

**OPINION 6**

9/11: THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

**WORLD 8**

'ISRAELI STRIKE ON GAZA CAMP KILLS AT LEAST 19'

**MONEY 10**

FOREIGN FUNDS DRIVE INDIAN MARKET RALLY, SENSEX UP

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TWIN TITLES FOR SHUBHI GUPTA IN CHESS MEET  
11 SPORTS



## SABOTAGE RED FLAGS INDIAN RAILWAYS

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is grappling with a massive sabotage for the last one and a half year making it vulnerable for optimum functioning of the passenger and freight train operations. It face risks from LPG cylinder on railway tracks, iron rods, huge boulders and concrete slabs and tree trunks which could have led major accidents. Sources said Centre has asked all stakeholders including the States to be extra vigilant to thwart the nefarious designs of those involved to destabilise the railways particularly in a compact zone comprising parts of Central Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Investigations at top level is also being done about the pattern of such activities which began with bomb threats at schools followed by similar hoax in the shopping malls and now the railways. Pakistan-based terrorism mastermind Farhatullah Ghori who was behind the 2002 Akshardham temple attack and Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast, had released a video message to terror sleeper cells in India, urging them to carry out attacks on trains, petroleum pipelines, and Hindu Leaders. The recent train accidents have also been investigated from this angle. With yet another attempt to derail the trains on Tuesday near Ajmer in Rajasthan, total number of

sabotage on railway tracks since August 2024 against which cases have been registered are 18 while probe on 28 such serious sabotage angle cases since June 2023 are still going on. Some of these cases are being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and CBI. This marks the third attempt to derail a train in Rajasthan in recent weeks. Previously, on August 28, scrap metal was thrown on a goods train track in Chhabra Baran, and on August 23, a train collided with a cement block on the Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Vande Bharat track at Pali. On Monday, an attempt to derail the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi

### SABOTAGE ON THE TRACKS

October 2023	Iron and stones on the railway track in Chittorgarh
February 2024	Stones pelted in West Bengal
June 2024	Signal light covered with paper in West Bengal
July 2024	YouTuber "INDIAN HACKER", placing items like gas cylinders, scissors, etc on railway tracks, recording videos, and uploading on his channel. Uttar Pradesh
July 2024	400-500 devotees of the "Urus Mela," blocked Train in West Bengal
August 2024	The Station Master, Mr. Virendra Kumar Verma, was shot while traveling home after completing his duty in Uttar Pradesh
August 2024	Cement concrete block in Rajasthan
August 2024	100 Pandrol clips stolen in Jharkhand

Express was made in Kanpur by tracks, along with a bottle of placing an LPG cylinder on petrol and matchboxes. Earlier, a

bid was made to derail the Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Vande Bharat Express in Rajasthan's Pali district. NIA team has joined the ongoing probe in Kanpur. Kanpur Police has detained six people, including two local history-sheeters, in connection with the case and decided to form a Special Investigation Team and will study if there are any similarities with the recent Sabarmati Express derailment in Kanpur. "Senior officers are looking into things seriously. Whatever facts come to light, shall be shared," Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar told The Pioneer. This is not the first time but a similar pattern was noticed when

there was an exceptional jump in "sabotage" cases with around 18 incidents reported in December 2017. The then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhoo had written to Home Minister Rajnath Singh seeking a detailed investigation by the NIA into the mishaps as the listed incidents with "possibility of criminal interference by outsiders". Delhi Police recently arrested about 14 people of ISIS from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Further, the investigating agencies have collected footage from 219 cameras and questioned over 100 individuals in connection with the Kanpur train derailment attempt.



Students take part in a protest, in Imphal, Tuesday, September 10, 2024

PTI

## Curfew in Manipur after protests for peace in Imphal Valley

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Curfew and prohibitory orders were imposed in three districts of Manipur on Tuesday a day after student protests demanding the restoration of peace in the strife-torn state rocked Imphal Valley. The Manipur Government also suspended internet services in the entire State for five days amid intensified agitation by students. The decision was taken to curb the use of social media for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video, the State home department said in a notification. It said "In view of the prevailing law and order situation in the State of Manipur, there is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public, which might have serious repercussions for the law-and-order situation in the State of Manipur." "There is an imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public/private property, and widespread disturbances to public tranquility and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours,

which might be transmitted/circulated to the public through social media/messaging services on mobile, SMS services and dongle services," it stated. "To thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest, by stopping the spread of misinformation and false rumours, through various social media platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc on various electronic equipment like tablet, computer, mobile phone, etc, and sending bulk SMS, for facilitating and/or mobilisation of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, which can cause loss of life and/or damage to public/private property by indulging in arson/vandalism and other types of violent activities," it said. "Temporary suspension/curling of internet and mobile data services including Lease Lines, VSATs, broadband and VPN services (were ordered) in the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Manipur for five days with effect from 3 PM of

September 10 to till 3 PM of September 15," the notification said. Meanwhile, tear gas shells were fired as student and women demonstrators on Tuesday clashed with security forces during the agitators' attempt to march towards the Raj Bhavan to press for their demands to remove the DGP and security advisor to the Manipur Government, officials said. Hundreds of students, who have been camping at Khwairamband Women Market since Monday, tried to march towards the Raj Bhavan along the BT Road but were stopped by security forces near the Congress Bhavan. The Manipur Government has clamped curfew in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS in Thoubal district in view of the student protests. An indefinite curfew, preventing people from coming outside their houses, was clamped in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS were imposed in Thoubal. "Due to the developing law and order situation in the district, earlier orders of curfew relaxation stand cancelled with immediate effect from 11 am of September 10. Hence, there is

total curfew in Imphal East district with immediate effect until further orders," an order issued by the district magistrate said. Another order issued by the district magistrate of Imphal West said, "In supersession of all earlier orders, curfew relaxation period for September 10 is hereby lifted with effect from 11 am today." "Restriction on the movement of people outside their respective residences was lifted from September 1 last year," it said. Earlier, curfew relaxation for September 10 was lifted from 5 am to 10 pm but was superseded by the latest order. Essential services, including media, electricity, court and health, are however exempted from the purview of the curfew, it said. The orders from the two Imphal districts came in the wake of students planning to intensify their protests demanding the removal of the DGP and security advisor to the State Government for their alleged inability to deal with the law and order situation in the state. The prohibitory orders in Thoubal prevented the assembly of five or more persons as police claimed that at least one personnel was hit on the thigh by a bullet fired from the protesting students in the district on Monday.

## CM Majhi tears into Opp in Assembly

Blames ex-BJD govt for State's laggardness

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday tore into the Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly as he deflected all charges brought against his government.

He blamed the previous BJD government headed by Naveen Patnaik for the present "precarious conditions" of the State, especially in health, education and farm



sectors.

"Hopelessness and dejection prevailed all over during the previous regime. Even as the ex-government claimed that it made Odisha a surplus economy, the farmers battled

awful impoverishment. The income of an Odisha farmer was Rs 5,112, which was second lowest in the country after Jharkhand, which figured at the bottom of the list with less than Rs 5,000 per month," said Majhi while replying to the debate of Appropriation Bill 2025-25. He questioned as to why the farmers were not given the promised Rs 10,000 per month under the Kalia Yojana after the 2019-20 financial year and what made the Naveen Patnaik government to reduce the amount to Rs 4,000 a year. He also questioned why over two lakh government posts

were lying vacant and no steps were taken to fulfill the vacant posts in universities, schools and colleges. In protest, the BJD and Congress legislators staged a walkout.

The CM also declared that his government would probe into the irregularities allegedly committed by the previous government in the name of improving the physical infrastructure of primary and high schools under the 5T initiative that was headed by Naveen Patnaik's blue-eyed bureaucrat V Karthikeyan Pandian. After the CM's reply, the Rs 2.65 lakh-crore Annual Budget 2024-25 was passed by the Assembly.

## FIH President meets CM Roadmap for hockey development in Odisha

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Tayyab Ikram on Tuesday met Chief Minister Mohan Majhi and deliberated on the contribution of Odisha to global hockey and the collaborative efforts to further the hockey development in the State.

The meeting focused on key initiatives to further develop the sport, the growth of infrastructure and the hosting of upcoming international tournaments in Odisha and Hockey India President Dillip Tirkey and Secretary General Bholanath Singh were present.

The CM expressed Odisha's deep appreciation for the FIH's support, particularly during marquee events like the Men's Hockey World Cup. "Odisha has emerged as a global hub



for hockey, hosting prestigious tournaments. We are excited to host the upcoming Pro League; and with your support, we hope to bring more world-class events to the State in the future," he remarked. The meeting also touched

upon future collaborations between the FIH and the Government of Odisha. Special emphasis was placed on the promotion of women's hockey and empowering female athletes, both in Odisha and across India.

## In Patnagarh Woman killed in hit & run

PNS ■ BALANGIR

In a hit-and-run incident at Nunhada village under the Belpada police station in Patnagarh of Balangir district, a woman was killed and two others were injured after their scooter was hit by a car on Tuesday.

The car was being driven by a dhaba owner, who was alleged to be drunk. Following the incident, tension prevailed in the area.

## Sexual harassment complaint by IAF officer against senior in J and K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A case of alleged sexual harassment and mental torture has come to light after a 26-year-old Indian Air Force (IAF) officer posted in Srinagar lodged a formal complaint in the Budgam police station against her senior. In her complaint, the distraught flying officer has also accused five other officers of mishandling of investigation, stalking, harassment, and mental torture. The flying officer in her complaint has also claimed that the ongoing harassment has had a severe impact on my mental health. I am living in constant fear, under 24/7 scrutiny and my social life has been completely disrupted. "The harassment has driven me to suicidal thoughts, and I

feel utterly helpless. I am unable to carry on with my daily life, and my social interactions are closely monitored and discouraged by authorities", she wrote in her complaint to the Jammu and Kashmir police. According to official sources, police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the senior IAF officer named in the case. The FIR was lodged under Section 376(2) of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to rape by a person in a position of trust or authority. Confirming the ongoing probe in the matter, the IAF authorities in a brief statement said the Budgam Police Station has approached the concerned Air Force Station to investigate the case. IAF is cooperating in the investigation.

## Odisha loses 26.75 lakh trees in 23 years

Development takes toll on environment; NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

The world often debates that development should not come at the cost nature. However, the reality is different. Development activities take their toll on the nature. One can gauge the authenticity of this fact as Odisha has lost 26.75 lakh trees in the past 23 years for development purposes. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia told the State Assembly on Tuesday that as many as 26,75,028 trees were felled during the tenure of the previous Naveen Patnaik government dur-



ing 2000-2023 for the construction of 428 projects.

"The highest amount of trees was felled in Odisha for providing electricity services and undertaking mining activities. While 13,09,439 trees were felled for providing electricity services, 9,64,063 trees were cut for undertaking mining activities," the minister said.

The minister said that around six lakh trees were also felled for road expansion works.

While 6.89 lakh trees were felled for irrigation projects, over three lakh trees were cut for setting up industries. Several old and huge trees were felled for development works.

"It's quite shocking and unfortunate that so many trees were

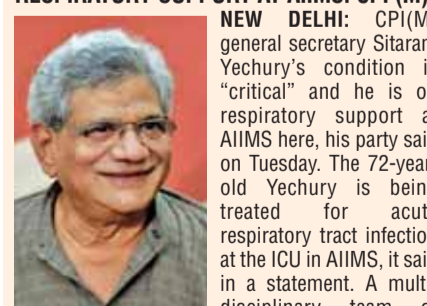
felled on the pretext of development activities. We are destroying more trees than we are growing every year. We are rather destroying ourselves by felling trees on the pretext of development," said Dr Jayakrushna Panigrahi, a renowned green activist.

Dr Gourang Charan Rout, a noted Gandhian leader and environmentalist, said, "The impact of felling trees on global warming and climate change is well-known. It's high time that we realised it and spread green cover around us to improve our environment to lead healthy lives."

More trees are likely to fall victims to the development activities in the coming days as several projects are still under construction.

### NEWS BRIEF

YECHURY IN CRITICAL CONDITION, ON RESPIRATORY SUPPORT AT AIIMS: CPI (M)



NEW DELHI: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury's condition is "critical" and he is on respiratory support at AIIMS here, his party said on Tuesday. The 72-year-old Yechury is being treated for acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU in AIIMS, it said in a statement. A multi-disciplinary team of

doctors is closely monitoring the condition of Yechury, which is critical at this time, the party said. Yechury was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 19 for the treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

COURT GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO BARAMULLA MP ENGINEER RASHID  
NEW DELHI: A city court on Tuesday granted interim bail till October 2 to Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid in a terror funding case. Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla.

# 55 tiger deaths reported in State in past decade

**NALINI SAHU**  
BHUBANESWAR

Forest Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia on Tuesday informed that 55 tigers have died in the State over the past decade from the 2014-15 fiscal year to 2023-24.

In response to a query from BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister told the State Assembly that in addition to the 55 tigers, 48 leopards also died during this period.

The causes of these deaths varied, including poaching, accident, and natural causes. Specifically, over the last ten years, two Royal Bengal Tigers were poached; three died in

accidents such as drowning, falling from heights or infighting; one succumbed to natural causes; and the cause of death for one more tiger remains unknown.

Regarding leopards, 21 were victims of poaching; four were electrocuted; two died in train accidents and three in road accidents; five from diseases and four naturally. Three more leopards were killed in accidents like drowning or slipping from mountains and six died of unknown causes.

During the last decade, the State Government relocated two Royal Bengal Tigers (one male and one female) from Madhya Pradesh to Odisha. No

tigers were trans-located out of the State during this period, the minister said.

He provided specific details about tiger deaths in various reserves. In the Similipal Tiger Reserve (South), two Royal Bengal Tigers died during 2023-24 and one in 2017-18. One more tiger died in Bargharh and another in Satkosia during 2018-19.

A Royal Bengal Tiger also died in the Balangir Forest Division in 2016-17 and another in the Keonjhar Wildlife Division in 2022-23.

Singkhuntia noted that the tiger population in Odisha had been estimated at 173 based on pugmark surveys in 2002.

The first all-India tiger census using camera traps in 2006 recorded 45 tigers. Due to the differences in methodology, this figure is not directly comparable to previous estimates.

The latest State-level tiger census, conducted in 2024, reported a population of 27 tigers in Odisha.

Of these, 24 were found in the Similipal Tiger Reserve while one tiger each was reported in the Keonjhar territorial and Keonjhar wildlife areas, Paralakhemundi and Hirakud wildlife area. Additionally, the census identified eight tiger cubs in the Similipal Tiger Reserve, he said.

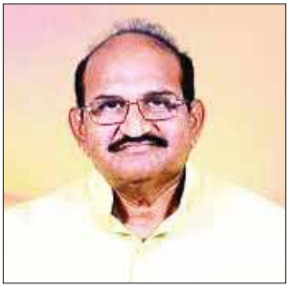
# 'Let CBI probe into 3 sensational murders'

**Demands BJP MLA Jayanarayan**  
**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

With mystery still surrounding the murder cases of Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati, former minister Naba Das, lady teacher Mamita Meher and Gobinda Sahoo, BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra once again demanded CBI probe into these sensational cases in the State Assembly on Tuesday.

Raising questions over the present investigation process, Mishra said, "The probe into the cases has created doubts in the minds of the people."

Asked if he doesn't trust the



State's investigation agency, Mishra said, "It is not about the agency that carried out the investigation; rather it is about the then government which influenced police in the investigation process."

"When people don't have trust on the investigation process carried out by the Odisha Police, we must hand over the cases to a higher investigating agency which is CBI" he added.

# No proposal for new NACs: Minister

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

Formation of new Notified Area Councils (NACs) in Odisha is not in the government proposal, informed Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra in the State Assembly on Tuesday.

According to him, the previous government had announced formation of as many as 57 new NACs in a hasty manner ahead of the 2024 elections. However, the new government has not yet received any proposals from the district Collectors in a formal manner in this regard.

"Only letters were written to the Collectors of various districts over the matter. But no proposals from them have been received yet. A decision about formation of new NACs will be taken after necessary deliberations. We will again write letters to the Collectors and take steps after receiving their proposals," the minister added.

# 3 new Vande Bharat trains for Odisha

**CM invited for inaugural ceremony**  
**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

East Coast Railway (ECOR) General Manager Parmeshwar Punkwal on Tuesday met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and invited him to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Vande Bharat trains to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 15.

Railway Minister Ashwini

Viashnav has requested Majhi for the purpose through a special invitation letter.

The Prime Minister would dedicate 10 new Vande Bharat trains to the country. Out of that, three trains would run from Odisha. The trains are Tata-Brahmapur, Rourkela-Howrah and Durg-Visakhapatnam. The ceremony would be held at the Brahmapur railway station.

Presently, three Vande Bharat trains are plying in Odisha. With the inclusion of the three new trains, the number would increase to six.

# World Suicide Prevention Day Experts explain signs of suicidal tendencies



**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

In terms of safety measures, the doctors emphasised the importance of maintaining strong social connections with friends and family, seeking professional help when needed, developing healthy coping mechanisms, and engaging in positive activities. These support systems, often referred to as "safety nets", can play a critical role in preventing suicidal behaviour.

For individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, the doctors recommended several strategies such as talking to someone they trust, putting time between their thoughts and actions to reconsider, ensuring that their home is safe by removing dangerous items and avoiding the use of drugs or alcohol.

During the last three years, over 26,000 students across the country have died by suicide.

Dr Sudipta Kumar Das, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, KIMS, identified hopelessness as the single-most important factor in determining whether someone may attempt suicide. He said suicide is not just a mental health issue but also a social and cultural problem.

Prof Dr Jayaprakash Russell Ravan added that once someone has firmly decided to commit suicide, it can be difficult to intervene.

# In city CGWB slaps fine of Rs 3.5-cr on realtor

**For extracting groundwater without permission**  
**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has issued a show-cause notice to a top real estate developer and demanded Rs 3.5 crore as environmental compensation fee for allegedly extracting groundwater in Bhubaneswar without obtaining due permission from the CGWB authorities.

As a result of the illegal extraction of groundwater, residents of a prominent city apartment are apprehending water scarcity. The show-cause notice was issued to the realtor in April 2024 for the housing project at Kalinga Nagar.

The notice stated that



groundwater was extracted without obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the concerned authorities.

