
39, सिटी सेंटर, ग्वालियर (म.प्र.), दूरभाष : 0751-2439024
क्र : लउनि/निर्माण/सं.-खा./2024-25/06 दिनांक : 11.09.2024

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. औद्योगिक क्षेत्र निवाड़ी भाटा, जिला निवाड़ी में अधोसंरचना विकास कार्य, अनुमानित लागत रुपये 3,02,15,418/- निविदा की बिड जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 28.09.2024 सयं 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/116418/2024 महाप्रबंधक (सं./नि.)

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NANDINI SATPATHY RETOLD

NANDINI SATPATHY, former union minister and chief minister of Orissa was one who lived during the days of titans of Indian politics. Though not a leader in the true sense of the word, she too had her successes and failures. Nandini's life sketch is introduced to the readers 18 years after her demise but she had disappeared from public life much earlier. Author **PALLAVI REBBAPRAGADA** deserves kudos for bringing Nandini back amongst us.

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The art of writing a book, whether it is novel, essays, short stories, poetry or history is a job of creativity. It is the writer's hands-on experiences or tough realities he/she faced in life that come out as literary works. Lessons one learnt from the course of life, certain incidents which leave unforgettable experiences in the mind and conversations with individuals who leave an impact in the heart are the epicenters of these literary works. One who sets out to write the life-sketch of eminent persons should have first hand interaction with the subject. Those experiences alone would help the writer to come out with something new that would remain etched in the minds of readers for decades to come.

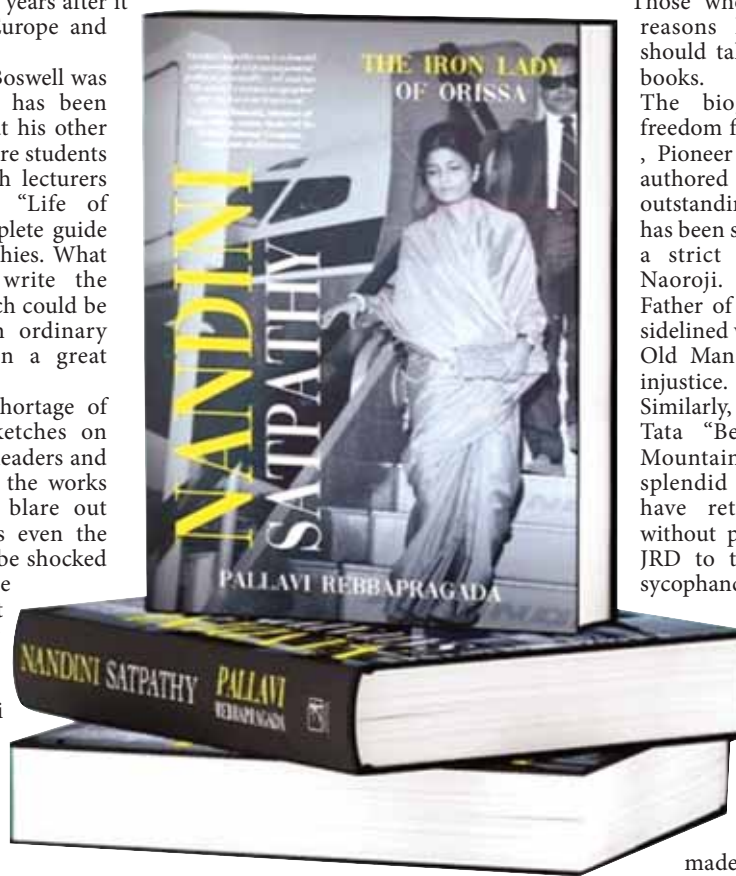
Dr Samuel Johnson is rated as the most distinguished man of letters in English history. Johnson (1709-1784) was a literary critic par excellence and he was the trendsetter in this field. His style and thought process has resulted in the Samuel Johnson's school of criticism and continues to be the benchmark of this field of literature.

But what is equally important is the biography of Johnson authored by James Boswell, a lawyer and writer. Scotland-born James Boswell wrote "Life of Samuel Johnson" which was published in 1791 based on the series of interviews and dialogues he had with Johnson. This biography stands out as

the "most famous single work of biographical art in the world of literature" even after 223 years after it hit book stalls across Europe and US.

It cannot be stated that Boswell was a genius as not much has been heard or discussed about his other literary pursuits. Literature students were told by the English lecturers to compulsorily read "Life of Samuel Johnson", a complete guide on how to write biographies. What Boswell did was to write the biography in a style which could be comprehended by even ordinary people. Thus was born a great literary work.

In India, there is no shortage of biographies and life-sketches on freedom fighters, social leaders and politicians. But most of the works are hagiographies and blare out qualities of the subjects even the latter themselves would be shocked to hear. Books on the Father of the Nation, first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter and late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi are proof of this kind of works. Dhananjay Keer (1913-1983) is unique among the Indian biographers and he chose his subjects meticulously. His works on Veer Savarkar and Dr Ambedkar are path



breaking books as he had personal contacts with these great sons of India. Those who lambast Savarkar for reasons known to them only should take time and read Keer's books.

The biography of the great freedom fighter Dadabhai Naoroji, Pioneer of Indian Nationalism, authored by Dinyar Patel is an outstanding work as the author has been successful in maintaining a strict balance in describing Naoroji. Naoroji, was the real Father of the Nation. But he was sidelined with the honorific Grand Old Man of India! It was gross injustice.

Similarly, the biography of JRD Tata "Beyond The Last Blue Mountain" by R M Lala is a splendid work. Lala could not have retired from the scene without presenting the unknown JRD to the world. There is no sycophancy or prolix throughout this book and this made it interesting. The book remains memorable as it was written by Lala, a close associate of the Grand Old Man of Indian Corporates.

Of late our politicians and businessmen have made it a point to publish their biographies by hiring writers. Needless to say that these works would

not be read even by the persons who review the same. There are people whose biographies and life-sketches should be written. This is because they serve as a beacon of light for the readers.

A biography of Nandini Satpathy, the former chief minister of Orissa has been published by Simon and Schuster and authored by Pallavi Rebbapragada, a journalist and public policy consultant based in New Delhi. It is a good mission as nothing much has been heard about Nandini Satpathy since 1980 as she withdrew from active politics and faded out since her rejoining the Congress. Nandini had an uneventful career at the Center as deputy minister for information and broadcasting. Those were the days when Akashvani was described as Indirawani because the babus in Mandi House preferred to pay obeisance to the Prime Minister than their profession as broadcasters.

Nandini returned to Orissa in 1972 and was crowned as chief minister at the instance of Indira Gandhi. Her tenure saw hundreds getting imprisoned for questioning the declaration of internal emergency. By December 1976, towards the fag end of emergency, Nandini quit the Congress along with Jagjivan Ram, Chandra Sekhar, Mohan Dharia and Hemavati Nandan Bahuguna to form Congress For Democracy. The slogan coined by the opponents of Indira Gandhi at that period read like this: "Jagjivan Poyi, Jivan Poyi, Bahuguna Poyi, Gunavum Poyi, Nandini Poyi,

Nanavum Poyi" which was the Malayalam for "With Jagjivan's exit, the party lost its life, With Bahuguna's exit, the party lost quality and with Nandini gone, the party lost the last vestige of whatever reputation". To be candid, Nandini Satpathy's name hogged the national limelight when she left the Congress party.

Had she been effective as chief minister of Orissa, the State should have made giant strides in development and progress. But Orissa remains one of the least developed regions in India. A thorough probe should be held on how the politicians managed to make Orissa remain as a poverty stricken State despite its vast natural resources and sufficient assistance from the Center.

The author has used theatrics in the narration to sell Satpathy to the readers. Her claim that Nandini Satpathy was the Iron Lady of Orissa is far-fetched. The designation Iron Lady was used by international experts to describe Gold Meir, the fourth Prime Minister of the State of Israel (1969-1974). Perhaps, the over dependence on TV anchorpersons might have put the author in a minefield of wrong information. Biju Patnaik would have been an ideal topic for her to write about since not much has been written about the titan from Eastern India.

NANDINI SATPATHY
Pallavi Rebbapragada
Publisher: Simon & Schuster India
Ptice: INR 899/

NEW RELEASES

by Rupa Publications India and Aleph Book Company

Autocrats: Charisma, Power and Their Lives

RAJIV DOGRA

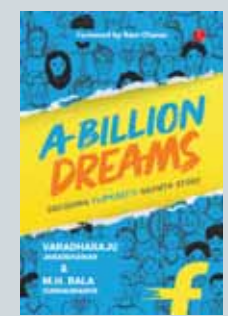
Rajiv Dogra's *Autocrats: Charisma, Power, and Their Lives* offers a penetrating exploration into the world of authoritarian leaders. The book dissects how such leaders' cults of personality take root and endure, revealing their psychological profiles, private lives and the progression of tyranny through history. It poses uncomfortable questions about the nature of autocrats and their impact on their nations. This meticulously researched work blends elegance with depth, exposing the dark forces behind authoritarian rule and the societal fears they evoke. A must-read for those seeking to understand the global phenomenon of autocratic power.