"It has been brought to the notice of authority that Trident Galaxy Phase-I, Paikarapur, Bhubaneswar, Khordha of Trident Properties Pvt Ltd, is withdrawing groundwater without obtaining NOC from the authority. This illegal withdrawal of groundwater amounts to theft of groundwater. Now therefore, the authority in exercise of powers under Section 5 of the Environment

(Protection) Act, 1986 hereby directs you to show cause as why your groundwater abstraction structure(s) (dugwell/borewell/tubewell dewatering structure) should not be sealed for illegal withdrawal of groundwater," read the show-cause notice.

"You are hereby given an opportunity to submit explanation within 15 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which the authority shall proceed in accordance with law, at your own risk, cost and responsibility including but not limited to sealing of

groundwater abstraction structures and imposition of penalty, arrear and environmental compensation for illegal withdrawal of groundwater," the notice further stated.

As per sources, a team of CGWB visited the project in May and, following an inspection, demanded a compensation fee of Rs 3.5 crore from the realtor for the withdrawal of groundwater.

"We hereby demand that you make the necessary payments through the designated government portal "BharatKosh" within 30 days from the date of this letter. Failure to do so will leave us with no choice but to initiate legal action against your organisation to recover the unpaid charges and fees as permitted by the relevant laws and regulations," read the demand notice.

# In city Cops still clueless on burglary at SI's house

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even though six days have passed since the alleged loot incident from a police officer's quarters located in front of the Chief Minister Mohan Majhi's residence in Unit-III here, police are yet to identify and nab the accused.

Questions are raised over the investigation when the incident occurred in front of the CM's house.

The unidentified miscreants looted gold jewellery and other valuables from the quarter 2R- 29/4 at Unit-III Police Colony on September 5.

The burglars decamped with gold jewellery worth Rs 5 lakh, antique coins, cash, a costly watch and four hard discs after breaking open the quarters of police Sub-Inspector Ramakanta Pradhan, who was away on training.

"A day after the loot, a forensic team visited our quarters and collected some evidence. However, no arrest has been made so far. Despite being a high-security area due to proximity to the CM's official residence, the miscreants did not bother and looted the police officer's house," said Ranjit Kumar Pradhan, son of the SI.

# OSSSC Group-C recruitment 'scam' Aspirants stage protest, demand re-conduct of exam

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

Alleging corruption in recruitment for various Group-C posts, scores of aspirants on Tuesday staged a demonstration before the Odisha Sub-Ordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC) office here and sought justice.

They alleged that several students, who had performed miserably in the PEO examinations, found place in the merit list of the Combined Examination Group-C results.

The aspirants alleged that after the written examinations, posts like Forester, Forest Guard and Livestock Inspector posts were "sold".



"The results have been declared. But no investigation has been conducted by OSSSC. We want Odisha Government to take action and demand cancellation of the exams," said a protester.

"In the previous exam, a

candidate had scored 7 out of 180 in the PEO examination. However, he managed to score 100 out of 150 marks in the Forest Guard written examination. How is it possible that a candidate who scored negative marks scored 100 out of 150 by studying in four months? The government has changed, but the officials at OSSSC are not being changed," said another protester. No reactions could be received from the OSSSC authorities in this regard.

# Man-elephant conflict in State 1,140 human lives lost in 10 yrs

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

More than 1,140 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks in Odisha in the last 10 years, informed Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia in the State Assembly on Tuesday.

Responding to a question by BJP MLA Prashant Jagdev, the Minister, in a written reply, said, "As many as 1,145 people have lost their lives in elephant attack from 2013-14 to 2023-24."

On the other hand, in the last 10 years, as many as 719 elephants have died due to various reasons in the State. At least 41 elephants were poached by hunters or wildlife smugglers in the State, the Minister added.

# 'Restore heritage palaces to boost tourism in State'

**Assn holds 7th AGM**  
**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 7th AGM of the Association of the Heritage Palaces of Odisha was held here on September 8. It was attended by the present owners of 18 heritage palaces spread all over the State including Garh Dhenkanal, Killa Auli, Killa Dalijoda, Gajalaxmi Palace Dhenkanal, Parikud Palace, Sundargarh Palace, Raj Nilgiri Palace, Nayagarh Palace, Madhupur Palace, Badamba Palace and Kalahandi Palace.

Speaking on the occasion, convener of Intach Bhubaneswar Chapter Anil Dhir spoke on the potential of promoting palace homestays and lamented on the dismal conditions of many of the former royal palaces across the State. Dhir said that these properties have their own distinctive architecture, ambience and history. The Intach has restored many of the previous colonial and royal monuments in Odisha among which the Rani Bakhri of Sambalpur, Maritime Museum of Cuttack, Town Halls of both Balangir and Sambalpur,



Netaji Birth Place Museum and Janaki Nath Bhavan are a few. He said that the Intach has documented and listed many of the palaces and most of them are in a restorable condition.

Former Tourism Advisor Utpal Pati spoke on the Tourism Policy of the State and how it needs to be revamped for capacity utilisation of the heritage properties.

Professor at the Indian Institute of Travel Trade Management Dr Adyasha Das spoke of sustainable tourism and the need for proper packaging and promotion of the royal homestays. Chairman of Greenpeace India's South Asia operations Dr Biswajit Mohanty spoke of the immense potential of tourism keeping in view the natural heritage of the State. He said that this segment will be an effective way for generating employment, earning revenue and foreign exchange.

Braj Keshari Deb of Killa Auli said that the major challenges for heritage sector are the old assets which require high cost of conservation and restoration, low room base which affects feasibility and high maintenance costs.

# Edu system goes for a toss in Nuapada

Teachers remain irregular; kids play near closed school gate

**AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA**

In Kathfar village, nestled in a remote area of the Boden block of Nuapada district, the primary school stood locked on a quiet Friday afternoon. Nearby, children were playing on the road, oblivious to the locked gates. When asked about their schooling, the boys shared a troubling reality—the school had only opened twice since August 15.

"Two teachers came on August 15 for the flag hoisting, and the other two visited last week," said one of the boys, revealing the erratic presence of educators. Official records show that Kathfar's Project Upper Primary School, man-



aged by the Department of School and Mass Education, serves grades 1 to 8. It has 122 students enrolled—67 boys and 55 girls—with five teaching positions sanctioned. Yet, the lack of regular attendance by the teachers paints a bleak picture of the learning environment.

One concerned parent summed up the situation: "The situation is always like this. The teachers are not regular.

They've distributed books, but ask any child to read, and you'll see that they can't."

A short distance away, in Kaptiam village, the local primary school presented a little different scene. As this correspondent passed by at around 1:30 pm, the school was open, and the children were having their midday meal. According to the villagers, the school operates regularly, largely because one

of the teachers, Bibhisana Majhi, lives in a neighboring hamlet.

Majhi was present at the school during the visit. "The headmaster has gone to the market to buy Ganesh Puja items," he said, adding that the other teacher, who suffers from a tumor and has been working at the school since 2008, had attended the school previous week with an attendant. While returning from Kathfar at about 3 pm, the school was already closed.

The conditions of these schools highlight a broader challenge in the region—where students remain at the mercy of an irregular, unreliable education system. For parents, hope for change lingers, but until then, in village like Kathfar, the children are left waiting for the doors of their school to open again.

## Bird flu 5 poultry farmers quarantined in K'pada



**PNS ■ KENDRAPADA**

Five poultry farmers of Derabish block in Kendrapada district have been quarantined following the death of chickens in their farms.

Health Department officials on Tuesday collected samples of the farmers and directed them to be in home quarantine.

Notably, nearly 2,000 chickens have been culled in Kendrapada and the carcasses buried in deep pits lined with

lime after an outbreak of avian flu was confirmed in the district.

The High Security Laboratory in Bhopal reported that 10 dead chickens from Andara and Balia panchayats tested positive for the H5N1 strain, district veterinary officials said. To prevent further spread of bird flu, the authorities have vaccinated many birds across the district and are encouraging farmers to vaccinate their flocks at nearby veterinary dispensaries.

# 1 killed, 2 hurt in group clash in Balangir

Old enmity between 2 families leads to incident

**PNS ■ BALANGIR**

A dispute between neighbours turned into a violent clash at Malgodam Pada in Balangir district on Monday night, leading to the death of a person and injuries to two others.

The deceased was identified as Neeraj Harpal and the injured his cousins, Deba Harpal and Suraj Harpal.

According to the family of the deceased, Neeraj and his associates had gone to a betel shop, where they were attacked by Deepak Kumbhar and his family. The motive behind the attack was old enmity between the two families and the Kumbhar family was always on the lookout for an opportunity to attack the

Harpal family. Upon seeing Neeraj, Deepak Kumbhar called his father and other family members. Following this, Deepak and his family members attacked Neeraj and his cousins, resulting in the death of Neeraj on the spot.

"Deepak is Drona Kumbhar's son, who had passed comments on my younger brother and had threatened him saying 'I will kill you' and when my brother asked who he was talking to, he called his family. Following which his father, mother, and older brother came with swords and weapons," said Suraj, older brother of the deceased.

The Balangir SP visited the crime scene and launched an investigation into the matter. Police arrested four members of the Kumbhar family including a woman while Drona Kumbhar, head of the family, was absconding.

# BeMC committed to city's dev amidst challenges



**RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAMPUR**

Brahmapur, one of Odisha's oldest municipalities, established in 1867, has come a long way in its journey of urban development. Elevated to the status of a municipal corporation in 2009, the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) has been at the forefront of driving change and progress in the city. The civic body celebrated the Self-Government Day with enthusiasm last Saturday.

However, for the first time in Brahmapur's history, no MLA or MP attended the flag-hoisting ceremony or participated in the celebrations, despite invitations being extended allegedly by a Corporator.

Over the past 15 years since Brahmapur's transition from a municipality to a municipal corporation, the BeMC has been instrumental in modernizing the city's infrastructure. The administration has undertaken key projects to improve water supply, sanitation, waste management, and the road network, addressing traffic congestion and enhancing connectivity within Brahmapur.

BeMC's commitment to

creating a greener Brahmapur is evident in its development of new parks and recreational spaces, adding to the city's aesthetic appeal and providing residents with much-needed community areas. Environmental initiatives, such as tree plantation drives and waste reduction campaigns, have fostered a culture of sustainability among citizens.

While challenges of unplanned urban expansion persist, BeMC has made strides in implementing a more coordinated development strategy. The approval of the Coordinated Development Plan (CGP) in 2015 reflects BeMC's long-term vision for the city's growth, though some hurdles remain. The administration's persistence in pushing for planned development underscores its dedication to Brahmapur's future.

Despite BeMC's proactive efforts, the role of public representatives, including MLAs, MP and municipal corporators, has not always been supportive of the administration's developmental agenda. Nevertheless, the municipal corporation has continued to forge ahead, relying on its administrative strength to overcome challenges.

# In Jajpur Many drinking water projects lie unfinished

Non-Odia contractors left them half-way after withdrawing crores

**PNS ■ JAJPUR**

Some non-Odia contract companies from outside Odisha have allegedly left the constructions of many mega drinking water projects mid-way in Jajpur district and withdrawn crores of rupees during the tenure of the previous government in the State.

Following the development, questions are now being raised over the condition and durability of many projects in the district built with an expenditure of crores of rupees.

According to Odisha Suchana Adhikara Abhijana (OSAA), a grant of around Rs 900 crore has been provided for the construction of mega drinking water projects in as many as seven blocks. However, the projects are yet to be completed even after four years.

Take the case of Balikudia mega drinking water project under Raichhanda panchayat in Dharmasala block of the district. The project started with an estimated budget of Rs 325 crore. Though the contract company from outside Odisha has taken around Rs 324 crore, the project work is yet to be completed. "The non-Odia companies from outside the State have looted crores of rupees and left the projects incomplete. Com-

mon people in the district will suffer due to this neglect. We demand stern actions against them," said Pramod Kumar Jena, a resident of Barchana.

"It is a huge scam. Crores have been looted by the non-Odia companies in Odisha. However, even 50 per cent works of many projects have not been completed yet. These things need to be reviewed and necessary actions should be taken," said RTI activist Pradeep Pradhan.

Now, a question mark has been raised on why the contract was given to the non-Odia companies. Meanwhile, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Naik said that actions will be taken following an investigation.

Dharmasala MLA

Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo indicated the role of the then-powerful MLA Pranab Prakash Das in it. "The non-Odia companies have withdrawn 20-30 per cent more money in the bill of all the projects carried out in Odisha. Works during the tenure of the previous government have been neglected a lot. We will try our best to rectify it and do some good work for the people," said Sahoo.

"Everybody knows that contracts were given to companies in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Following investigations, if any irregularities are found, actions will be taken against the erring persons," said Sahoo. However, no comments could be obtained from BJD in this regard.

# Puri heritage walkers explore more temples

Yajna Nrusingha, Siddha Mahavir temples, Indradyumna Sarovar in focus

**PNS ■ PURI**

The Puri Heritage Walks (PHW) group conducted its second edition of the walk on Sunday in the holy city and more than 30 participants visited Yajna Nrusingha Temple, Indradyumna Sarovar and Siddha Mahavir Temple among others and knew about the legends and stories associated with the shrines.

The participants assembled at Sri Gundicha Temple in the morning and after bowing before Mundia Maraa Patita



Pavana and Mundia Maraa Mahavir (present near the walls of Sri Gundicha Temple), they proceeded to the Yajna Nrusingha Temple. Then after the darshan of the deities, heritage expert Sidharth Acharya narrated about the importance of Nrusingha Upasana in Jagannath Culture and the historical as well as architectural aspects of the Yajna Nrusingha Temple.

He also spoke about the heritage and legends associated

towards the Siddha Mahavir Temple. At the Siddha temple the walkers had a darshan of Sri Siddha Mahavir and saw various ancient sculptures present therein.

After that they visited heritage expert Dr Krushna Chandra Mishra's residence which was nearby and assembled at the Mrutyunjay Temple present inside the premises to listen to his talk on Indian heritage and sculptures of Sri Jagannath Temple.

After the conclusion of Mishra's talk he was felicitated by heritage expert and advisor of PHW Debi Prasanna Nanda, conveners Sanjay Kumar Baral, Biswaranjan Dehury and Dr Kumar Aurojyoti.

# 84-yr-old deceased woman's corneas collected

By Brahmapur Friends Helping Club

**PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR**

Tangudu Vijayalakshmi (84) died due to cardiac arrest last night at her residence at Desibehera Street of Bada Bazar, Brahmapur.

One of our members K Ramgopal motivated her family members for eye donation and the family came forward for it. Accordingly Dr Alok Sharma, Dr Pinaki Satapathy of Eye Department, MKCG Medical College Hospital, Brahmapur, collected both the eye balls of the deceased at their residence.

She was survived by her two sons Tangudu Ramesh and Tangudu Suresh and two daughters Jami Laxmi and Nirmala.



It's noteworthy that during the 39th National Eye Donation Fortnight (25-08-2024 to 08-09-2024), the Friends Helping Club has successfully organized two eye donations.

A big salute to the family for their interest in donating the eyes in turn two people can get vision.

The family members Rahul, Padmaja, Laxmi, Konchada Ram Gopal, Konchada Geeta among others besides members of Friends Helping Club Jammula Suresh were present at the time of eye donation.

# In Baleswar Patient trips over cables in hosp, dies

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**

A patient was killed after tripping over discarded cables stored in the premises of a government-run hospital in Baleswar district on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Karan Singh of Ambajhara village in Berhampur tehsil of the district.

The mishap occurred when Singh was returning from a toilet in the campus of Nilagiri Sub-Divisional Hospital where he had been admitted five days back.

According to Singh's family members, he was recovering well and scheduled to be discharged in a day. They blamed the hospital officials' negligence for the mishap.



The authorities said that a contractor engaged in some work had been instructed to remove the cables from the hospital campus. Nilagiri CDMO Dr Sarojini Pradhan said an inquiry would be conducted to ascertain how the patient left the ward for going out without an escort.

# Promotion of edible insects farming to feed world

Agriculture intelligence is on the horizon and this is what it takes to transform the food systems: commercialise better, compete harder and collaborate smarter. In this context, the insect-based nutrition industry has delivered to some extent with high quality protein powders, oils, purees, and soil enhancers. The industry is already serving and can potentially be the largest feeder to a range of industries from pet food to aquaculture and poultry industries. With significantly lower environmental footprint, these natural sources of nutrition with advanced production systems can be at the forefront of agricultural intelligence.



**BHARAT BHUSAN PATNAIK**

and livestock feed. Further, the leftover of farming, such as the frass (excreta, chitinous exuvia of molting larvae and feed leftovers) can act as valuable biofertilizers, which can replace chemical fertilizers in agriculture. Of course, understanding the potent beneficial gut microflora of such insects is an avenue for revenues from industrial insect farming. To expand beyond the production of food, feed and

biofertilizers, and to encompass the development of value-added products from the generated protein, lipid and chitin fractions would create a convergent system for creating a sustainable and circular bioeconomy under agricultural intelligence. Considering the eco-friendly nature of the applications associated with insect farming and its contributions to sustainable environmental solutions and bioeconomy, Fakir Mohan University is supporting a project proposal on H. illucens farming and use of its larvae in promoting plastics degradation. On an optimistic note, this project will isolate microorganisms and enzymes from the insect gut capable of degrading plastics and its composites and understand the importance of insect microenvironment in the degradation process.

In Africa alone, over 500 edible insect species are being cultured for food, feed, fertilizer, fuel and biotherapeutics and this production and supply chain offers employ-

ment to local youths and women. World Bank report predicts that insect farming alone in Africa can lead to 15 million new jobs while saving 86 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions from waste recycling process annually. This is an indication justifying greater investments in promoting edible insect farming to develop high-quality value-added food products, recycling bio-waste into nutrient-rich biomass for integration into animal feeds, generating organic fertilizer for soil health and crop yields, extracting oils for use as feedstock and additive for cosmetic products and identifying health benefit products [sterols, chitin, chitosan, among others] as novel drug development targets etc. The knowledge-driven economy has led to the capacity-building of youths and women in Africa and is a testament to boost economic, environment and social sustainability globally.

In the last decade or so, larvae of well-studied insects such as

mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*), waxworm (*Galleria mellonella*), and superworms (*Zophobas atratus* and *H. illucens*) have been cultured in this exercise of feeding this world. While enhancement of the nutritional value of larvae of such insects has been emphasized with supplementation of amino acids, iron and minerals and the necessary optimization, larvae reared in bio-wastes are being assessed for bioconversion. Under-nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa and the threatened food-security issues have aroused a pertinent debate on the human consumption of edible insects. With amino acid profiles matching human requirements and high content of poly-unsaturated and mono-unsaturated fatty acids, research on the nutritional profiles of insects suggests insect use in human diets. Concerted efforts are needed to popularize the use of edible insect-based nutritional supplements and highlight the importance of preserving existing entomophagy

cultures, conserving genetic resources, and addressing responses and challenges to changing dietary habits in the future. This will help us to address sustainable development goals (SDGs) such as no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being. While countering the negative impressions such as 'insect food is strange to eat', 'insect food is for the poor', and 'insect food is poisonous' and cultural stigma of many societies, we need to prepare an equitable society for the acceptance of edible insects for food security and sustainability. Exploring entomophagy in the Indian context seems relevant with Mayurbhanj in Odisha taking the lead in this traditional and sustainable knowledge system. The Odisha Kai chutney, which is spicy chutney made from roasted red ants is served with meals, and has a unique culinary experience. The locals of Mayurbhanj have admired the health benefits of eating insects and in traditional medicine it has been revered as an al-

ternative to other sources of protein. In Rayagada district inhabited by Khond and Sora tribes, Khajuri poka or date palm worm is a delicacy. With the indigenous knowledge being standardized and regularized with respect to tribal cuisine, it is not long that the entomophagy map of India gets explored and the stigma associated with eating insects gets removed. With insect farming resource efficient, the edible insect industry in India can be promoted on three pillars of sustainability- environmental benefits, nutritional value, and livelihood generation. I would open this discussion to all the young and aspiring entrepreneurs, so that they can exploit the entomophagy resources of the country for commercial exploitation under agricultural intelligence that supports the food and the feed for the world.

(Dr Patnaik is Associate Professor and Head, PG Department of Biosciences and Biotechnology, Fakir Mohan University, Baleswar, drbharatbhushan4@gmail.com)

# PM focuses on localised solutions to global issues at ANRF meeting



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasised the need for addressing challenges in India's research ecosystem and focus on localised solutions to global issues, during the inaugural governing body meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Modi also talked about developing a dashboard where information related to research and development happening in the country could be easily tracked. The meeting focussed on discussions about India's science

and technology landscape and redesigning of research and development programmes, as per a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Stating that a new beginning had been made with the first meeting of the governing body of ANRF, Modi said the country's scientific community should have faith that there would be no dearth of resources for their endeavours. Modi also talked about setting big targets, focusing on attaining them and conducting path-breaking research. He said research should focus on finding new solutions to existing problems.

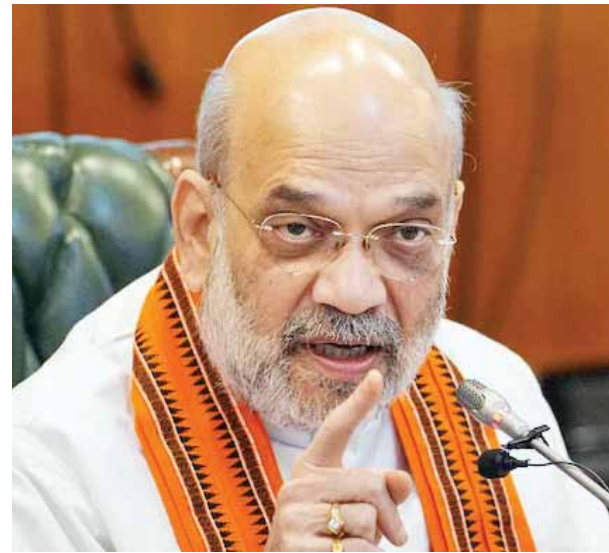
The Prime Minister emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs, according to the statement. He also discussed the need for upgradation and standardisation of institutions and suggested preparing a list of domain experts on the basis of their expertise. Discussing the positive impacts of Atal Tinkering Labs, the prime minister suggested that grading of these labs could be done. He also discussed research in various areas such as looking for new solutions to the envi-

ronment change, battery ingredients for electric vehicles, lab grown diamonds, among others. During the meeting, the governing body decided to launch a programme in the hub-and-spoke mode by pairing universities where research was at a nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode. The governing body also discussed several areas of strategic interventions of ANRF that include global positioning of India in key sectors, aligning research and development with national priorities, promoting inclusive growth, capacity building, driving scientific advances and innovation ecosystem among others. The ANRF will launch programmes on solution-focussed research in mission mode in select priority areas such as electric vehicle mobility, advanced materials, solar cells, smart infrastructure, health and medical technology, sustainable agriculture and photonics. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister who is a vice-President of the governing body also attended the meeting among others. The ANRF has been established to promote research and development and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and research and development laboratories.

# Amit Shah urges use of AI to combat cybercrime at I4C Foundation Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday urged cyber security agencies to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify the modus operandi of criminals duping people of their hard-earned money, spreading fake news and abusing women and children online. India hosts around 46 per cent or almost half of global digital transactions, making the job of these agencies "challenging", he said while delivering a keynote speech during the first foundation day celebrations of the I4C or Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre here. The I4C, established in 2018, is a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is tasked with establishing a national-level coordination centre to address all cybercrime-related issues in the country. During the event, Shah launched four platforms of the I4C — cyber fraud mitigation centre (CFMC), the 'Samanvaya' platform, a cyber commandos programme and a suspect registry. "I would urge you to use Artificial Intelligence to identify the MO (modus operandi) deployed (by criminals)... This will help (you) to find new ways to fight cybercrimes," the Home Minister said. He urged the cyber security agencies to shun the age-old



protocol of "need to know" and adopt the "duty to share" approach to take forward this fight. He cited some figures to show how Internet and cyber penetration has increased in the country. "We have 95 crore Internet users in the country as of March 31 as compared to 25 crore during the same time period in 2014," Shah said, adding that in 2014, as many as 600 panchayats were linked to the Internet but the has reached 2.13 lakh now. Seven-lakh km of optical fibre cable has been laid, data download speed has increased, the cost has decreased and the Internet consumption has risen 78 per cent over a period of time, he said. The Home Minister said in

2024, India saw UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions worth about Rs 20,64,000 crore which is 46 per cent of the global digital transactions. "This makes our work challenging and hence protection against cyber fraud is required," Shah said and flagged issues such as the illegal sale of important personal data over the Internet, the spread of fake news, tool kits, online harassment and abuse of women and children. The Minister said the '1930' national cyber helpline telephone number needs to be popularised during a special campaign being launched by the I4C from Wednesday to spread awareness about cybercrimes. "We need to do more against this (cybercrimes)..."

We have reached a point but the target is far," he said. At the event, the Home Minister spoke at length about the importance of preparing effective counter-measures against cybercrimes while asserting that the country's development was "impossible in current times" without keeping cyber security in mind. "The increasing use of technology is also causing many threats. That is why cyber security is no longer limited to the digital world but has also become an important aspect of national security," he said. Shah urged for "greater coordination" between the agencies of the centre and the states as this combat cannot be undertaken by one organisation alone. It is essential that "everyone comes together," he said. Cybercrimes see "no boundary" and common people should be made aware of these offences, the Union Home Minister said. "I appeal to all state governments to join this movement and ensure that cyber awareness percolates to the grassroots level." Stressing the importance of vigorously running awareness campaigns, Shah said newer cyber frauds were being witnessed each day and even children are getting involved in these. The government has planned to train and prepare 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years to deal with such crimes, he added.



# Experts call for critical shift in understanding, addressing India's suicide trend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With no let up in the death by suicide in India particularly among youth, mental health experts have called for a critical shift in understanding and addressing the trend, emphasising the need to consider socio-economic factors alongside mental health issues. This comprehensive approach is crucial given the country's alarming suicide statistics—171,000 lives lost in 2022 alone, said Dr Rakhi Dandona, Professor of Public Health at the Public Health Foundation of India in a new six-paper series published in The Lancet Public Health. It was released on World Suicide Prevention Day marked on Tuesday. India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy released recently aims to reduce suicide deaths by 10 percent by 2030. While the strategy focuses primarily on mental health interventions, the authors have highlighted the importance of integrating a wider range of socio-economic factors. Police data suggests that variables like gender, employment, and stressful life events also significantly influence suicide rates. It includes measures such as establishing effective suicide surveillance systems and integrating mental well-being curricula into educational institutions. The series outlines six key aspects of a public health approach to suicide prevention. These include examining social determinants and a model that considers how suicide may arise from various social conditions. Dr Dandona stressed the need for national policies to mitigate economic hardships, such as maintaining minimum wage levels. She also highlighted how exposure to suicide-related information can increase risk, suggesting restrictions on media portrayals of suicide

methods to reduce this risk. One paper in the series notes a correlation between poor economic status and higher suicide rates in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In India, states with higher unemployment rates show increased suicide rates, especially among men, and unemployment is also a significant risk factor for women. Another paper discusses the "transmissibility of suicide," where exposure to suicide-related information can influence others while the fifth paper explores interventions targeting major suicide risk factors, including alcohol use, gambling, domestic violence, and suicide bereavement. Dr. Dandona pointed out that creating a supportive environment where individuals feel comfortable sharing their struggles is crucial and stressed the need for these conversations to be taken seriously and addressed appropriately. Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali too echoed similar views. She noted that suicide is a major public health concern in India. "The government has launched initiatives like the National Mental Health Programme and the Kiran Helpline to address the mental health crisis and prevent suicide. However, greater awareness, access to care, and addressing underlying socioeconomic issues are essential to reducing suicide rates." She further said that there is a need to change the narrative of suicide to have open, compassionate conversations that break the stigma surrounding mental health struggles. "We have to shift the focus from judgment to understanding, and this will eventually encourage people to seek help without fear or shame. By promoting awareness, we can build supportive communities that prioritise mental well-being," she added.

# India, Philippines to review defence ties amid China tensions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines will carry out a comprehensive review of their defence and strategic partnership on Wednesday with a focus on ramping up military ties against the backdrop of mutual concern over China's aggressive posturing in the South China Sea. The two sides will deliberate on various issues relating to bilateral defence ties and regional security situation at the fifth meeting of India-Philippines joint defence cooperation (JDCC) committee to be held in Manila, officials said. While Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane will lead the Indian delegation at the talks, the Filipino team will be headed by Senior Under Secretary in the Ministry of National Defence Irineo Cruz Espino. The defence ties between the two countries have been on a significant upswing in the last few years. In April, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, in reflection of the growing military ties. The supplies came over two years India signed a USD 375 million deal with the Southeast Asian nation to supply the



weapon systems. The meeting is taking place amid increasing tensions between China and the Philippines following an incident of violent clash between their maritime security personnel in the South China Sea nearly two-and-half months ago. "During the visit, the defence secretary will discuss ways to further consolidate defence cooperation between the two countries," an official readout said. The situation in the South China Sea will figure in the talks, officials said. There have been growing global concerns over China's sweeping claims of sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. Several countries in the region including Vietnam, the

# Key operator of international gold smuggling racket brought from UAE to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A key operator of an international gold smuggling racket with an Interpol Red Notice against him was brought from the UAE on Tuesday in an operation coordinated by the CBI with the NIA and Interpol, officials said. Muniyad Ali Khan is the third fugitive in the case who was successfully brought back to India, they said. Khan landed at the Jaipur airport from the UAE and was arrested by the NIA, the officials said. In the case probed by the NIA, it was alleged that Khan had conspired in the illegal smuggling of gold bars from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, into India along with other accused, a CBI spokesperson said here. Two co-accused in the case, Shokat Ali and Mohabbat Ali, were brought from Saudi Arabia on April three, 2024 and August 17, 2023, respectively in an operation coordinated by the Global Operations Centre of the CBI with Interpol NCB-Riyadh and the NIA. It is alleged that Khan along with the co-accused had provided gold bars to be smuggled from Riyadh into Jaipur. Gold bars weighing 18.56 kilograms worth Rs 9 crore in the market

# Israel approaches India for 15,000 workers to plug their skill gap

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Israel has approached India to carry out recruitment drive again for 10,000 construction workers and 5,000 caregivers simultaneously to plug their skill gap in the infrastructure and health sector. This comes on the back of a similar request made by Israel, earlier in the year, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) said here on Tuesday. The Population, Immigration, and Border Authority (PIBA) has put in a request across four specific job roles: Framework, Iron Bending, Plastering, and Ceramic Tiling. A team from PIBA, comprising of assessors, is to visit India in the coming week to carry out the necessary skill tests for selecting those who meet their criteria and skill requisites. The second round of recruitment drive for construction workers is to take place in Maharashtra, it said. Further, Israel also requires 5,000 caregivers to boost its healthcare services. They have stated candidates who have completed at least their 10th standard along with holding a certificate issued by a recognised Indian institute and completing a care giving course with at least 990 hours of on-the-job training can apply. In the first round of recruitment of construction workers for Israel, a total of 16,832 candidates appeared for skill tests in their trade out of which 10349 candidates were selected. Those selected will earn a salary of Rs 1.92 lakh per month, along with medical insurance, food, and accommodation. A bonus of Rs 16,515 per month is also provided to these candidates. The NSDC reached out to all states to carry out recruitment after the government-to-government (G2G) agreement was signed in November 2023. The first round of recruitment drive was carried out in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana. The agreement was signed after India and Israel initiated a Framework Agreement on Temporary Employment of Indians in May 2023. All the candidates, going through the G2G pathway are mandated to undergo pre-departure orientation training. This encompasses a manual to understand Israeli culture and way of life and get accustomed to their new home.



# Priyanka Gandhi accuses BJP of double game in teacher recruitment case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Allahabad High Court order asking the Uttar Pradesh Government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in the State. The top court also stayed the High Court verdict setting aside the selection lists of the assistant teachers issued by the State authorities in June 2020 and January 2022, which included 6,800 candidates. "The anti-youth and anti-social justice attitude adopted by the BJP in the matter of recruitment of 69,000 teachers in UP is shocking. By playing a double game, the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories are being harmed socially, economically and mentally," she said in a post in Hindi on X. "First, the reservation scam in the recruitment process took away the rights of hundreds of Dalit and backward candidates. And even now the BJP's intention is to delay and misdirect social justice."

# Siddha medicine effective in treating anaemia in adolescent girls: Ayush Ministry

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Integrating Siddha medicine, a traditional system of healing from South India, into anaemia treatment strategies could support the flagship Anaemia Mukta Bharat programme by combating this condition among adolescent girls, the Union Ayush Ministry has stated, citing findings from a recent study. Titled "A Combination Siddha Drug Reduces Anaemia Among Adolescent Girls in Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu, India," the study was conducted at a hospital in the Southern State under the Public Health Initiative to mainstream 'Siddha' drugs for anaemia treatment. Published in the Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, it highlights the potential of Siddha medicine in addressing this public health challenge. The study found that a combination of Siddha drugs—ABMN, which includes Annapeticenturam, Bavana katukkay, Matulai manappaku,

# Siddha medicine effective in treating anaemia in adolescent girls: Ayush Ministry

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

and Nellikkay lekiyam—was effective in improving various anaemia indicators such as haemoglobin levels, packed cell volume, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin. Anaemia in adolescent girls often stems from poor diet, menstrual blood loss, and underlying health conditions. If Siddha remedies prove effective, they could complement conventional treatments like iron supplements and dietary adjustments. The research was carried out by experts from

# Siddha medicine effective in treating anaemia in adolescent girls: Ayush Ministry

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Siddha institutions, including the National Institute of Siddha (NIS). Dr. R. Meenakumari, Director of NIS and a senior author of the study, emphasised, "Siddha medicine plays a notable role in the public health initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush." She noted that awareness among adolescent girls, dietary advice, and Siddha drug treatment provided therapeutic benefits, making it a cost-effective and accessible treatment option.

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# Defiant doctors refuse to join work despite SC order

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The junior doctors of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and other medical colleges remained defiant the Supreme Court order by refusing to join hospital duty by 5 pm on Tuesday a deadline that had been set by the Court on Monday. Instead of following the Apex Court order the junior doctors who have, for nearly a month, been observing 'cease work' at State-run hospitals, in protest against the rape and murder of an on duty lady doctor inside the RGKMCH set a counter deadline for the State Government to force the resignation of the Health Secretary and Directors of Health Education (DHE) and Health Services for their alleged complicity in tampering of evidence in the place of occurrence. "The DHE and DHS had signed the circular along with the Principal allowing the part demolition of walls adjacent to the seminar hall and the attached washroom ... so they should immediately resign to facilitate impartial inquiry," doctors said. Thousands of doctors on Tuesday marched to the Swasthya Bhavan and was still staging a sit-in demonstration in support of a five-point demand that included justice for the victim doctor, proper infrastructure and security set up in all the government hospitals apart from



resignation of the top Health officials who had circuitously "allowed a syndicate raj to perpetrate in the Health sector." It is not only the doctors but the people along with them who have descended on the streets to press for the demand of justice for Abhaya who this is because the Government does not seem to be willing to keep its words ... by punishing the real culprits of the health syndicate and threat raj in the Government Health sector of which the rape and murder of one of our colleagues was a foregone consequence," said Dr Tathagato Das one of the protesting doctors. Another doctor said that the "demands of the doctors have not been fulfilled and justice not meted out to the victim... to make things worse the State Government has not shown the right intention to give justice and improve the atmosphere in Health sector which was evident by the false and fabricated facts that it allowed to be dished out before the Supreme Court by its lawyers ... remember how the Government counsel was being paid tens of lakhs of rupees to tell lies and mislead the Supreme Court resulting in the disappointing order of Monday. A third doctor said that the "cease work will continue till our demand is met ... if it is met in five minutes ... if some responsible officer from the Government comes out and gives a written assurance of the measures that would be taken within a time a frame we will go back to work or else it will not be possible to do so." The Supreme Court had on Monday asked the doctors to return to work providing them immunity from any government action till 5 pm on Tuesday. Following this State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too had requested the doctors to join work saying she was not willing to take action. The doctors also questioned the "good intention" of the investigating agencies like the police and even the Central Bureau of Investigation

wondering why the central Agency would not ask for an extended remand for arrested former principal of the RGKMCH Sandip Ghosh who was on Tuesday sent to judicial custody. In surprising move the CBI counsel would not seek extension of Ghosh's remand though it told that it was in possession of a large number of digital and documentary evidences in the case. "The CBI has already secured large amounts of digital evidence on the alleged crime. We need time to analyse that evidence. We do not need the accused in police custody immediately. But we may seek their custody again later, if required," the CBI counsel told the Court with the Judge asking back as to how the CBI could assume beforehand that it would get Ghosh's custody back when it returns with such application. Meanwhile chaotic scenes were witnessed inside the Alipore Court premises where Ghosh was produced with the junior lawyers, particularly women advocates resorting to slogan shouting demanding "Justice for the victim." Even as some shouted "thief ... murderer" some threw sandals at him while he was whisked out of the Court towards the prison van. The lawyers asked, "why the CBI refused to seek extension of his remand ... why he was accorded a VIP status inside the court by the police."