(Price: INR 795, Pages: 352)

A Billion Dreams: Decoding Flipkart's Growth Story

Varadaraju Janardhanan and M.H. Bala Subrahmanya



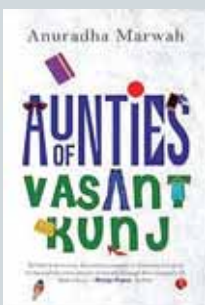
A Billion Dreams charts the extraordinary growth of Flipkart, from its humble beginnings as an online bookstore founded by Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal to becoming a major player in India's e-commerce sector. The book reveals how Flipkart's innovative approach and culture of corporate entrepreneurship propelled it from a start-up to a decacorn. It highlights the company's impact on India's startup ecosystem, including its strategic acquisitions and role in fostering new ventures. This engaging account is perfect for those interested in entrepreneurship and the secrets behind Flipkart's success.

(Price: INR 395, Pages: 176)

Aunties of Vasant Kunj

ANURADHA MARWAH

Aunties of Vasant Kunj by Anuradha Marwah humorously follows three women- Shailaja, Mrs. Gandhi and Dini- whose lives intersect in the bustling Delhi neighborhood of Vasant Kunj. As they grapple with personal challenges like a predatory boss, a cheating spouse and an irresistible but unsuitable lover, they find themselves navigating a whirlwind of Buddhist chanting, activism, and fermented drinks. This witty and engaging novel offers a vibrant peek into middle-class Delhi, exploring how these women confront their identities and desires amidst the chaos of their everyday lives.



(Price: INR 395, Pages: 304)

The Silent Contributors to India's Economic Growth

Suhanaa Setty reveals the vital yet unrecognised labour of women in India. Her book *Invisible - Hands of the Indian Economy* challenges traditional economic measures, spotlighting the essential contributions of unpaid work that support both families and the economy, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Suhanaa Setty's debut book, *Invisible - Hands of the Indian Economy*, is a compelling and insightful examination of the often-overlooked contributions of women to India's economy. At just 16 years old, Setty offers a powerful critique of traditional economic frameworks, highlighting how the labour of countless women remains unrecognised in standard economic measures such as GDP. Her work is both a poignant exploration of personal stories and a significant challenge to conventional notions of economic value.

The book focuses on the lives of 22 women from diverse backgrounds whose essential, yet unpaid, work is crucial to the functioning of both their families and the broader economy. Setty uses personal anecdotes and striking black-and-white photography to vividly illustrate these stories. Through these narratives, she contrasts the visible, often well-compensated labour found in offices and factories with the invisible, unpaid labour performed in homes and informal sectors. This approach serves as a powerful

reminder of the importance of recognising and valuing work that sustains the economy but is frequently taken for granted. A central strength of the book lies in its critique of the National Income Accounting (NIA) systems, which fail to account for the economic contributions of women's unpaid labour. Setty adeptly demonstrates how traditional economic measures overlook crucial aspects of economic activity, particularly those related to household management and caregiving. By highlighting these gaps, Setty challenges readers to rethink what constitutes economic value and to consider a more inclusive definition of productivity that encompasses all forms of labour.

Setty's personal reflections on her mother's sacrifices add a poignant emotional depth to the narrative. She recounts how her mother left a promising career to manage the household and care for the family

- an experience that profoundly shaped Setty's understanding of the value of care work. These personal insights enrich the book and provide a lens through which the broader issue of undervalued labour is examined.