# Sunil Sharma leads BJP campaign in Jammu-Kashmir Assembly polls

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Sunil Sharma, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janta Party in Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as one of the top favorites of the party's high command when it comes to implementing the party's road map to secure majority seats in the first phase of polling on September 18. Out of 24 Assembly segments that are going to polls in the first phase, eight seats fall in the region. The party has set its eyes on winning the maximum seats in the region. There are three seats each in Doda and Kishtwar while Ramban has two Assembly segments. In the last assembly elections held in 2014, the BJP had won four seats - Kishtwar, Ramban, Baderwah and Doda, while the Congress had got Banihal and Inderwal constituencies. Two assembly constituencies were added to the region in 2022 after the delimitation exercise following the reorganization of the erstwhile state. Victory and defeat of BJP candidates are directly linked to his rise in the party hierarchy. Before the Assembly polls were announced Sunil Sharma was seen working hard in the region. As the campaign is entering in its last leg for the first phase of polling Sunil Sharma and his team of workers have redoubled their efforts to defeat the political adversaries in the fray. Prime Minister



Narendra Modi is also scheduled to visit the region to address campaign meetings to bolster the party's poll prospects. In the absence of any other tall leader from the region, Sunil Sharma is fully backed by the organizational machinery on ground zero. He is seen crisscrossing the boundaries of different assembly segments via helicopter in the erstwhile Doda district to supervise the campaign. During the day Sharma addresses more than half a dozen election meetings and chairs several meetings with party workers and senior leaders camping in the region to boost the party's election campaign. Sharma is himself contesting from the newly carved-out Padder-Nagseni Assembly seat in Kishtwar. Sharma who represented Kishtwar in the 2014 Assembly polls is aggressively campaigning in support of BJP candidate Shagun Parihar. He visited Jammu on Sunday to appeal to the voters settled there to visit their native places to cast their votes and ensure the victory of the party candidates in the fray. The party is banking on a sympathy wave for 29-year-old first-timer, Shagun Parihar whose father Ajit Parihar and uncle Anil Parihar were killed by terrorists in November 2018, to retain the Kishtwar seat. The alliance partners National Conference and Congress have jointly fielded former DDC Chairperson Pooja Thakur against Sunil Sharma while PDP has fielded Sandesh Kumar in the fray. BJP is facing a rebel candidate Rakesh Goswami and two other independents from the Padder-Nagseni seat. A senior BJP leader told The Pioneer that by denying tickets to the old guards in the

party the Bharatiya Janta Party has attempted to shore up the party's image in the eyes of the electorate. Leading the pack of young party leaders, who are contesting the Assembly polls for the first time, is party General Secretary and former minister Sunil Sharma. The BJP leader claimed Sunil Sharma is being groomed for the bigger responsibility in the future. Former BJP minister Shakti Raj Parihar, who lost District Development Council elections in 2020 is contesting from the Doda West constituency, facing a tough challenge from Pardeep Kumar of Congress, Tanveer Hussain of PDP and Abdul Ghani of DPAP. Former BJP MLA Daleep Singh Parihar is locked in a triangular contest with Congress leader Nadeem Sharief and former IAS officer Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal of the National Conference from Baderwah constituency of Doda. Former minister GM Saroori, who had won the Inderwal seat for three consecutive terms in 2002, 2008 and 2014 elections, is facing National Conference rebel Pyare Lal Sharma, Sheikh Zafarullah of the Congress and BJP's Tariq Hussain Keen. Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani, who is eyeing a hat-trick from Banihal constituency, is facing a major challenge from NC's Sجاد Shaheen and PDP's Imtiyaz Shan.

# Indians in US upset over Rahul Gandhi's remarks



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

While he may be basking in the media attention he is getting for his anti-Narendra Modi and anti-India speeches delivered in USA, many Indians settled in the US are upset over Rahul Gandhi for his eloquence on China and Pakistan. "In speeches delivered at Texas, the Leader of the Opposition had belittled and scoffed at the Indian economy while even newspapers with strong anti-India feelings are praising the Indian economy and the unprecedented progress made by the country's manufacturing and

infrastructure sectors," Suresh Reddy, a Texas based engineering entrepreneur told The Pioneer over phone. He said it was routine for leading politicians from India visiting the US criticizing the government. "But what Rahul Gandhi does is not criticism. He is just humiliating and disgracing the Indians themselves and belittling the major achievements made by the country. Many US citizens whom I spoke to are aghast at the kind of words used by the young leader of the opposition," said Reddy, who had staged agitations in Telangana against illegal sand mining by a cartel of politicians, policemen and contractors. Reddy pointed out that the statements by Rahul Gandhi comes at a time when US based rating agencies and institutions like World Bank and IMF were highlighting the strides made by Indian economy. "This does not augur well for the opposition Congress party or Gandhi himself. If you have lost the election, the best thing to do is to wait for the next election

and bring to the attention of the people the failures of the present government. By insulting the Prime Minister and Finance Minister, what Rahul Gandhi is doing is scoring self-goals. As on date, nobody is going to believe what Rahul Gandhi alleges about the present Indian ruling dispensation," said Reddy. Ram Rajendrababu, a Florida based technocrat said he was shocked over the kind of language used by the Indian leader of the opposition during his speeches. "I happened to see his speech in parliament (Lok Sabha) which was anything but civilized. His speeches in US too are no different. There is a feeling among Indians settled in the US that Rahul Gandhi needs advisors who are up to date about latest developments," said Ram, software engineer who is keenly following Indian affairs. Ram also said that there have been no terrorist attacks or communal riots in the country since 2014 and that is being seen as a major achievement of the Modi rule by US based think tanks.

# How can Didi ask us to return to festivities: Victim's mother



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The parents, particularly the mother of the victim lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital who had last month been raped and murdered while on duty expressed "remorseful shock" at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's appeal to the people in general and the junior doctors to shun movement and return to work and prepare for the festive Durga Puja season ahead. "It is strange that madam Chief Minister has

threatened action against the junior doctors who are still not feeling safe in their work places and who are asking for justice ... it is all the more shocking that she has all of us to return to festive mood," the mother of the victim said wondering how a woman could say like that. "Can she return my daughter so that I can return to festive mood ... Could she have returned to festive mode and celebrate Durga Puja had the victim who is my daughter been her own relative ... my daughter used to celebrate Durga Pujas every year and she herself organized the

Pujas in our house ... now we know that we will never have the Puja in our house ... all our festivals have gone forever ... there will be no light in our house ... but my question is should the Chief Minister who is also a woman have been a little more sensitive and careful in choosing her sentences ... we have just lost our everything and this was another blow that came from the topmost person of our State from whom we are seeking justice," Banerjee had on Monday told the people of the State in general and the agitating doctors in particular to return to work and prepare for Durga Puja festivals as "already one month has elapsed," since the RG Kar incident took place. The mother of the victim also said that the Chief Minister was not telling the truth about the Government offering the parents money after the victim's tragic death. "The Chief Minister is not telling the truth... Would I lie in the name of my daughter who will never return? The

Chief Minister had herself told us that she could arrange for us the requisite amount of money if we wanted to create something in our daughter's memory... then I told that I would definitely go to her for that money but first of all she should ensure justice for my daughter the victim's mother said. The father of the victim had earlier told that a senior IPS officer had personally approached him with a packet stuffed with notes "when the body of my daughter was still lying inside my house." The mother of the victim said, "is this how we deal with a family which has lost its only child ... we know how hard my daughter slogged to become a doctor ... she was killed not only in duty but also after serving and perhaps saving several lives ... and now she is telling the people to return to celebrate ... how a mother who has lost everything can ask the people of the State to go back to the Puja mode when myself I cannot do so."

# Rao Inderjit publicly expresses wish to become Haryana CM

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Rao Inderjit Singh on Tuesday publicly expressed his wish to become the next Chief Minister of Haryana, staking his claim for the CM's position just ahead of the upcoming Haryana assembly elections. Speaking at a public rally where he was present to support BJP candidate Mukesh Sharma's nomination, Singh said that the people of the state want him to become the Chief Minister. "For those who want to loot Gurgaon...the BJP candidate Mukesh Sharma alias Mukesh Pehalwan will be a guard like Pehalwan," he said during his address. "There is no division in the party. The party does not give tickets on the advice of one person. Before allocating tickets party conducted surveys. There are ten surveys, and in those surveys, Mukesh was on top in all the surveys," Rao asserted. Rao said this election is not just to re-elect the BJP to power, but also for resolving the issues afflicting the city. "The next time, who will be the chief minister will see sometimes water leaks from the sewerage, sometimes electricity does not reach, and sometimes garbage remains on the roads for months. You will be asked if you could not clean Gurgaon; you could not clean the sewerage. I am saying that this election is for cleaning up sewerage and for raising garbage. Forget everything and vote for the party to ensure we form a government for the third consecutive time," he added. Rao also promised to work to strengthen the local bodies and to ensure work from the administrative body. Mukesh Sharma officially filed his nomination papers for the upcoming election from Gurgaon on Tuesday. Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh was present on the occasion, drawing thousands of supporters. After the nomination process, a large public meeting was held here in Gurgaon constituency. In his speech, Mukesh stressed the importance of the party's working style; he told the people to ensure his victory in the Gurgaon constituency for the betterment of the city.

# Anil Deshmukh accuses Devendra Fadnavis of using CBI to implicate, arrest him

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Tuesday accused deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis of trying to "implicate, raid and arrest him" for allegedly trying to pressure a police officer from Jalgaon to take action against BJP leader Girish Mahajan four years ago. Less than a week after the CBI registered an FIR against him and four others for allegedly conspiring to falsely implicate BJP leaders by fabricating witness statements and evidence, Deshmukh upped the ante against Fadnavis and accused the latter of using the CBI to implicate him in the case. Taking to micro-blogging site "X," Deshmukh said: "Devendra Fadnavis has used his influence in power corridors of Delhi to file an FIR against me in an incident that took place four years ago when I was the State Home Minister. The accusation against me is that as the then



State Home Minister, I pressured a police officer to take action against BJP leader Girish Mahajan in an incident in Jalgaon "As far as I know, Devendra Fadnavis is trying to raid me. With the help of rulers in Delhi and working in tandem with the ED-CBI, Fadnavis has brought down Maharashtra politics to a low level. Devendra Fadnavis I am waiting for my arrest....," Deshmukh wrote on his "X" handle. Last week, the CBI had registered a case against Deshmukh and four others including then Public Prosecutor Pravin Pandit

Chavan, accusing them of conspiring to falsely implicate BJP leaders by fabricating witness statements and evidence. The CBI lodged the case after a two-year preliminary enquiry which originated from a pen drive handed over to the then Speaker by Fadnavis who was then the Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly. Seven-year-old Deshmukh, a close associate of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, said that he would not be cowed down by Fadnavis' efforts to act against him through the central investigating agencies. Incidentally, both Deshmukh

and Fadnavis hail from Nagpur. It may be recalled that the then Police Commissioner of Mumbai Param Bir Singh had created a sensation on March 20, 2021 by alleging that then State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had asked now arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources in Mumbai Deshmukh had resigned from his post as the State Home Minister on April 5 2021 within hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious charges of corruption made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Based on a case of corruption registered by the CBI, Deshmukh was arrested by the ED November 2, 2021 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office.

# Maharashtra BJP Leader's son Sanket Bawankule involved in drunken driving incident

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A political controversy broke out on Tuesday over a mishap allegedly involving Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son Sanket in Nagpur, with the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) demanding to know from the state government as to why it had not taken any action against the accused in the alleged drunken driving case. A day after an Audi car owned by Bawankules which rammed into several vehicles and injured at least two persons in Nagpur, the Opposition MVA leaders alleged that instead of arresting Sanket in connection with the incident, the police were trying to "shield" him and "suppress" the case. On a day when Nagpur's deputy police commissioner Rahul Madane said that contrary to the claims by the Opposition that Sanket was not behind the wheels of the Audi car involved in the mishap, the MVA leaders demanded to know as to why the BJP-led MahaYuti government was going softly



against in a road rage case in which the State BJP's son was allegedly involved. On his part, State BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule has admitted that the Audi involved in the mishap was registered in his son's name. Talking to media persons in Nagpur on Tuesday, DCP Madane said that the police had collected the blood samples of Sanket Bawankule and the driver Arjun Haware - who has been arrested - and sent them for analysis. The pile-up crash involving Audi occurred around 12.35 am on Monday when the car with 5 occupants, including Sanket Bawankule was speeding along the Ramdaspath area of Nagpur. The CCTV footage showed that the Audi rammed into the car owned by one Jitendra

Sonkamble, who later lodged the police complaint, and banged into a two-wheeler injuring two persons riding on it. The Audi later crashed into several other vehicles before grinding to a halt a short distance away. The police said that occupants in the car, including Sanket, were returning after partying at a bar in the Dharampath area of the city when the mishap took place. Accusing the Nagpur police of handling Sanket with kid gloves in the road mishap case, State Congress' chief spokesperson Atul Londhe alleged that the State BJP chief's son hit multiple vehicles in Nagpur while driving an Audi car in an intoxicated state.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Strategic partnership

Following PM Modi and UAE Crown Prince Al Nahyan talks, India-UAE relations reach new heights with landmark energy pacts

Indian diplomacy is soaring to new heights. As nations around the world eagerly welcome Indian businesses and forge strategic alliances, India is experiencing an unprecedented wave of global goodwill and influence not seen in years. The recent UAE-India energy pact is yet another case in point. UAE crown prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is presently in India and had a meaningful dialogue with Prime Minister Modi. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continue to strengthen their strategic partnership, with a significant boost in the energy sector, as both nations signed four major agreements aimed at deepening cooperation. The agreements span key sectors, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, petroleum supplies, nuclear plant operations, and production concessions, marking a pivotal moment in the bilateral relationship. As both leaders emphasised, the pacts signal a broadening of collaboration, particularly in emerging areas such as nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and advanced technologies.



The signing of a long-term supply agreement for one million metric tonnes of LNG per annum between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) is among the most prominent developments. This is the third such deal in just over a year, reinforcing India's energy security while further consolidating ties with one of the world's leading energy producers. In addition, a groundbreaking production concession pact was signed between Urja Bharat and ADNOC for Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block One. This marks the first instance of an Indian company holding an energy production concession in the UAE. An equally crucial development is the agreement between the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). This pact is designed to enhance collaboration in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, sourcing nuclear goods from India, and fostering mutual investments in the civil nuclear domain. During their discussions, PM Modi and Crown Prince Al Nahyan acknowledged the rapid progress made under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was first established during Modi's 2015 visit to the UAE. With about 3.5 million Indian expatriates forming the largest community in the UAE, the deepening of ties in key sectors like energy, nuclear cooperation, and trade will continue to be a cornerstone of this growing relationship. Crown Prince also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, where he planted a sapling, continuing a tradition started by his grandfather in 1992. The crown prince's visit is more than just about pacts. It strengthens the historic ties between the two countries. The recent implementation of the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, which facilitates cross-border transactions in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams is yet another example of growing affinity between the two countries.

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### PICTALK



Migratory birds rest on a tamarind tree during the monsoon season in Birbhum district

# 9/11: The day that changed the world



SANTHOSH MATHEW

As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance and mutual respect

On September 11, 2001, the world stood still as a series of events unfolded that would forever alter the course of history. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 not only shook the United States to its core but also had profound repercussions globally, leaving an indelible mark on international politics, security frameworks, and societal attitudes. Now, 23 years later, the legacy of that day continues to influence the world in significant ways.

The attacks, orchestrated by 19 members of the extremist group Al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, were intended to instill fear and challenge American power. The immediate aftermath saw the U.S. respond swiftly with the launch of the "War on Terror." Just weeks later, in October 2001, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, targeting the Taliban regime that harbored Al-Qaeda operatives. The war, which initially focused on dismantling the Taliban, expanded in 2003 to include Iraq, resulting in the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime.

The costs of these wars, however, were staggering. Over two million people lost their lives, and the financial toll was estimated at \$4.5 trillion. The Middle East was plunged into a state of instability, with extremist groups like ISIS rising in the wake of regime collapses. The U.S. intervention, initially framed as a campaign to liberate oppressed nations, came under heavy criticism due to incidents like the torture of detainees in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. These actions tarnished the U.S.'s reputation, fueling anti-American sentiment and exacerbating tensions between the West and the Islamic world.

Beyond military campaigns, 9/11 also had far-reaching societal impacts. In the U.S. and elsewhere, fear and suspicion of Muslims surged. Islamophobia became more entrenched, as communities and individuals were unfairly associated with terrorism. The "clash of civilizations" narrative, which framed Islam as inherently opposed to Western values, gained traction, deepening divisions and fueling prejudice.



This legacy of suspicion and distrust continues to shape political discourse and societal attitudes today.

The seeds of 9/11 were planted decades earlier during the Cold War, when the U.S. supported Islamist fighters in Afghanistan to counter Soviet influence. Figures like Osama bin Laden, initially seen as allies in the fight against communism, turned against the U.S. after the Soviet withdrawal. Bin Laden's growing resentment of U.S. involvement in the Middle East culminated in the deadly attacks on September 11, a day that redefined global security priorities.

In response to 9/11, the Bush administration implemented a range of measures to protect national security. The Department of Homeland Security was established, and stringent airport security protocols became the norm worldwide. The U.S. also adopted the Bush Doctrine, which justified preemptive strikes against nations that harbored or supported terrorists. This doctrine underpinned the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and marked a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy.

However, the invasions, especially that of Iraq, became highly controversial. While the Bush administration ini-



THE PHYSICAL SITE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HAS SINCE BEEN REBUILT, WITH THE ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER STANDING AS A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE. AT THE BASE OF THE ORIGINAL TOWERS, A MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO HONOR THE VICTIMS

tially claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), none were found, leading to widespread skepticism about the true motives behind the war. The failure to uncover WMDs highlighted the dangers of misinformation and flawed intelligence, further eroding public trust in the government.

In the years that followed, 9/11 and its aftermath shaped not only U.S. foreign policy but also the broader international order. Counterterrorism became a global priority, with governments implementing new laws to enhance surveillance and prevent further attacks. However, this focus on security often came at the expense of civil liberties, as governments expanded their powers to monitor citizens, raising concerns about privacy and individual freedoms.

The physical site of the World Trade Center has since been rebuilt, with the One World Trade Center standing as a symbol of resilience. At the base of the original towers, a memorial and museum have been constructed to honor the victims. Yet for many, the emotional scars remain. Survivors, first responders, and the families of victims continue to grapple with the trauma of that fateful day. Health issues linked to expo-

sure to toxic debris have plagued many first responders, and the psychological toll remains deep.

As we reflect on the 23rd anniversary of 9/11, it is clear that the world has changed in profound ways. The attacks prompted the U.S. and its allies to rethink their approach to security, while also creating new challenges, such as the rise of extremism and the erosion of trust between nations and communities. Today, as the global community faces new threats, including cyberterrorism and shifting geopolitical alliances, the lessons of 9/11 remain relevant. The need for global unity, cooperation, and understanding is as pressing as ever.

Ultimately, 9/11 is not just a moment in American history—it is a moment that transformed the world. As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. The resilience shown in the face of adversity on that day offers hope for a better world, one where such tragedies are prevented and where humanity comes together to heal, rebuild, and move forward.

(The writer is an associate professor; views expressed are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### WARRIORS OF INDIA

Madam —Apropos to "Paralympics: Warriors of India write history and victory" published on 9th September-24, here is my response. Kudos to Indian Paralympics athletes for winning the best medal haul in the history of games. Each of these 29 medal winners in the Paris Paralympics games have an inspiring story of resilience, grit and perseverance. Avani, Preethi, Nitesh, Sumit, Kapil, Parnav, Dharmabir and Kapil all have shown what one can achieve through sheer will power. They need to be given the same grand welcome, recognition and honor that we bestowed upon the likes of Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra and other Olympics medal winners. What is really incredible is the fact that not only these Paralympics athletes have won medals but few of them broke their personal best and Paralympics games records in the process. In a few events we even won two out of three medals to be won, which itself is historic.

Some accident or tragedy may have taken some of these athlete's limbs but their steely resolve remained intact. And if ever God needed any reason to increase the budgetary allocation to disability rights groups, the ever highest medal tally achieved by our Paralympics medalists is that reason. And the least local civic authorities and local administration across the cities can do is to create infrastructure sensitive to the needs of differently abled people. It is the least we can do as a society to make them feel better and equal, so that they do not look upon themselves without any complex or inferiority.

Bal Govind | Noida

#### PHOGAT JOINS CONGRESS

Madam — Apropos news item, "Will win each battle with people's blessings: Vinesh Phogat", published on Sep. 9, this is my response. With wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining Congress, the party's fortunes in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections have brightened. Congress can present itself as the party

#### India's efforts to foster peace



Today India's role on the global stage continues to grow, India could play a role of a peacemaker in facilitating dialogue with both Russia and Ukraine in bringing to an end this two years old conflict. India enjoys good ties with both Russia and Ukraine. s PM Modi can "freely communicate with Putin, Zelenskyy, and the Americans who are supporting Ukraine with weapons and money". In his meeting with

Zelenskyy, the prime minister expressed his willingness to contribute personally to finding a peaceful resolution.

fter Putin, now Italian PM Meloni has suggested that India can play a role of mediator in resolving this two years old Russia-Ukraine conflict; this conflict, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, till there is no clear end in sight.

The visit by India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to Russia which is followed the prime minister's summit with Putin six weeks ago and with Ukraine president Zelenskyy is a step forward to discuss and take forward peace efforts in resolving this two years old ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

for the aspirational and successful youth. Importantly, the party aims to capitalise on the popularity of these two wrestlers, especially Vinesh Phogat, who really caught the nation's attention after she missed her Olympics medal by a whisker. Apart from all these factors, Congress banks on consolidating the decisive Jat vote bank in the state through these wrestlers as they come from the same community.

Lastly, that there is a revolt within the BJP, with senior leaders have resigned over the denial of tickets, stacks are loaded in favour of Congress to wrest the power back in Haryana.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

#### SUICIDAL IDEATION RISING

Madam — Approximately seventy percent of those who commit suicide provide some clues about their intention. Also referred to as "suicidal ideation", reference to suicidal tendency can range from a mere mention to open admission. Family history, long-standing illness, repeated stress, bereavement in family-

are important risk factors that drive a person to pain and hopelessness. Having access to kill oneself—guns and poisons—is also a huge risk factor. Substance abuse disorder (SAD) is a cause.

A sustained campaign is needed to thwart suicide attempts, and bring lives back on track. World Suicide Prevention Day falls on September 10. Everything in this mankind can be prevented, and suicide is not an exception.

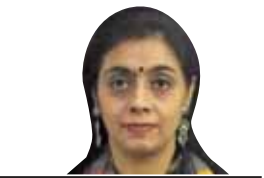
There are many "foundations", easily accessible through internet, to come to the rescue of the suicide attempter. It is always good to directly start a conversation with those contemplating suicide with compassion and empathy taking care not to further push them to the brink. "Talk with them; don't argue with them" is the familiar refrain in the international community of experts. The mountains of problems men and women carry with them are only supposed to be climbed.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Fintech: Paving the way for sustainable development

As India's fintech landscape continues to experience unprecedented growth, it is not only transforming the financial sector but also advancing sustainability



KAJLEEN KAUR

Fintech, or financial technology, is revolutionising the financial sector by expanding accessibility, reducing costs, and boosting efficiency while fostering an equitable financial environment. It has assisted in overcoming the shortcomings of traditional financial services. India is presently witnessing a fintech transformation marked by an impressive growth trajectory. With a market size of \$50 billion in 2021, it is expected to surge to \$150 billion by 2025. It boasts 17 Fintech Unicorns, making it the third largest fintech ecosystem globally.



The regulatory landscape is robust, with the government's initiatives and support in mobile connectivity; policies like Direct Benefit Transfer and Atal Pension Yojna have accelerated the digital revolution, bringing citizens, especially in rural areas within the digital financial services domain. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Payments Vision 2025 outlines ambitious goals including a substantial increase in digital and payment transactions. The fast expansion of Fintech puts forth optimistic growth num-

bers, it can also be pivotal in advancing sustainability by leveraging digital innovations to promote environmentally and socially responsible financial practices. India's fintech ecosystem per se has seen significant growth initiatives that support sustainable development goals, enhance financial inclusion and foster green economic activities. The path of Green Financial Measures encompassing green investment tax credits, mandatory environmental disclosure and reporting, and development of sustainable financial standards has experienced a steady and robust expansion from 188 to 784 Measures and a Year-to-Year growth from 40 per cent to 100 per cent between 2015 and 2022. Financial institutions adopt environmental and social governance (ESG) criteria in their investment

and product development. The government has launched several schemes and initiatives to promote green financing such as the Green Energy Finance Scheme and the National Clean Energy Fund. The RBI has also issued guidelines for green bonds, which are designed to finance environmentally sustainable projects. The SEBI has issued guidelines for sustainability reporting by listed companies, where companies must disclose their ESG performance for greater transparency and accountability. India's fintech sector is leading the way in advancing sustainability through the development of novel financial services that promote social and environmental objectives. Given the favourable regulatory environments and ongoing technical progress, the fintech industry is in a strong position to increase its influence on sustainable development in India.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, DU; views are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

### TRANSFORMING DISLIKE INTO COMPASSION

By viewing people positively, we can create a more harmonious fulfilling life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

All of us are born with strong feelings of likes and dislikes. These feelings shape our personality from childhood itself. That's why today, we see new mothers making statements like, "My child doesn't like green colour, he gets irritated if he sees yellow dal, he doesn't like his scout uniform," etc. It won't be an exaggeration to say that one of the greatest causes of tension, burden, and conflict in our lives is the feeling of dislike for others.

The question is, why do we allow ourselves to collapse into such an ultimately unwanted experience? Is it mandatory for us to dislike someone because they are wrong or perhaps because they are of a displeasing disposition? Why can't we change our perspective in such a way that our inner reaction changes from negative to positive? For this, we need to wear the right kind of glasses that would enable us to maintain a positive vision for all. By doing so, we would be able to see good traits and positive virtues in others rather than their defects and weaknesses. Once we learn this technique of seeing only virtues in others, life will become easier on both sides.

The technique is very simple, and it begins with self. If we reflect over the years, we can easily make out that the periods in which we have been most unhappy with others were the times when we were dissatisfied with ourselves. When we are dissatisfied from within, we will be inclined to be dissatisfied with just about everyone and everything, without knowing that this dissatisfaction is directly related to the perspective or vision we hold of ourselves.



So, we must first begin by asking ourselves, "What is the perspective I have of myself?" or "How do I see myself in the mirror?" These introspective questions can reveal a lot about our inner state. Modern-day psychologists have proven that people who are unhappy with themselves are often unable to find peace with those around them. It means that they project their inner unhappiness onto others, making relationships and interactions more difficult than they need to be. So, if we are not positive about ourselves, then on what basis can we be positive about others?

The only way out of this problem is to ensure that we have a positive vision of ourselves first. Learning to appreciate who we are—our strengths, talents, and positive qualities—creates a ripple effect in our lives. It becomes easier to extend the same kindness and understanding to those around us. Moreover, when we foster a healthy relationship with ourselves, we also develop the emotional strength needed to accept and navigate the imperfections in others without being weighed down by judgment or negativity. So, start by liking yourself first, enjoy others, and develop new and desirable qualities within yourself. This inner work creates a foundation for healthier relationships and a more peaceful life. Remember! Dislikes and grudges drain our energy, while positivity and understanding elevate us, giving us the power to approach others with compassion and love. As we focus on cultivating a positive self-view, our interactions with the world will naturally transform. We must remember that our perspective shapes our reality.

So, by consciously choosing to view ourselves and others positively, we can create a more harmonious, fulfilling life. The key lies in the ability to see beyond faults and embrace the goodness that exists in all of us. So come on let's commit to wearing the 'right glasses'—ones that allow us to see virtues rather than weaknesses, strengths rather than flaws. It's time to replace our inner dissatisfaction with inner contentment, paving the way for a more compassionate and peaceful existence. (The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist; views are personal)

# India needs to excel in 'Olympics of skilling'



DINESH SOOD

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel as the standardised competition environment guarantees a level playing field



The 47th edition of the biannual WorldSkills Competition-2024 is set to begin in Lyon, France. The competition featured a 60-member young contingent from the WorldSkills India Team competing in 52 skill categories against participants from over 70 countries. Often considered the "Olympics of Skilling", this international skilling competition is expected to attract over 2.5 lakh participants and will take place from September 10-15. It will include more than 1,400 competitors and 1,300 experts. The WorldSkills Competition is a platform that celebrates excellence in a wide range of skills, from construction and manufacturing to information technology and creative arts. The 60-member India team, with 20 per cent women, is a breakthrough in this edition as they will compete in traditionally male-dominated fields like welding, plumbing, and heating. They have received rigorous training supported by leading corporations in the manufacturing sector and expertise from industry leaders and institutions across the country. Unfortunately, the same approach is missing in the female-dominated (67%) beauty and wellness sector, as its skills potential still needs to be appropriately recognised in the current contingent in the WorldSkills Competition.

It would be a significant step forward if the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and CSR funds could rigorously support these skills also in the India Skills competition, the country's most important competition aiming to demonstrate the highest skilling standards, offers a platform for young people to showcase their talent in various skills.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises the importance of skill development, allotting 40% of credits to this area. It is essential to ensure that



THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE MORE EXPOSURE AND HIGH-STANDARD TRAINING FOR OUR BOYS AND GIRLS IN GLOBAL SKILL COMPETITIONS SO THAT THEY CAN LEAVE THEIR MARK

financial constraints do not hinder access to skill development. Models for financial aid, scholarships, and low-interest loans must be explored to support individuals in pursuing skilling programs, particularly in the beauty and wellness sector, which plays a significant role in shaping India's future. The regulatory framework for skill development needs refinement to adapt to changing industry needs and technological advancements.

Streamlining and simplifying the accreditation and certification processes are areas that require attention. However, the true power lies in collaboration.

The involvement of academia, industry, and training providers is crucial to achieving India's skilling objectives. Together, we can significantly impact the future of skill development. To make India a global skill capital, we must focus on eleven major paradigms and enablers: aspiration and advocacy, capacity, quality, synergy, mobilisation and engagement, and international partnerships.

Each stakeholder has a unique role to play in this collaborative effort. Together, we can shape a skilled workforce at a global level that meets the world's evolving needs and could be a game-changer for India. Currently, India's performance in the beauty and wellness sector in global skill competitions is not at par with that of other countries.

There is a need to provide more exposure and high-standard training for our boys and girls in global skill competitions so that they can leave their mark. Beauty

contests such as Miss World or Miss Universe have created a differentiator, diluting earlier misconceptions about the fashion industry and fueling a unique recognition. Similarly, the beauty and wellness sector has unlimited potential and can showcase skilled talent globally. However, our approach towards honing the skills of our beauty and wellness skilled individuals needs focused improvement so that they can leave their indelible mark in international competitions.

WorldSkills Competition hosts global championships of skills every two years, attracting young people worldwide to compete and win medals in their chosen skill. Competitions span various industries, from joinery to floristry, hairdressing to electronics, auto-body repair to bakery, beauty and wellness, and more. Competitors are selected from skills competitions held in WorldSkills member countries and regions, representing the best of their peers. The increased visibility of skilled professional education is one of the legacies of WorldSkills competitions, serving as a social and economic transformation tool.

At the global level, one key deterrent to India's dominance in global skill competitions is the need for a more international approach to our various skill sets. This crucial aspect needs immediate attention and action, as it could significantly enhance India's standing in the global skill development arena. In the WorldSkills Competition 2022, the 50-member Indian contingent

received only 13 medallions for appreciation and was positioned 11th, while China was top-ranked with 11 gold, eight silver, and nine bronze medals.

Although India has never won any gold medals, young professionals have immense potential to excel in various skill sets and win medals in global competitions, fostering international exposure and instilling optimism about India's future in skill development. Need to revisit strategy: An enabling atmosphere has to be created in the training institutes, where there is an uninterrupted exchange of information and best practices regarding industry and professional education.

New ideas and processes inspire school-aged youth to dedicate themselves to technical and creative careers to build a better future. If our skilled participants are not winning medals in the 'Olympics of Skills,' it's a clear sign that we must revisit our strategy.

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel, as the standardised competition environment guarantees that participants from across the globe compete on a level playing field. This reiteration of the need for continuous improvement and adaptation should make the audience feel the importance of these aspects in skill development.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views are personal)

# The silent crisis: Rising suicide cases demand urgent attention

As mental health continues to be overshadowed by the pursuit of success, it is crucial to provide support to those who need it most

The rising number of suicides in India, especially among young people and businessmen, is an alarming and heart-wrenching issue that demands serious attention. News about students and entrepreneurs ending their lives after facing failure or distress has become all too frequent. It is high time that society, including teachers, psychiatrists, and responsible citizens, reflects on why these individuals are so prone to taking such extreme measures in moments of despair.

In recent years, the suicide epidemic has gained prominence, particularly among students preparing for competitive exams. The pressure to succeed, exacerbated by societal expectations and the fear of failure, has devastating conse-



VIVEK SHUKLA

quences on the mental health of young individuals. The city of Kota in Rajasthan, famous for its coaching institutes, has become a hub for student suicides. Thousands of students flock to the city each year with the singular goal of cracking entrance exams for top medical and engineering colleges. Yet, under the immense weight of academic expectations, many crumble. According to data presented in

the Lok Sabha, over 35,000 students in India committed suicide between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, the number of student suicides stood at 10,335, which increased to 12,526 in 2020 and further to 13,089 in 2021. These figures paint a grim picture of the pressures that students face. The constant comparison to peers, the relentless competition, and the desire to meet the high expectations of parents, teachers, and society often leave young individuals feeling trapped, hopeless, and unable to cope with failure. Former president of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, emphasizes that merely expressing concern over the rising number of suicides is insufficient. He argues that there is an urgent need to identify solutions to this crisis.

On World Suicide Prevention Day, which falls on September 10th, a seminar will be held in New Delhi to discuss the causes behind youth, businessman, and other suicides. The event will bring together psychiatrists, journalists, and social workers who will share their experiences and insights. Following this, strategies will be developed to curb the rising suicide rates.

In the realm of student suicides, efforts are being made by some coaching centers to ease the pressure on students. Counseling services have been introduced, and parents are being engaged in the process to ensure students' well-being. These initiatives aim to reduce the intense stress associated with high-stakes examinations. However, more compre-



hensive measures are required at both institutional and societal levels to alleviate the crushing burden placed on students. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports that in 2020, a student committed suicide every 42 minutes. This statistic is both shocking and indicative of the mental health crisis that young people are facing. It underscores the need for parents, teachers, and society to create an environment

that allows students to pursue their academic goals without undue pressure. Social worker Brother Solomon George of the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) echoes this sentiment. He stresses that students should not be subjected to unnecessary comparisons or interrogations about their family background, income, or caste. Such actions, often unwittingly, can weaken a child's self-esteem and lead to despair. George advocates for a holistic approach to education that nurtures the child's mental health alongside academic success. He also emphasizes that children should have the freedom to choose careers that align with their interests and abilities, rather than being forced into predefined molds of success.

The suicide epidemic is not limited to students. Businessmen, too, have been increasingly taking their lives due to financial losses. The NCRB also reveals that in 2020, during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, 11,716 businessmen in India committed suicide. This marked a 29% increase from 2019 when 9,052 business-related suicides were recorded. The economic turmoil brought on by the pandemic dealt a severe blow to businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These enterprises, already vulnerable to financial shocks, were further burdened by debt and losses. Karnataka recorded the highest number of suicides by businessmen in 2020, with 1,772 deaths—a staggering 103% increase from

the previous year. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also reported significant increases in suicides by businessmen, with 1,610 and 1,447 cases, respectively. The plight of India's business community, especially SMEs, is often overlooked in discussions about mental health. The issue of suicide among students, businessmen, and others cannot be ignored any longer.