The stories of the 22 women featured in the book, such as Ratna, a construction worker who is paid less than her male counterparts and Garima, a business owner balancing her

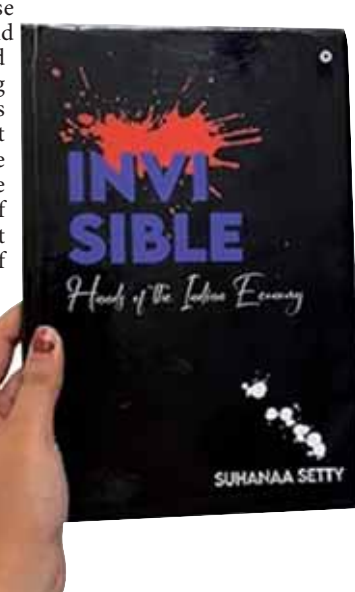
entrepreneurial ambitions with unpaid family care, are presented with empathy and respect. Setty portrays these women not as just statistics but as individuals with their own struggles, aspirations and contributions. This humanising approach makes the book more than just an academic critique, it serves as a tribute to the resilience and strength of women who significantly contribute to their communities despite facing considerable barriers.

The visual elements of the book, including the evocative black-and-white photographs, enhance its impact by providing a tangible connection to the stories being told. The images capture moments of both work and reflection, helping readers appreciate the real, everyday labour performed by these women. This visual storytelling underscores the book's central message: that behind every overlooked contribution is a person whose work deserves recognition and respect. While Setty's book does not offer specific policy recommendations, it

effectively prompts readers to question entrenched societal norms and economic assumptions. By raising questions about why certain types of work are valued over others, the book encourages a broader discussion on how to more accurately reflect the value of all forms of labour in economic metrics.

Invisible - Hands of the Indian Economy is a significant and thought-provoking addition to the discourse on gender, economics, and social justice. Setty's ability to blend emotional storytelling with a critical examination of economic systems makes this book a powerful call to action. It urges readers to acknowledge and value the invisible labour that supports both families and the broader economy. For anyone interested in gender equality, social justice and the future of economic measurement, Setty's debut is an essential read that promises to challenge and inspire.

INVISIBLE HANDS OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY
Author : Suhanaa Setty
Publisher: NotionPress
Price: INR 799



DRAUPADI'S MEMOIRS

A new perspective on mythic fiction

In *The Empress of Indraprastha*, Sonali Rajee brings a refreshing contemporary voice to one of the most complex female characters in Indian epics - Draupadi writes **SANJAY CHANDRA**

Through her first-person narrative, Rajee explores the layers of Draupadi's life, from her enigmatic marriage to the five Pandavas to her strategic foresight in a hostile world. With easy-to-follow language and modern mythic fiction style, Rajee's debut offers a fresh take on ancient tales, appealing to readers of all ages.

Draupadi is one of the most polarizing characters in Indian epics—adored and maligned in equal measure. Her silent acceptance of her mother-in-law Kunti's words, which made her the shared wife of five men, remains puzzling to many. Equally difficult to comprehend are her dismissive remarks towards Karna, rejecting him as low-born

during her swayamvar, despite her intelligence. *The Empress of Indraprastha*, the first book in Sonali Rajee's five-part series, opens with preparations for Draupadi's wedding. Draupadi recalls her mother's empowering words: she has the right to refuse any suitor, even if they succeed in the challenges set for her swayamvar. Her mother's strength leaves a deep impression on Draupadi, shaping her into a strong-willed woman. The story also introduces her twin brother Dhrishtadyumna, both born from a sacred fire, and Shikhandi, her older transgender sibling, who leads the army—an indication of the gender inclusivity of their times. The swayamvar becomes a pivotal



moment when Draupadi refuses to let Karna attempt the challenge, leading to Arjuna's triumph. However, Draupadi's life takes an unexpected turn when Kunti unknowingly orders her sons to share whatever they have brought home, including Draupadi. While shocked by this command, Draupadi soon realizes the deeper need for unity among the brothers to navigate a dangerous world. Her acceptance is portrayed as both strategic and pragmatic.

As the story unfolds, Draupadi's foresight comes into play. She repeatedly urges her husbands to seek partition, a move that eventually grants them a kingdom—though not as they imagined. The

Pandavas are given Khandavaprastha, a barren wasteland, but with confidence in their abilities, they set out to build a mighty empire.

Sonali Rajee's *The Empress of Indraprastha* is told in the first person, offering Draupadi's own perspective on the events of her life. The 138-page book, part of a new genre of contemporary mythic-fiction, is accessible and engaging for readers of all ages. Rajee's scientific background and experience as an associate professor of chemistry add a unique depth to her storytelling, especially in revisiting a subject that has been explored by many authors before her.