It is imperative that both the government and society at large take concerted action to address the mental health challenges facing these vulnerable groups. Preventive measures, including counseling, mental health awareness, and creating supportive environments, must be prioritised. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

# 'Israeli strike on Gaza camp kills at least 19'

**AP ■ DEIR-AL-BALAH**

An Israeli strike on a crowded tent camp housing Palestinians displaced by the war in Gaza killed at least 19 people and wounded 60 early on Tuesday, Palestinian officials said. Israel said it targeted senior Hamas militants with precision munitions.

The overnight strike hit Muwasi, a sprawl of crowded tent camps along the Gaza coast that Israel designated as a humanitarian zone for hundreds of thousands of civilians to seek shelter from the Israel-Hamas war. Gaza's Health Ministry said it confirmed that at least 19 people were killed in the strike, and that the toll may rise as more bodies are recovered. The Civil Defence, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, had earlier said 40 people were killed. The Israeli military disputed that toll.

The ministry is also part of the Hamas-run government but its figures are widely seen as generally reliable. It maintains detailed records and its tallies from previous wars have largely coincided with figures from independent researchers, the United Nations and even the Israeli military.

Both the Health Ministry and the Civil Defence did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the discrepancy of their tolls.

Associated Press footage shows three large craters at the scene. First responders dug through the sand and rubble with garden tools and their bare hands, using mobile phone flashlights until the sun came up. They pulled body parts from the sand, including what appeared to be a human leg.

"We were told to go to Muwasi, to the safe area... Look around you and see this safe place," said Iyad Hamed Madi, who had been sheltering there. "This is for my son," he said, holding up a bag of diapers. "He's 4 months old. Is he a fighter? There's no humanity."

One of three hospitals that took in casualties from the strike, Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, said around two dozen bodies were brought in. An Associated Press cameraman saw 10 bodies in the hospital's morgue, including two children and three women. "We were sleeping, and suddenly it was like a tornado," Samar Moamer told the AP at the hospital, where she was being treated for injuries.

## Indian Overseas Bank

**KRIBHCO, NOIDA BRANCH**  
(Address : A 8-10, Kribhco Bhawan Sector-1, Noida, Phone No : 0120-2538576 & Email Id : iob1725@iob.in)

### POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)]

**Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (For Immovable Properties)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank 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 as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8 of the said rules on mentioned date.

The borrowers/mortgagors/guarantors and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charges of the Indian Overseas Bank for the amounts and interest thereon mentioned against the account herein below.

The borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantor's attention is invited to the provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

S No.	Name and Address of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors with Address	Description of the Immovable properties	Date of Demand Notice : 04.05.2024
1.	M/S SHWETA SINGH HOUSE NO: 731 SECOND FLOOR, SECTOR - 1, VASUNDHARA, GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH, 201012 (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers'), AVINASH PANKAJ H.NO 731 SECOND FLOOR SECTOR 1 VASHUNDHRA GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH 201012.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No 1/731 in Survey No Sector-1/ City of Town Survey No -Vasundhara within the registration sub-district Ghaziabad and District Ghaziabad Bounded On the North by -Plot no- 1/730 On the South by -Plot No-1/732 On the East by - Plot no- 1/766 On the West by - Road 6.00 mtrs wide	Loan Outstanding on date of Demand Notice :Rs. 15,29,077.99 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges  Date of Possession -05.09.2024  Loan Outstanding on date of Symbolic Possession -Rs.15,44,101.99 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges

Date : 06/09/2024 Place : Noida Sd/- Authorized Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

### APPENDIX IV-A

**Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property**

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L6922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 14.10.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 22,14,691/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Ninety One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00383158, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 27.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan documents(s) w.e.f. 28.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from MUKESH KUMAR and SANJU DEVI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 12,80,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Eighty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,28,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

**SEMI FINISHED SECOND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF/TERRACE RIGHTS BEING PVT./FLAT NO.-203, (BACK SIDE LEFT SIDE) OUT OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. 78, AREA MEASURING 50 SQUARE YARDS, OUT OF TOTAL AREA MEASURING 200 SQUARE YARDS OUT OF KHASRA NO. 486, 15, 1910, 11, 46, 17 AND 24, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE MATIALA AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS NEW T-BLOCK, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 ALONG WITH ONE TWO - WHEELER PARKING IN THE STILT AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS :-**

**EAST :- PORTION OF SAID PROPERTY /RHS FLAT**  
**WEST :- PLOT NO.77**  
**SOUTH :- PORTION OF SAID PROPERTY /FRONT LHS FLAT**  
**North :- GALI/10 FEET**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-8910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id : auctioin@sammaan.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

Sd/-  
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED  
(Formerly known as  
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)

Date : 06.09.2024 Place : NEW DELHI

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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

Industrial Property- PLOT NO 90, SECTOR 58 Urban Estate Faridabad In The Name Of Mr. Om Prakash Sharma S/o Mr. Ram Ji Lal Sharma. Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed-265 Sq. Mtr.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 90 in survey No. 90/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Ballabhgarh and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : Road On the South by : Other Property On the East by : Plot no 89 On the West by : Plot no 91

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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

Commercial Property - Office of Osm Projects Pvt Ltd At Plot No 53 Pragati Vihar- Sector 59 Industrial Estate Faridabad in The Name of M/S OSM Projects Pvt Ltd Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed - 285.85 Sq. Yards

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 53 in survey No. 53/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Ballabhgarh and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : Plot no 52 On the South by : Plot no 54 On the East by : Other Property On the West by : 60' wide road

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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. 602, 6th Floor, Rialto Tower, Block No. 8, Omaxe Heights, Sec-86, Faridabad In The Name Sh. Surender Sharma S/o Shri Ramesh Chand Sharma Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed - 145.11 Sq. Mtr.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 602 6th floor in survey No. 602 6th floor/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Faridabad and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : other Flat On the South by : Plot no 54 On the East by : Corridor On the West by : Open Space

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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. 249- SECTOR 8 Faridabad In The Name Of Mr. Sushel Sharma S/o Mr. Shree Ram Sharma Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed - 366.67 Sq. Yards

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 602 6th floor in survey No. 602 6th floor/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Faridabad and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : Road On the South by : Other Property On the East by : Property No 248 On the West by : Property No 250

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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

Industrial Property- PLOT NO 90, SECTOR 58 Urban Estate Faridabad In The Name Of Mr. Om Prakash Sharma S/o Mr. Ram Ji Lal Sharma. Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed-265 Sq. Mtr.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 90 in survey No. 90/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Ballabhgarh and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : Road On the South by : Other Property On the East by : Plot no 89 On the West by : Plot no 91

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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

Commercial Property - Office of Osm Projects Pvt Ltd At Plot No 53 Pragati Vihar- Sector 59 Industrial Estate Faridabad in The Name of M/S OSM Projects Pvt Ltd Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed - 285.85 Sq. Yards

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 53 in survey No. 53/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Ballabhgarh and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : Plot no 52 On the South by : Plot no 54 On the East by : Other Property On the West by : 60' wide road

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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. 602, 6th Floor, Rialto Tower, Block No. 8, Omaxe Heights, Sec-86, Faridabad In The Name Sh. Surender Sharma S/o Shri Ramesh Chand Sharma Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed - 145.11 Sq. Mtr.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 602 6th floor in survey No. 602 6th floor/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Faridabad and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : other Flat On the South by : Plot no 54 On the East by : Corridor On the West by : Open Space

Date : 11.09.2024 Place: Faridabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

## Indian Overseas Bank

**SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH**  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : iob1836@iob.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 borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri / M/s :-

- M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)
- Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)
- Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)
- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)

(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/guarantor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh thirty five 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 06th 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh six thousand eight hundred thirty eight and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 31/08/2024 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.31,90,46,838.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety lakh forty six thousand eight hundred thirty eight 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 Situated At Plot No : 1487 P, Sector 14, Urban Estate, Faridabad, Haryana 121007 In The Name Of Mr. Surender Sharma & Mrs. Suman Sharma (This property is common security for credit facilities in form of housing loan & Loan against property which are under default since 29.06.2024 and outstanding Rs. 2,08,46,992.30 (Rs. Two crores eight lakh forty six thousand nine hundred ninety two and thirty paisa only) as of 31.08.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment)

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/Flat No 1487-P in survey No 1487-P/ City or Town Survey No-/Khasra No within the registration sub-district Faridabad and District Faridabad (Haryana) Bounded On the North by : Road Entrance On the South by : Other Property On the East by : Road On the West by : Plot No 1488

Date : 11.09.2



US accuses Iran of sending ballistic missiles to Russia

The United States formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine and will take measures to punish those involved.

'Woman killed as over 140 drones target Russia'



A view of the site of the damaged multi-story residential building following an alleged Ukrainian drone attack in Ramenskoye, outside Moscow region, Russia, on Tuesday.

Over 140 Ukrainian drones targeted multiple Russian regions overnight, including Moscow and surrounding areas, killing at least one person, officials said Tuesday.

Australia proposes legal minimum age for children accessing social media

The Australian government on Tuesday promised to legislate this year to enforce a minimum age for children to access social media, but it has yet to announce how ages will be verified.

Ukrainian military needs and commonly arrive long after they were promised.

Ukrainian military needs and commonly arrive long after they were promised. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged defence companies to increase their output.

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that Paras Arora claims to be owner and in possession of Prop. No. 374, Block G, Pkt-22, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi.

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Smt. Tanuja is in process to avail the LAP against her Plot bearing No. 37 area measuring 50 sq.yds., out of Kharsa No. 29/39mm, situated at Rajew Garden village Dharoli, Pargana Loni, Tehsil, District Ghaziabad U.P.

P.WAY MAINTENANCE WORK AT ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. 76/W-2/APDJ Dated: 05-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 34-AP-1-2024.

Public Notice

INFORMED that my client Mrs. ZEENAT KHATOON (Mobile- 980059387) W/o Mr. Mammuddin R/o Road No. 9, Nagmatia Colony, Gaya, Bihar, 823001

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, TAMANNA D/o SHOBIT KUMAR, R/o N-41, B-282, J J Camp Suraj park, Badli P O Samajpur Distt North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, declare that name of My father has been wrongly written as VICKY in my 10th and 12th class Documents.

Public Notice

Public Notice My Client Smt. Rastha Agarwal & Sh. Anil Kumar Agarwal R/o Plot No. 429, 2nd Floor, Doongar Mohalla Farsh Bazar Shahdara S.O., East Delhi, Delhi-110032

ANNUAL / DAY TO DAY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT UNDER LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEEL/MG/19 of 2024-25; dated: 05-09-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN-1; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/20

Public Notice

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Zeba Khan had acquired Upstair Ground Floor without right rights (Right Side), area 35 Sq. yds.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Table with columns: E-Catalogue No., Date & Time of bidding, Railway Stations/Locations/Lots. Includes details for Parking-15-2024 and Parking-16-2024.

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Rekha Sharma is in process to purchase the Entire Second Floor (without right rights), Bahadur Property No. 443-E, Area Measuring 60 Sq. Yds.

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should follow mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids.

IREPS advertisement with details on registration, account setup, and contact information for the Northern Railway, Delhi Division.

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that my client Smita Devi is in process to avail LAP facility against her plot no. 11 and 72 measuring 100 sq. yds.

CORRIDGENDUM

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Plot No. 23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY advertisement for a contract on a contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. advertisement for an Open Press Tender.

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION advertisement for a Corrigendum (Tender No - 4/2024).

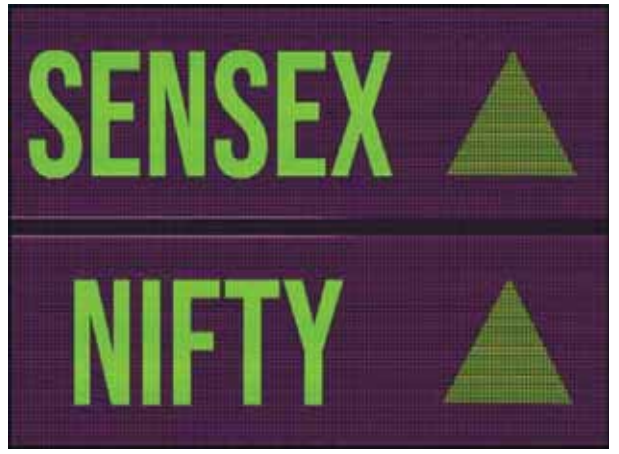
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE advertisement from ICICI Bank regarding a secured interest.

ICICI Bank advertisement for a secured interest with a table of borrower details.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY advertisement for a Request For Proposal (RFP) for construction work.

# Foreign funds drive Indian market rally, Sensex up

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains following a rebound in the US markets and fresh foreign fund inflows.  
The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 361.75 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 81,921.29 driven by gains in IT, telecom and select banking shares. During the day, it jumped 637.01 points or 0.78 per cent to 82,196.55.  
The NSE Nifty surged 104.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,041.10.  
Among the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Adani Ports were the biggest gainers.



Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were among the laggards.  
In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower.  
European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended significantly higher on Monday.  
Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,176.55 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.  
Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth Rs 1,757.02 crore.  
Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.39 per cent to USD 70.84 a barrel.  
“With an overnight rebound on Wall Street, strong net buying from both FIIs and DIIs, and sluggish oil prices, bullish traders are expected to pursue bargains,” Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.  
The BSE benchmark Sensex rebounded 375.61 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,559.54 on Monday.  
The NSE Nifty went up by 84.25 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 24,936.40 after three days of fall.

# Rupee falls two paise against US \$



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The rupee traded in a narrow range on Tuesday and depreciated 2 paise to close at 83.97 (provisional) against the American currency, weighed down by the strengthening of the American currency in the overseas market.  
Forex traders said the US dollar recovered amid mixed non-farm payrolls data. The slight recovery in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee. However, a surge in the domestic markets cushioned the downside.  
At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.95 against the American currency and finally settled at 83.97 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 2

paise from its previous close.  
On Monday, the rupee traded in a narrow range and closed flat at 83.95 against the American currency.  
“We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on the strong US dollar and concerns over global economic growth. However, positive domestic markets and any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may support the rupee at lower levels,” Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.  
Choudhary further noted that “investors may remain cautious ahead of the US CPI and ECB monetary policy this week. “USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 83.70 to 84.20,” he said.  
On the domestic equity markets front, the Sensex climbed 361.75 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 81,921.29 points, while the Nifty rose 104.70 points, or 0.42 per cent, to close at 25,041.10 points. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03 per cent to 101.58. Brent crude, the international benchmark, fell 1.16 per cent to 71.01 in futures trade. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,176.55 crore, according to exchange data.

# Air Express to phase out business class seats



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Air India Express, which is set to complete the merger of AIX Connect with itself next month, will phase out business class seats in its aircraft in 2025, according to a senior airline official.  
Currently, the carrier, part of Tata Group, has a fleet of 85 aircraft -- 25 A320 family planes and 60 Boeing 737s. By year-end, the total number is expected to be around 100.  
The airline has 34 white tail Boeing 737-8 aircraft and out of them, 29 have business class seats of varying numbers. Their count will rise to 50 by the end of this year.  
Generally, white tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline.  
The airline official told PTI that aircraft with the business class seats will be phased out by reconfiguring them next year as business class does not fit into the Air India Express model.  
These white tail aircraft have varying number of business class seats, the official added.  
In the existing fleet of Air India Express, there are 20 A320s, 5 A320 neos, 26 B737-NGs and 34 B737-8 planes. At present, the airline offers economy and business class seats. The global aviation industry continues to grapple with supply chain woes that have also resulted in instances of delayed aircraft deliveries and shortage of planes amid rising air traffic demand post the coronavirus pandemic.  
Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India, operates more than 380 daily flights, connecting 32 domestic and 14 international destinations. In February 2023, Tata Group-owned Air India placed orders for 470 planes comprising 250 from Airbus and 220 from Boeing. Out of the total, 400 are narrow body aircraft. Tata Group has four airlines Air India, Vistara, Air India Express and AIX Connect -- earlier known as AirAsia India.

# Adani Airports launches 'aviio' app

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

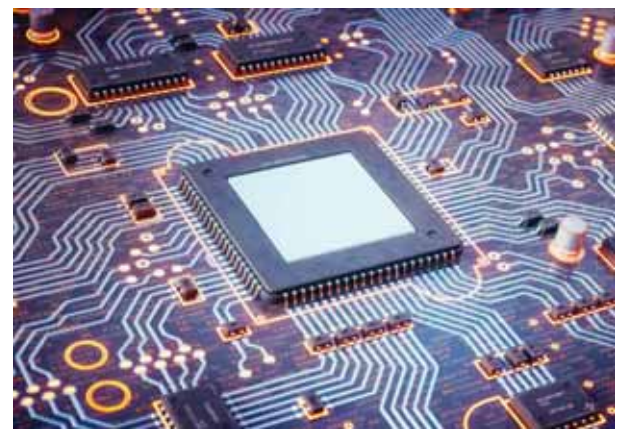


Adani Airports Holdings Ltd, the Adani group firm that operates seven airports in the country, has launched 'aviio' digital platform to provide passengers real-time data on variety of airport accesses - from wait times to gate change and bags on belt.  
Aviio aspires to bring the aviation community together to collaborate and serve passengers better, a top official said.  
By enabling airport stakeholders to access real-time data, passengers can expect easier access to airport information in the form of updates related to security checks, wait times, gate change and bags on belt, among other aspects, he said.  
With this path-breaking initiative, AAHL, a subsidiary of Adani group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd, aims to serve the aviation community and set new standards for airport operations management and passenger experience.  
With seven operational airports in its stable, and one more expected to go live

during the middle of 2025, this platform for B2B services has been conceptualised and curated to meet AAHL's unique need to manage airports at scale.  
Acting as the backbone for all digital transformation initiatives, the 'aviio' platform is placed to create a benchmark for airport operations across the globe. AAHL's vision for 'aviio' encompasses the development of a cutting-edge Smart Airport Operations System, conceived as a replicable model of an 'Airport-in-a-Box'. This next-generation Airport Planning and Operation Centre (APOC) has 10x more features that help in arriving at data-driven decisions.  
Apart from AAHL employees, the 'aviio' app (AOCC-on-the-go) is for all partners in the ecosystem, including AAHL employees, airlines, ground handlers, retail, etc. He told PTI that out of Rs 76,000 crore approved earlier, the government still has scope to accommodate small projects and will approach authorities when there are new projects in place.  
“Out of the Rs 76,000 crore intended for the semiconductor mission, we have committed about Rs 62,000 crore, including the last scheme which was cleared for Keynes. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right now at all,” Krishnan said.  
The government has approved five semiconductor projects entailing investments of around Rs 1.52 lakh crore or about USD 18 billion. He said that some funding is required for the Semiconductor Laboratory's modernization in Mohali.