PRAGGNANANDHAA, VAISHALI STAR IN INDIA'S STRONG START AT OLYMPIAD

PTI ■ BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)

Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian mens team blanked Morocco 4-0, while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

With world championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defense game while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins to start off confidently on Wednesday.

In the womens section, R Vaishali and Tania Sachdev scored fine victories in the first time control itself. However, on the other two boards there was stiff resistance as Divya Deshmukh had to sweat hard for a much-needed victory while Vantika Agarwal was forced to concede a draw in the endgame against her rival. It was business as usual for the top guns despite the occasional hiccups. Top seeded United States also won 3.5-0.5 against Panama. Wesley So was the



lone American who was unable to force matters and had to be content with a draw. Armenian-American Levon Aronian came out of an early mishap to turn the tables and ensure smooth sailing for the American team into round two. As many as 99 teams in the open section started off with wins giving them all two points

each. A total of 182 teams were paired while 15 teams were still grappling to reach Budapest. Praggnanandhaa was up against a Sicilian by top Moroccan Mohamed who had only himself to blame after the opening got over. The Indian teen had a stronghold on the king side that he utilised to the fullest to take the first point home for

the team. Not very far behind was Gujrathi who was clearly in his elements. He also got an opening advantage out of a King pawn game against Jacques Elbilia as he knocked down a pawn and never looked back. Erigaisi may have had to work harder but the Indian youngster, who is currently

ranked number four in the world, was never far from winning his game. Harikrishna faced some initial resistance from Anas Mosyad in a closed Sicilian but his superior understanding of the structure gave him the vital point. The second round will see the Indian men clash with a spirited Iceland. In the womens competition,

Vaishali had no trouble in converting her position with black pieces as D Harika was rested on the top board.

Tania Sachdev was in command right through and despite a little mess-up, she did not let the advantage slip through her hands playing on board four.

On the second board, there were some serious issues for Divya Deshmukh but the recently-crowned world junior girls champion proved her mettle out of an equal position. The same, however, was not the case with Vantika as she was forced in a drawn queen and pawns endgame.

The womens event features 178 teams as of now with 19 still awaited to join the extravaganza from round two onward.

Indian results round 1: R Praggnanandhaa beat Tissir Mohamed; Jacques Elbilia lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Ouakhir Mehdi Pierre; Anas Moayad lost to P Harikrishna. **Women:** R Vaishali beat Adani Clarke; Divya Deshmukh beat Rachel Miller; Raehanna Brown drew with Vantika Agrawal; Tania Sachdev beat Gabriella Watson.



Harmanpreet's brace hands India 3-1 win over Korea in ACT hockey

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as defending champions India beat Korea 3-1 to register their fourth consecutive win at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here on Thursday.

Paris Olympics bronze medalist India had defeated Malaysia 8-1. Already assured of a semifinal berth, India will play arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday in their last league match in the six-team competition. The top four teams from the league stages will qualify for the semifinals scheduled on Monday, while the final will be played next Tuesday.

India continued their fine form and struck twice early in the first quarter to take a 2-0 lead. Arajiet Singh Hundal, who scored a brace against Malaysia, scored the first goal in the eighth minute before Harmanpreet, regarded as one of the worlds best dragflickers, converted two penalty corners in the ninth and 43rd minutes. Korea's lone goal was scored by Jihun Yang in the 30th minute from a penalty corner.

As has been the case in the tournament so far, the Indians started on an aggressive note with Arajiet handing his side the lead with a brilliant strike after being fed by Sukhjeet Singh. A minute later, the promising Raj Kumar Pal, who struck a hat-trick against Malaysia on

Wednesday, earned a penalty corner for India and captain Harmanpreet converted the chance with a powerful dragflick.

Indias reserve goalkeeper Suraj Karkera was impressive under the bar, denying Korea on a few occasions in the second quarter. After an impressive first quarter, the Indians seemed to have gone into a shell in the next 15 minutes as Korea dominated the proceedings with continuous forays on the rival citadel.

The Indian defence stood tall until Korea pulled a goal just at the stroke of half-time through Yang whose effort went into the net after getting a deflection from Manpreet Singhs stick from a penalty corner opportunity.

The Koreans secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 35th minute but India defended bravely. India secured their second penalty corner two minutes later but wasted the chance. The holders managed to restore their two-goal lead in the 43rd minute when Harmanpreet scored with a powerful low flick to the left of the Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Jarmanpreet Singh conceded a penalty corner but the Indian defence was up to the task. Thereafter, the Indians controlled the proceedings and did not let Korea create any scoring opportunity.