# MeitY assures funding for semiconductor plants

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**



The government has committed about Rs 62,000 crore in incentives for electronic plants and there is no issue in funding semiconductor projects, Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan has said.  
He told PTI that out of Rs 76,000 crore approved earlier, the government still has scope to accommodate small projects and will approach authorities when there are new projects in place.  
“Out of the Rs 76,000 crore intended for the semiconductor mission, we have committed about Rs 62,000 crore, including the last scheme which was cleared for Keynes. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right now at all,” Krishnan said.  
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“We still have some funds to take up some smaller projects and approve them. Thereafter, we will have to go back to the Ministry of Finance and Cabinet for approval when some new proposals come,” Krishnan said.  
He said there is a high level of commitment from the government to make sure the semiconductor mission works.  
“If additional funding is required, I am confident we will be able to secure it. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right now at all,” Krishnan said.  
The government has received around 20 proposals for the Centre's incentive under the India Semiconductor Mission. Krishnan said India is targeting legacy nodes--the established technology segment in semiconductor space, which will produce large size chips.  
The large size chips in the node of 28 nanometer, 40 nanometer, 60 and 65 nanometer can be used in big products like cars, electric vehicles, power inverters, consumer durables like washing machines, consumer electronic products etc.

“We are balancing the fact that it is reasonably well established technology and there is a considerable market for chips in that size for a range of industries. We have an established market here in the country for that. Therefore, we are focusing on those goals where the total cost of setting up a new facility is also not too great, which means that the subsidy outgo on behalf of India will be a little less and there is a significant demand as well,” Krishnan said.  
He said India has a significant presence in the design ecosystem with 20 per cent of the global human resources required for semiconductor design based out of India.  
Krishnan said many large brand names actually design in India.  
“We never had a big presence in the manufacturing space. It is not a normal manufacturing process. There are a lot of precision, engineering skills, and purity involved. Therefore we do require, at least initially, some foreign collaboration and others who are leaders in this space to actually establish such facilities here in India.



# Gold, silver prices soar amid strong demand

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

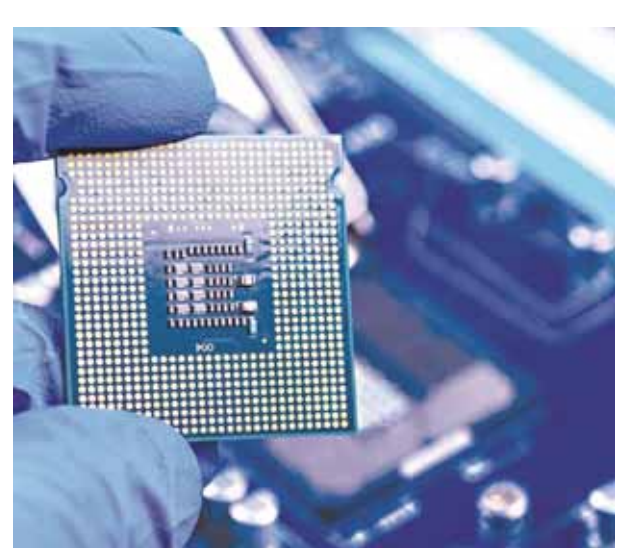
Gold prices rallied by Rs 600 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh buying from jewelleryellers.  
In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,500 per 10 grams on Monday.  
Silver prices, too, jumped Rs 700 to Rs 84,500 per kilogram from Rs 83,800 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association.  
Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity bounced Rs 400 to Rs 73,750 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 73,350 per 10 grams in the previous session.  
Traders said gold prices saw an uptrend due to rise in domestic demand. However, a weak trend overseas capped the gains.  
In the overseas markets, comex gold is trading lower at USD 2,532.10 per ounce.  
“Gold prices have held above USD 2,500-mark through the start of the European session on Tuesday as traders seemed reluctant to place directional

bets ahead of the US Inflation reports due to be published in the days ahead,” Maneesh Sharma, AVP of Commodities & Currencies at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said.  
The US Consumer Price Index is due for release on Wednesday, while the producer price index data will release on Thursday.  
According to the commodity market experts, the data will influence market expectations about the size of the Fed's interest rate cut later this month and provide a fresh directions to the non-yielding yellow metal.  
However, silver is quoting marginally higher at USD 28.70 per ounce globally.  
“The underwhelming US jobs report bolstered the case for Fed easing, though uncertainty about the scale of interest rate cuts limited gold's upside,” Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said.  
Additionally, traders will also closely watch speeches by FOMC members Michael S Barr and Michelle W Bowman.

# Tata Electronics, ASMPT sign pact for semiconductor assembly equipment infra

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Tata Electronics has signed a pact with ASMPT Singapore for establishing semiconductor assembly equipment infrastructure and solutions for its chip packaging units in Assam and Karnataka.  
ASMPT will collaborate with Tata Electronics for workforce training, advancing service engineering infrastructure, automation, spare supports and boosting R&D initiatives in the area of wirebond, flip chip, advanced packaging and integrated system packaging.  
“In a significant step towards accelerating its readiness for its semiconductor assembly and test facilities in Vemagal, Karnataka and Jagiroad, Assam, Tata Electronics signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ASMPT Singapore to collaborate on establishing semiconductor assembly equipment infrastructure and solutions,” Tata Electronics said in a statement on Tuesday.  
Tata Electronics is setting up a chip assembly plant in Assam with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore which is expected to become operational next year. It also has a small chip assembly unit set-up in Karnataka.  
“This partnership will emphasize the development



of essential training programs and advanced research and development, while also nurturing a vibrant ecosystem within the country,” Tata Electronics Managing Director and CEO, Randhir Thakur said. The partnership shall also focus on energy and material efficiency to promote sustainable growth and strengthen the semiconductor supply chain ecosystem. “We are excited to partner with Tata Electronics to realize their vision of establishing a global electronics supply chain in India. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we are well-positioned to drive significant

progress in the semiconductor industry. “This collaboration will not only propel technological innovation but also cultivate the talent required for sustained future growth,” ASMPT, Group CEO, Robin Ng said.  
Tata Electronics is setting up two major chip units comprising a semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat, and a Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility in Jagiroad, Assam. “With an investment outlay of Rs 1,18,000 crore, Tata Electronics is set to generate nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs,” the statement said.

# PM to inaugurate electronica, productronica and SEMICON India 2024

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**



Global value chains (GVCs) are essential to modern manufacturing, representing 70% of global trade. In India, GVCs are particularly vital for the electronics sector, with 75% of exports relying on them. To enhance its position, India must focus on innovation, collaboration, and technology adoption. To drive this transformation, Messe Muenchen India (MMI) is hosting its largest-ever edition of electronica India and productronica India 2024, featuring a comprehensive range of technology solutions-from the smallest components to intricate manufacturing processes. Commenting on the increasing global importance

of electronica India, productronica India are set to make a remarkable leap in scale and scope compared to previous years. The 2024 event will feature a record-breaking 830 exhibitors from 29 countries, showcasing a significant increase from the 589 exhibitors in 2023. Attendance is expected to soar to over 50,000 business visitors, up from 39,133 in the last edition. This expansion highlights the growing global interest and industry significance of these leading technology exhibitions, reflecting a vibrant and rapidly evolving market. eFuture and eMobility conferences aim to prepare the industry for the future while electronica India, productronica India 2024 will take place from September 11-13, 2024 at the India Expo Mart Limited (IEMI), Greater Noida.  
One of this year's highlights is the inaugural eFuture Conference, focusing on groundbreaking technologies such as AI, ML, ADAS, autonomous vehicles, and 6G, with anticipated participation from international leaders. The focused buyer-seller meetings are going to be a key attraction of these trade fairs, and this edition will curate 2,000+ meetings between buying companies and suppliers of high-tech components and services.

# Maruti gears up for EV market

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India is looking to establish a holistic ecosystem for electric vehicle buyers as it gears up to introduce its first battery-powered model early next year.  
The company will look at setting up charging infrastructure for EVs and also other critical elements like having resale avenues for such models.  
“We are not only going to launch the product, we are going to basically provide a complete ecosystem for the customers who are going to be part of the electric vehicle family,” Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee told reporters on the sidelines of the 64th SIAM annual session here. He noted that the biggest concern for EV users is

regarding the range. “Secondly, it is the EV infrastructure and thirdly it is about the residual value of the vehicle after five years,” Banerjee said.  
He stated that the company's first EV model, a mid-sized SUV, would be unveiled at the Bharat Mobility show in January next year. The model would come with a driving range of over 500 kms, he added.  
On sales expectations from this year's festive season, Banerjee said: “In festival time we are going to see some positivity. We are very optimistic about it.”  
He further said: “The expectation is it will be much, much better than the current situation. We will be seeing upside from here.”  
When asked about rising inventory levels, Banerjee said the company has taken a conscious call to calibrate dispatches to the dealers.

# LED BY YOUNG STRIKERS, INDIA AIM TO MAINTAIN WINNING RUN IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY



PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

India's new-found ability to score field goals will be crucial as the defending champions will look to extend their winning streak when they face Malaysia in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

Field goal conversion was a key concern during India's bronze medal-winning campaign at the Paris Olympics last month, where they netted 15 goals but managed only three from open play.

It even prompted the legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired after the Games, to stress the need for improvement in this area. "If we are thinking about the next level for the Indian hockey team and want to consistently win Olympic

medals, we need to score more field goals because our defence has its limitations," Sreejesh had remarked. Coming into the tournament after securing their successive bronze wins at the Olympics, India are looking a more enterprising side, grabbing

opportunities up front with a rock solid defence in place. India started their title defence with a 3-0 win over hosts China before thrashing Japan 5-1 in their next league match on Monday. Out of the eight goals India have scored, seven have come

from open play, with young drag-flicker Sanjay converting a penalty corner against Japan. Young striker Sukhjeet Singh, who was part of the Paris Olympics squad, has been phenomenal, scoring three field goals, while Abhishek and Uttam Singh have added two each from open play. Going by world status and current form, India are favourites to reclaim the title having won the tournament four times before. The first two matches witnessed strong performances from the young Indian forwards, which meant star dragflicker and skipper Harmanpreet Singh had to do very little so far. In contrast, last-edition's runners-up Malaysia are languishing at the penultimate position with one loss and a draw. Despite the strong start, the Indians can ill afford to take any side lightly as they begin a new Olympic cycle. India's new first goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who replaced the talismanic Sreejesh following his retirement after the Paris Games, too had a decent outing so far in the tournament, conceding just one goal. After the round-robin league among the six teams, the top-four sides will qualify for the semifinals to be played on September 16.



## Paralympic champs return to hero's welcome



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Swarmed by hundreds of supporters, garlanded and fed sweets, India's Paralympic medal-winners returned to a jubilant welcome on Tuesday after securing an unprecedented haul of 29 medals at the just-concluded Games in Paris. There was the customary dhol and euphoric chants hailing them as the athletes made their way out of the Indira Gandhi International Airport this morning. Supporters, sports administrators and families of the athletes lined up to show their appreciation for the contingent. "Thank you so much for this grand welcome," javelin thrower Sumit Antil told PTI. He clinched a second successive gold in the F64 category by breaking his own Games record with a throw of 70.59m.

Antil said. Archer Harvinder Singh, who is also pursuing a Ph.D in economics from Punjab University, was overwhelmed by the appreciation. He has impaired legs owing to the side effects of a dengue treatment he received as a toddler. He became the first Indian archer to win gold in Paralympics after becoming the country's first medallist in the sport three years ago in Tokyo with a bronze. "I like to keep myself busy. It helps my focus, the mind wanders less. Any person who is distressed or defeated can take inspiration from para-athletes," he said even as supporters showered flower petals on him and fellow archer Sheetal Devi. Sheetal, who was born without arms, won the mixed team bronze with Rakesh Kumar after missing an individual medal by a whisker. "I have had a great experience. I am very happy that India won two medals in archery. We have got good support and that's why we have won so many medals," she said referring to India's record overall haul because of which the country ended 18th in the medal standings. Another javelin thrower Navdeep, who competes in the F41 classification owing to his short stature, was lifted by his supporters as he celebrated with them. Navdeep won the gold medal with a personal best of 47.32m. India had sent a contingent of 84 athletes, the country's largest ever for the Games. Of the total 29 medals, seven are gold, which is also a first for the country.

# France rests Mbappé and beats Belgium while Haaland is decisive in the Nations League

AP ■ GENEVA

Even after leaving star forward Kylian Mbappé on the bench, France handed Belgium yet another loss in the Nations League. Two of Mbappé's former teammates at Paris Saint-Germain, Randal Kolo Muani and Ousmane Dembélé, struck with powerful shots either side of halftime in a 2-0 win in Lyon on Monday. The latest win helped France make up ground in the top-tier Nations League group after losing to Italy 3-1 in Paris on Friday. Italy beat Israel 2-1 on Monday and leads the four-team group. Also, Erling Haaland scored a decisive 80th-minute goal in Norway's 2-1 win over Austria

and Slovenia star Benjamin Šeško scored a hat trick in a 3-0 win over Kazakhstan. Haaland and Šeško once were clubmates in Austria at Salzburg. Mbappé was rested from the start despite France seeking to avoid a third straight loss, two months after a European Championship semifinals exit against eventual title winner Spain. Real Madrid's new star had little preseason preparation after Euro 2024 and played a full game against Italy. He was eased in against Belgium by coach Didier Deschamps, who sent on his captain in the 67th minute to replace Kolo Muani. France extended its winning run over Belgium to four games in the Mbappé era.



Starting in the 2018 World Cup semifinals, Les Bleus also eliminated Belgium in the 2021 Nations League semifinals and in the Euro 2024 round of 16. Monday's game was 43 years to the day since France lost a competition game against Belgium, in 1981 in Brussels in

a World Cup qualifier. Belgium started with fierce intent and France survived a wave of early attacks in an increasingly testy atmosphere. Belgium forward Loïs Openda was at the heart of most of the action and confrontations. France led in the 30th when Kolo Muani lashed in a shot

from close range after goalkeeper Koen Casteels pushed out a weak bouncing effort from Dembélé. Dembélé was more purposeful in the 57th, cutting in from the right side of the penalty area to score with a rising left-foot shot. A smiling Mbappé was among the substitutes who went on to celebrate with Dembélé and lifted him to his feet. Haaland had to wait and wait - after a 2 1/2-minute video review check - for his 32nd career goal for Norway in just his 35th international. At 1-1 in the 80th minute against Austria, the ball returned to Haaland near the penalty spot and the striker held off two defenders before poking in a low shot. The VAR

check for a possible offside went on and on before the goal was confirmed. Norway and Slovenia each has four points at the top of their second-tier group ahead of meeting in Oslo on Oct. 10. Hat trick for Aktürkoglu Turkey leads its second-tier group from Wales on goal difference with both on four points after wins. Kerem Aktürkoglu scored a hat trick for Turkey in a 3-1 result over Iceland just days after his move from Galatasaray to Benfica restored his chance to play in the Champions League this season. Wales scored twice in the first three minutes in Montenegro and hung on for a rain-soaked 2-1 win.

## Mauricio Pochettino's pending arrival looms over US soccer friendlies



AP ■ MILFORD (US)

Mauricio Pochettino's pending arrival looms over interim coach Mikey Varas and his players. Coming off a dismal performance in Canada's first win over the U.S. On American soil in soccer since 1957, players say they realize more intensity is needed when the team faces New Zealand on Tuesday night. "All we can do is put ourselves in the best position so that if an announcement is made in the near future that we're ready, that we're confident going into the next step for this federation," US midfielder Christian Pulisic said on Monday. "We need to show that no matter who is the coach is that we're willing to fight and willing to give the best for this country and that we want to win games." Varas and players criticised the team's effort in Saturday's 2-1 defeat, the first US match since first-round elimination at the

Copa America led the US Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter. "Anybody who plays, they will have earned it," Varas said, "and at the same time this is a September window with a new coach coming in so it's also my responsibility to make sure that multiple players get a chance of showcasing themselves as long as they have also shown that they can earn it." Pochettino, a former coach of Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain, has been in negotiations with the USSF since mid-August. He appears likely to take over for friendlies against Panama on October 12 at Austin, Texas, and at Mexico three days later. "Sometimes when someone new comes in, yeah, it gives everyone a bit of an extra push and say, you know what, I need to show a little bit extra. I need to give a good first impression," Pulisic said. "It can change a little bit of the mentality, a little bit of the culture."

Pochettino would become the first foreign-born coach to head the US since Jurgen Klinsmann from 2011-16. "It's better to almost go in not necessarily blind to who you're going to be working for but with an open mind to understanding that just because they've done things a certain way previously doesn't mean that they're going to do that the same coming in," defender Tim Ream said. Columbus goalkeeper Patrick Schulte started against Canada in his second international appearance and had five saves in a strong performance. Varas chose the 23-year-old over Matt Turner, the No. 1 pick the last two years, Ethan Horvath and 18-year-old Diego Kochen, a Barcelona youth player. "The decision was, again, to balance the long-term vision and the short-term vision," Varas said. "We need to move the program forward. It was an open competition. And then we were looking for matchups based on the opponent." The US is missing regulars Sergio Dest, Antonee Robinson, Tyler Adams, Weston McKennie, Tim Weah and Gio Reyna. New Zealand is coming off a 3-0 loss to Mexico on Saturday in a friendly at Pasadena, California. The All Whites, whose last World Cup appearance was in 2010, start World Cup qualifying next month against Tahiti. "Once game time hits," Pulisic said, "it's who's going to go out on the field and who's going to step up and who's going to not be afraid to get into a hard tackle, to show that they're there."

# Twin titles for Shubhi Gupta in chess meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Shubhi Gupta underlined her prowess as she clinched the girls U-16 gold and girls U-20 bronze medals in the just-concluded Commonwealth Chess Championships in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. A Women FIDE Master and the reigning U-19 girls' national champion, Shubhi left a lasting impression with her performance in the U-16 category, securing seven wins and two draws. With an exceptional score of eight points out of a possible

nine, she outclassed her competition, finishing ahead of compatriots Mrittika Mallick (7 points) and Yashvi Jain (6.5 points), who took second and third place respectively. Shubhi further showed her competitive spirit in the Open category, competing against seasoned Grandmasters, International Masters, and Women Grandmasters. She scored 4.5 points to finish in third place in the U-20 girls' division, securing her a bronze medal. Reflecting on her success, Shubhi said: "It was a fantastic



experience, playing against some of the top international players. I am happy that I could perform consistently in both

U-16 and the Open category. "Winning the Commonwealth U-12 title and the World Cadet Championship were important milestones in my journey, and this latest success has boosted my confidence further." Shubhi won a prize purse of Rs 1 lakh. The young talent from Ghaziabad was first introduced to chess by her father and has consistently delivered outstanding performances on the national and international platforms. She previously won the U-12 gold at the Commonwealth Youth Chess Championship and claimed the World Cadet Championship title in the same age category two years ago.

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# Anwar banned for four months: AIFF PSC judgment

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The All India Football Federation on Tuesday imposed a four-month suspension on India international Anwar Ali after finding the defender "guilty" of illegally terminating his four-year contract with Mohun Bagan who are also eligible for a huge compensation of Rs 12.90 crore. The Players Status Committee of the AIFF also ruled that the Anwar's parent club Delhi FC and East Bengal, with whom the defender had entered into a lucrative five-year deal, have been banned from registering players for two transfer windows — 2024-25 winter and 2025-26 summer. Anwar Ali, East Bengal and Delhi FC are all jointly "liable" for the compensation amount which includes Rs 8.40 crore for the residual value of the contract, Rs 2 crore already paid to Delhi FC under loan agreement, and Rs 2.50 crore for other "damages suffered by the club," stated the decision of the AIFF Players Status Committee. The transfer of India centre-back Ali to East Bengal from Mohun Bagan following a unilateral termination of his loan, had sparked a controversy in Kolkata Maidan.

MOHUN BAGAN ELIGIBLE FOR ₹12.90 CR COMPENSATION



The 23-year-old, who played a key role in their Indian Super League Shield-winning campaign, scoring three goals and one assist in 26 games last season, terminated his contract and joined arch-rivals East Bengal in a five-year deal. Mohun Bagan then challenged the decision by filing a complaint with the AIFF's Player Status Committee. "In accordance with Article 20.4, the Player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four)

months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision," read the six-page judgment signed by Savio Messias deputy chairperson, AIFF Players Status Committee. This suspension is applicable for his club matches and he will be eligible to play for India. "Under Article 20.3, and subject to any provisions to the contrary in contract, the Committee holds all three parties

i.E. Anwar Ali, East Bengal FC and Delhi FC jointly and severally liable for the above amount (Rs 12.90 crore)." "In accordance with Article 20.4, the Player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four) months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision." It further said if the compensation is not paid within 45 days, the club will face a ban on registering new players for up to three registration periods, and the player will be restricted from playing in official matches for up to six months. Appeals against the AIFF Players' Status Committee decisions can be made to the AIFF Appeals Committee within the time limits specified in the AIFF Disciplinary Code, it added. Much before the PSC delivered its judgment, Delhi FC co-owner had stated that they "would appeal and this would go on for a while". "...The decision has no final bearing on the final outcome or verdict — so no one should either be too happy or too sad (both sides) as PSC is a preliminary body and all its orders can be appealed. This will go on for a while... Patience is the name of the game," Ranjit Bajaj had posted in X on September 1.

# NO PLAY ON 2ND DAY AS DDCA SENDS COVERS

**PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA**  
Using traditional tarpaulin to protect outfield, electric fans to dry wet patches, loosing ground cover from one state unit and super sopper from the other while deploying untrained ground staff, the Greater Noida Authority encountered colossal failure in not being able to get second day's play underway in the one off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand. For the second successive day, not a single ball could be bowled at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports complex here putting the venue under scanner and making it an international embarrassment. The game, the first between the two nations, was scheduled to begin on Monday but no play was possible as the umpires cited "players safety" as a concern. While there was no rain throughout the day, there was a downpour for about an hour on Monday evening, affecting the start of play on Tuesday, which was scheduled to

commence half an hour earlier than the original start time of 10 am. While the skies remained clear on Tuesday, the field couldn't even be readied for a curtailed day's play despite best efforts. The mid-on and midwicket areas remained a cause of concern as the groundsmen were bringing in dry sections of grass from the practice area to "transplant" it to the mid wicket area. Additionally, three table fans were used to dry patches of grass on the offside as the groundsmen continued to work all day. Officials from the Greater Noida Authority, under which the stadium falls, were also in attendance, supervising the work. Umpires conducted three inspections before calling off play on the second day. According to the stadium officials, there are five super soppers -- two automatic and three manual. However, all throughout only two have been used, that too sparingly. If sources are to be believed, the Greater Noida Authority

## GREATER NOIDA FAILS 'TEST' CASE



had requested Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for a couple of super soppers and they send it from their Meerut Stadium for logistical purposes. Similarly during day time, traditional marriage shamiyana (tent) was used to cover the outfield and in the evening when heavy rains started, they used tarpaulin as DDCA authorities were rushing their outfield cover from Kotla. If this wasn't enough, the Greater Noida Authority didn't have enough trained groundstaff and apparently used their untrained labour for the work. While the pitch area remained pristine, the outfield has been the issue on both days. The BCCI had given the Afghanistan Cricket Board a few options including Kanpur, Bengaluru and Greater Noida. However, the ACB opted for Greater Noida for logistical reasons. "The venue has always been Afghanistan's home venue. If we talk about back from 2016, we have been playing games here," ACB International

cricket manager Menhaj Raaz said. The area is receiving incessant rainfall for the past two weeks, which the ACB claim has played spoilsport. "It is because of the rain. Yesterday also, it rained. We had a three-day game here with one of the local teams which went well. We didn't face any issue. But when the rain started and all of this happened." Afghanistan Cricket Board has hosted 11 white-ball international games here before. The other Indian ground where they have hosted games is Dehradun. "We had conducted a recee four to six months back, and even the visiting team had done their recee. So there was no issue" Raaz added that ACB considered moving the match to a different venue but the monsoon made it impossible. "We tried working on a solution to shift the game and they said that because of the same rain, you will not be able to, you know, actually prepare the venue for you in the coming next 24 hours."



## Rinku picked for second round as stars leave for national duty

**PTI ■ ANANTAPUR**  
Majority of the players picked in the India squad for the first Test against Bangladesh, including Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul and Shubman Gill, were on Tuesday rested for the second round of Duleep Trophy beginning here on September 12. The others picked in the national squad on Sunday include Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, who all have been exempted from the second round. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Sarfaraz Khan, who too are part of India's 16-man squad for the opening Test, have not been released from their Duleep Trophy duties indicating they won't be part of the playing eleven against Bangladesh in the game to be played in Chennai. "The selectors have named Pratham Singh (Railways) as a replacement for Gill, Akshay Wadkar (Vidarbha CA) as a replacement for KL Rahul and SK Rasheed (Andhra CA) as a replacement for Jurel," said the BCCI in a statement. "Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani will replace Kuldeep in the squad whereas Aaqib Khan (UPCA) will replace Akashdeep in the squad." Mayank Agarwal has been named as India A captain in Gill's place. As Jaiswal and Pant's replacements, the selectors have named Suyash Prabhudessai and Rinku Singh.

Nishant Sandhu comes in as a replacement for Axar in the India D squad. Pacer Tushar Deshpande has been ruled out of the game due to a niggle and his place will be taken by India A's Vidwath Kaverappa. No changes have been made to the India C squad led by Rituraj Gaikwad. Pant, returning to red ball cricket for the first time since December 2022, gave a good account himself in the Duleep Trophy opener and so did K L Rahul and Akash Deep. **Updated India A squad:** Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasad Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rasheed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan. **Updated India B squad:** Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK). **Updated India D squad:** Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sandhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

## Bangladesh rising pace sensation Nahid Rana confident and ready for India Test series

**PTI ■ DHAKA**  
Having made an instant impact with his brilliant performance in the historic 2-0 triumph over Pakistan, Bangladesh rising speedster Nahid Rana has now set his eyes on the upcoming away Test series against India.



Asked if he is ready to hit the 152 kph mark again, Rana said, "I will strive to give my best. "Pace is something you can't always predict -- it depends a lot on rhythm. Sometimes, it just clicks, and suddenly you find yourself hitting those speeds. "I never set out to clock 152 kph or push past that. I just focused on executing the team's plan. My friends and folks back in the village are really happy of my achievement," he said. Rana's journey in cricket began when his brother enrolled him in an academy in 2020 after finishing college. He made his first-class debut in October 2021 and quickly made a mark, taking 32 wickets in the following season. In the 2022-23 National Cricket League, Rana and Sumon Khan achieved a rare feat with both taking over 30 wickets, an accomplishment not seen in over 11 years for fast bowlers in the domestic first-class tournament.

The 21-year-old consistently hit 150 kph and stood out as the star performer especially in the second innings of the final Test in Rawalpindi where he took 4/44 as Bangladesh secured a historic sweep. "Obviously we are well prepared for India series. We have started training. The more we are prepared the better we will be in execution during the matches," Rana said in a video shared by Bangladesh Cricket in 'X' formerly twitter. "India are a good team but the team that plays better cricket will win. We will see when we go there." The speedster, from Chapainawabganj, has emerged as a new sensation in Bangladesh cricket with his ability to bowl consistently fast over long spells. He made headlines by crossing the 150 kph mark on his Test debut against Sri Lanka in March this year. Then in Pakistan he established himself as a genuine fast bowling threat by making immediate impact in the second Test. He dismissed Shan Masood with his third ball before scalping the prized wicket of Babar Azam in his next over. "Before leaving, I had said that I wanted to achieve something for my country, and it feels great to have delivered on what was expected of me," he said. The first Test is slated in Chennai, a venue known for its bounce-friendly pitch.

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**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources, Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

Email Address: cemech.eicwr.od@gmail.com  
**e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.: CEM/MDC-02/2024-25**

- Name of the Work : Mechanical Gate Works
- No. of Works : 01 (One)
- Category of executors : SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
- Bid Identification No. : CEM / MDC - 02/ 2024-25
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 28,45,996.00
- Period of Completion : 03 (Three) calendar months.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal : From dt.12.09.2024 (10.00 AM) to dt.25.09.2024(5.30 PM)
- Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal : dt.25.09.2024 (up to 5.30 PM)
- Date and Place of opening of Bid : dt.26.09.2024 (12.00 Noon onwards in the OIO the undersigned)
- Name of the Officer inviting bid : Chief Engineer, Mechanical, OIO the E.I.C, Water Resources, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer, Mechanical  
OIO-Engineer-in-Chief,  
Secha Sadan, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-32520/11/0004/2425

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Pratap Sundaray, aged about 35 years, S/o Maguni Sundaray, residing at Village Bandhamunda, PO-Bhatapada, PS-Gadisagoda, District-Puri, Odisha, hereby declare that I have lost two original land sale deeds: one bearing No. 936 dated 19.06.1985, and the other bearing No. 1947 dated 10.08.1976, pertaining to the property purchased from Kamadev Baidarsingh and Rabi Baidarsingh of Bandhamunda village. The property, located in Mauza-Bedhatandula, Khata No. 03, Plot No. 1489, measuring A0.22 dec, has been mutated in my name as New Khata No. 133/26, Plot No. 489/678 (A0.12 dec) and Plot No. 489/688 (A0.10 dec). I intend to mortgage this property with Jana Small Finance Bank (JSFB) to avail a loan, for which the bank has agreed in principle. If any individual, bank, or financial institution has any claim or interest in the said property, they are requested to notify JSFB or my advocate within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

S/d-  
Pratap Sundaray

## SAI, Steel Plants Sports Board make quarters

**PTI ■ PUNE**  
Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Steel Plants Sports Board entered the quarterfinals from their respective pools after recording contrasting results in the 4th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship here on Tuesday. On a day of do-or-die battles for qualifications, SAI beat Central Board of Direct Taxes (CDT) 5-1 to claim second spot in Pool A with 9 points behind Petroleum Sports Promotion Board who topped the pool. Lalit Negi (6th), Neeraj (28th), Pankaj (38th - p.S, 53rd - p.C) and Rajat Minz (54th) scored for SAI. CDT reduced the margin through a Nachappa Ir (44th) strike. Steel Plants Sports Board made it in second position from Pool

B after Dena Bank dramatically struck in the final minute to draw the game 3-3. Pradhan Somanna Pudiykkkada Somaiah converted a penalty corner to help Dena Bank earn a point. Earlier, Chandanda Aiyanna Nikkin Thimmaiah (4th); Somanna Km (33rd) scored for Dena Bank. For the Steel Plants Sports Board, it was Dilbar Barla (5st); Bara Rabi (53rd) and Abdul Qadir (55th) who scored. As a result, Steel Plants Board finished with 7 points (4 matches) and qualified for the knockout. Pool B had a thrilling finish as the already-qualified Railway Sports Promotion Board faced a tough challenge from All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB). RSPB staged a fightback from a 2-3 deficit to win 4-3. RSPB ended up unbeaten in Pool B. RSPB scored through Parampreet Singh (4th - p.C), Yuvraj Walmiki (21st), Darshan Vibhav Gawkar (54th) and Simranjot Singh (56th). Varinder Singh (37th - p.C; 45th) and Haris Mohammad (11th - p.C) struck for the police team. The loss impacted AIPSCB (6) who missed to qualify after finishing third behind Steel Plants Board (7) by a point.

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## F1 car design great Adrian Newey to join Aston Martin after leaving Red Bull

**AP ■ SILVERSTONE (ENGLAND)**  
Formula 1's most influential car designer, Adrian Newey, is joining Aston Martin in March 2025 after leaving Red Bull, ending months of speculation over a backroom figure who seemed more in-demand than any driver. Newey has spent nearly two decades with Red Bull and is widely credited with putting the team on its path to dominance in F1. Now he's joining a team that has big ambitions to challenge for the title and the backing of billionaire Lawrence Stroll -- but no race wins yet. Newey will arrive in his new role as "managing technical partner" in time to help shape

how Aston Martin responds to the new F1 car regulations coming for 2026. He'll also be made a shareholder in the team. Newey said he and Stroll got to know each other while training in the gym during F1 race weekends in Asia. Newey visited Aston Martin's new headquarters in June as Stroll closed in on a signing which the Canadian billionaire called "another demonstration of our ambition to build a Formula 1 team capable of fighting for world championships." "You have to be honest with yourself and you have to keep yourself fresh and so I felt I needed a new challenge," Newey said. He added that Stroll's hands-



on approach as an owner was an "old-school model" that reminded him of his old bosses at teams like Williams and McLaren, which both won titles with Newey-designed cars in the 1990s. "I was very flattered to have a lot of approaches from various teams, but really, Lawrence's passion and commitment and enthusiasm is very endearing, it's very persuasive." The last time the regulations had a big change, with the return of "ground effect" aerodynamics for 2022, it was Newey's Red Bull that dominated as Max Verstappen won the championship. Newey had a lifetime of experience to draw on, having written his university thesis on ground effect in the 1980s, back when it was previously used in F1. Aston Martin's drivers are Fernando Alonso, the two-time champion and Lance Stroll, the son of team owner Lawrence Stroll.

**NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KESINGA**  
"e" Procurement Notice No. 2397 / NAC(K) Dt.06.09.2024  
Tender ID No. 2024-ORWLB-104685-1

The Notified Area Council, Kesinga invites online bid in double cover system through e-procurement.

Name of the work	: Supply of labour for day to day sanitation works like road sweeping, drain cleaning, bush cutting and garbage lifting of all wards (except ward no 03) out of 12 nos. of ward of Kesinga NAC
Approx. value of work	: Rs.13510848.00
Period of availability of tender for online Bidding	: From 07.09.2024 10.00 A.M.to 30.09.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.
Date & Time of opening	: 04.10.2024 at 4.00 P.M.
Agency/Firm	: Registered Firms / Service Providers / State Govt. / Govt. Registered Organization
Submission of original document	: By Regd. Post / Speed post up to 3.00 P.M. on 04.10.2024

1.Physical document Xerox copy of all documents as per DTCN check list with self attested.

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Executive officer,  
N.A.C., Kesinga

OIPR-13109/11/0008/2425

**O-263 'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.02/ 2024-25.**

- Name of work : Building Works
- Total No. of Work. : 5 (Five) works.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.0.84 to 40.02 lakhs.
- Period of Completion. : 01(One) & 06(Six) Calendar Months.
- Class of contractors. : 'B', 'C' & 'D' Class only.

**Other details as follows:**

- Procurement officer. : Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Cuttack.
- Availability of tender online for bidding : From dt.17.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to dt.27.09.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification. : dt.26.09.2024 up to 5.00 P.M..
- Date & Time of Opening Technical Bid : 30.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works Division  
Cuttack

OIPR-25053/11/0003/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA PANCHAYATI RAJ & DRINKING WATER DEPTT.**  
**OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMIT, SOHELA At-Sohela, Po-SOHELA, Dist-Bargarh, Pin-768033 E-mail:-ori-sohela@nic.in No. 2193 Dt. 06.09.2024**

**National Competitive Bidding through e-procurement**  
Bid Identification No. 06 /2024-25

The BDO, SOHELA on behalf of PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SOHELA invites Percentage bid through e-procurement in single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode. Bid Documents consisting of work , Cost of Tender Paper , EMD , Time of Completion , Class of Contractor and the set of Terms and conditions and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt website , i.e [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

- Nature of Work : Building Construction work as mentioned in DTCN.
- No. of works : 1 (One Nos.)
- Estimate Cost : Rs. 12,20,202/-
- Period of Completion : 150 Days
- Class of Contractor : "C" or "D" Class
- Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal for Bidding. : 11.00 AM on dt.11-09-2024 up to 05.00 PM on dt.21-09-2024
- Last date & time for receipt of Bids in the portal. : 21-09-2024 at 05.00 PM.
- Bid opening Date : Dt.23-09-2024 at 11.00 AM

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Block Development Officer  
SOHELA

OIPR-19411/11/0006/2425