Virat Kohli played a big role in turning the cricket around: Ricky Ponting

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Australian great Ricky Ponting hailed former captain Virat Kohlis "big role" in revolutionizing Test cricket in India and said the countrys batters dont fear the big stage anymore, evidence of which is their success in challenging conditions overseas. Ponting also lauded the contributions of former head coach Rahul Dravid, who stepped down from the post after guiding India to the T20 World Cup title triumph in June. "Going back to Kohlis start of captaincy, (he) played a big role in turning the cricket around, and (Rahul) Dravid has continued the same in the recent four years. The influence of someone like that (Kohli) around a team would be great, and theyve got star players," Ponting told Sky Sports. Under Kohlis captaincy, India became the first Asian side to win a Test series



in Australia, besides recording some memorable wins elsewhere. With his aggressive captaincy, Kohli made everyone believe that the Indian team can win overseas as well, and his confidence rubbed on the side even when he was not around. During the last Test series in Australia in 2020-21, Kohli left for India after

the first match due to the birth of his daughter Vamika. But India, under the captaincy of Ajinkya Rahane, battled injuries and the absence of key players to eke out a historic 2-1 series win. "They won a game at the Gabba, which just doesnt happen. I think their batters adapt to overseas batting

conditions very well. "I dont think theyre as daunted by the Gabba or the Optus Oval as they maybe once were. Maybe it is a selection thing, or they just dont fear the big stage anymore," observed Ponting. During Kohlis tenure, India won 40 matches and lost 17, with 11 ending

in draws out of the 68 Tests they played.

This time around, Kohli will tour Australia under longtime India colleague Rohit Sharmas captaincy. "Their fast-bowling depth is great. The leadership in the last 6-7 years has been strong." Ponting also praised the Indian Premier League for producing players who like to play fearless cricket. "For the last 10 years being around the IPL, Ive noticed that a lot of the young guys (play aggressively without fear) as the IPL is high-pressure. It is like a World Cup for them. "Their batsmen are all very aggressive stroke-making players. They are not scared of failing," he concluded. The Aussies have failed to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy since their last series victory in 2014-15 at home. The Indians have claimed the title on four successive instances since then, winning twice each at home and away.

Mbappé rejects mediation offer in \$60M financial dispute with PSG

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappé is not ready to compromise with Paris Saint-Germain. The France superstar rejected a mediation offer by the French soccer leagues legal commission on Wednesday in his dispute with his former club over wages and bonuses. PSG officials and Mbappés representatives met in Paris after Mbappé asked the commission to get involved. Mbappé, who joined Real Madrid this summer on a free transfer, says PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$60 million).



In a statement to The Associated Press, Mbappés representatives said the player asked the commission to take note of the non-payment of three months salary and the last third of a loyalty bonus. "The eventuality of a mediation was mentioned this morning," the statement read. "This possibility was rejected during the meeting by the players representative. A mediation would be useless to record a lack of payment that would be seen from a simple analysis of the players payslip." PSG, which said it was pleased with the two-hour hearing at the commission on Wednesday, said in a statement it recalled that Mbappé had formerly made "clear, repeated public and private commitments that must be respected, having been afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over seven fantastic years in Paris." PSG has argued that it does not owe money to the World Cup winner under an agreement when Mbappé was sidelined ahead of the 2023-24 season - following his decision not to prolong his contract with the club - with the player allegedly stipulating that he would

relinquish bonuses over his reintegration into the team. "To avoid its payment obligation, the club seeks to demonstrate the existence of a secret agreement that would justify it. But the club fails to demonstrate the existence of such an agreement," Mbappés representatives said. PSG said that the leagues legal commission recommended "mediation between the parties," which the club said it had been seeking for months. The French league did not respond to a request for comments from the AP. The players representatives did not say what action they will now take. In light of the current deadlock, its likely the case will ultimately be settled by an employment court. Mbappés relationship with PSG ended amid deep tensions during his final season at the club. PSG felt let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in the clubs history when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players were not kept. When he signed the new deal, he was paraded in front of

Chopra, Sable spearhead Indian challenge in Diamond League season finale

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra will have lofty expectations to live up to, while for steeplechaser Avinash Sable, it would be an opportunity to make up for a disappointing Olympics, when the star-studded Diamond League season finale begins here on Friday, featuring the best of world athletics. The showpiece is spread over two days for the first time and the field features top athletes from all continents, including an unprecedented number of Olympic medal winners, who will be vying for the top honours in 32 disciplines. Pole vault world record holder Armand DuPlantis, American sprint queen ShaCarri Richardson, and superstar

hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone are among the big names who will light up the King Baudouin Stadium here. National record-holding 3000m steeplechaser Sable, after finishing 11th in the Olympic Games, will be in action on Friday in his maiden appearance in the DL season finale. Chopra, who added a silver to his Olympic medal tally in Paris following a historic gold in the Tokyo Games, will be aiming to end his season on a high on Saturday. It is for the first time that a DL finale features two Indians. Sable finished 14th in the overall Diamond League standings with three points from two meetings. But four athletes ranked higher than him — Lamecha Girma



(injured) of Ethiopia, Geordie Beamish of New Zealand, Ryuji Mura of Japan and Hillary Bor of the USA — pulled out, allowing him to sneak inside the top 12 cut-off. Five meetings out of the 14 in the DL series across the world this season had mens 3000m steeplechase event. The 29-year-old Sable had finished sixth with a national record time of 8:09.91 — bettering his own earlier mark

prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships. The runner-up gets USD 12,000. Chopra skipped the last series meet in Zurich last week. The 26-year-old finished two points behind Czechias Jakub Vadlech. Grenadas Anderson Peters and German star Julian Weber took the top two spots with 29 and 21 points respectively. Chopra has been struggling with his fitness this season and is expected to meet a doctor to rectify a groin injury that has affected him all season and came in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark. He had won the Lausanne leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlech in the winner-takes-all finale in Eugene, USA, last year.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rhythm Sangwan will be the only Indian shooter to compete in two events in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final here after double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker opted for a three-month rest following her exploits in the Paris Games. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Thursday announced a 23-member Indian squad for the tournament that will be held across rifle, pistol and shotgun categories from October 13 to 18 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range. The squad features nine members from the Paris Olympics team which returned with three bronze medals. A total of 11 Indian Olympians will gun for the title of the best shooter of the year along with the worlds best in 12 individual Olympic events. The 22-year-old Bhaker scripted history for India in Paris as she won a bronze each in the womens 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event (paired with Sarabjot Singh in the latter), and the Indian shooters participating in the prestigious tournament in the national capital will look to carry on the momentum at the familiar range. "We have a strong squad of proven performers for the ISSF year-end and look forward to a strong performance. Expectations from the sport have

Bhaker rested, Rhythm to compete in two events in ISSF World Cup Final



reached sky-high after the Paris performance..." said Sultan Singh, secretary general, NRAI. Four shooters — Divyansh Singh Panwar (mens 10m air rifle), Sonam Uttam Maskar (womens 10m air rifle), Rhythm (womens 10m air pistol & 25m pistol) and Ganemat Sekhon (womens skeet) have been selected by ISSF directly, while the rest of the members have been picked on the basis of their

Olympic trials rankings. The 20-year-old Rhythm will have Surbhi Rao for company in the womens 10m air pistol competition. Seasoned shooters and Olympians Mairaj Ahmad Khan (mens skeet) and Chain Singh (mens 50m rifle 3 positions) have returned to the team. Besides Rhythm, the other Paris Olympians in the squad include Arjun Babuta (mens 10m air rifle), Arjun

- THE INDIAN SQUAD:**
Air Rifle Men: Divyansh Singh Panwar, Arjun Babuta
Air Rifle Women: Sonam Uttam Maskar, Tilottama Sen
50M Rifle 3P Men: Chain Singh, Akhil Sheoran
50M Rifle 3P Women: Ashi Chouksey, Nischal Air Pistol Men: Arjun Singh Cheema, Varun Tomar Air Pistol Women: Rhythm Sangwan, Surbhi Rao
25M Rapid Fire Pistol Men: Anish, Vijayveer Sidhu
25M Sports Pistol Women: Rhythm Sangwan, Simranpreet Kaur Brar
Trap Men: Vivaan Kapoor, Bhowneesh Mendiratta
Trap Women: Rajeshwari Kumari, Shreyasi Singh
Skeet Men: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Mairaj Ahmad Khan
Skeet Women: Ganemat Sekhon, Maheshwari Chauhan.