

**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

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 Prabhu 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.

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



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/curbing 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. **Continued on Page 2**

## BJP Leaders criticise Rahul Gandhi for remarks in US on Sikh community



LoP in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses the Indian Diaspora, in Washington DC, USA, Tuesday, September 10, 2024 and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri addressing a press conference at the BJP HQ in New Delhi on Tuesday



Photo: PTI/Ranjana Dimri, Pioneer

BJP and Congress engaged in a war of words following the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's series of attack on the Modi Government, BJP and RSS during his interactions with various stakeholders in the United States. BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in the US about the Sikh community, saying the Congress Leader is trying to create a "dangerous narrative" by speaking on "sensitive issues" abroad. Congress hit back at the BJP over its criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the US, saying the ruling party should not treat itself as being synonymous with the country. The principal Opposition party in the Lok Sabha also said it would keep criticising the policies of the Government. Rahul is currently on a four-day visit to the United States. His first stop was in Dallas which began on Saturday, and he arrived in Washington DC on Monday. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told a Press conference at the BJP headquarters that Rahul's remarks were "sinister" in nature as he tried to spread

falsehood among the members of the Sikh community living abroad to "eke out a living and do not have much connection with India. "I condemn in the strongest terms the statement he has made about Sikhs not being able to wear turbans and kadas," the BJP Leader from the Sikh community said. Addressing a gathering of several hundred Indian Americans in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, on Monday, Rahul Gandhi accused the RSS of considering some religions, languages and communities of being inferior to others and said the fight in India is about this and not about politics. "First of all, you have to understand what the fight is about. The fight is not about politics. That is superficial," Rahul said as he asked one of the Sikh attendees in the front rows to give his name. What is your name, brother with the turban," he asked. "The fight is about whether a Sikh is going to be allowed to wear his turban in India or a kada in India. Or he, as a Sikh, is going to be able to go to Gurdwara. That's what the fight is about. And not just for him, for all religions," said Rahul. Hitting out at the Congress

## Haryana: BJP releases second list, drops six MLAs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday released second list of its candidates, dropping six-sitting MLAs, including two Ministers for the Haryana Assembly polls. The BJP has fielded Captain Yogesh Bairagi from Julana against Congress's Olympian candidate Vinesh Phogat while two former Ministers - Krishan Kumar Bedi and Manish Grover have been fielded from Narwana and Rohtak seats, respectively. The list also includes two Muslim candidates: Naseem Ahmed from Ferozepur Jhirka and Aizaz Khan from Punahana. With this, the BJP has fielded 87 candidates and three segments where the party is yet to announce the candidates are Faridabad-NIT, Sirsa and Mahendergarh. The party's Pehowa candidate, Sardar Kamaljeet Singh Ajrana, was also replaced by Jai Bhagwan Sharma after he expressed his inability to contest the poll on party ticket citing Opposition from the local Leaders. Ajrana was named in the first list after dropping sitting MLA and former Sports Minister Sandeep Singh, who is an accused in a sexual harassment case. The BJP denied ticket to Minister Banwari Lal, who represented Bawal in the outgoing Assembly, and fielded Krishna Kumar in his place. School Education Minister Seema Trika, the incumbent MLA of Badhkal, has also been denied re-nomination. Dhanesh Adlakhia has been nominated for the seat. The party has fielded former Ministers Krishan Kumar Bedi, Manish Grover and Om Prakash Yadav from Narwana, Rohtak and Narnaul seats, respectively. **Continued on Page 2**

## 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. **Continued on Page 2**

## Private vehicles with GNSS not to be charged till 20 km per day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Owners of private vehicles equipped with a functional Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) will not be charged any amount for travelling up to 20 km on highways and expressways per day, according to a Central government notification. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Tuesday amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Under the new regulations, known as the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2024, fees will now be charged on the actual distance travelled if the distance exceeds 20 kilometres. "A driver, owner or person in



charge of a mechanical vehicle other than a National Permit vehicle who makes use of the same section of the national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, shall be levied a zero-user fee upto 20 kilometres of a journey in each direction in a day under Global Navigation Satellite System based user fee collection system," the notification said.

The road ministry in July had said it has decided to initially implement a GNSS-based toll collection system at select national highways on a pilot basis as an added facility along with FASTag. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that a pilot study with regard to a GNSS-based user fee collection system has been done on the Bengaluru-Mysore section of NH-275 in Karnataka and Panipat-Hisar section of NH-709 in Haryana. The ministry had organised an international workshop on June 25, 2024 to gather inputs on this system. After this, a global expression of interest (EOI) was invited from various stakeholders on June 7, 2024, with the last date of submission as July 22, 2024.

## NEWS BRIEF

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



NEW DELHI: CPI(M) general secretary Sitarang 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. **PAGE 2**

# Delhi LG lays foundation stone for 47 developmental projects

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of 47 developmental projects worth around Rs 45 crore in 29 villages of North Delhi under Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan (DGA).

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) Saxena said, "The developmental works undertaken in the villages will have huge and positive transformation in the life of the villagers," adding rural Delhi will have all the amenities in the coming days.

He also inspected various developmental works undertaken, including road and drain work, renovation of cremation ground at Singhu Village. "Besides, plantation was done under 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign and fruit saplings were distributed to the villagers. To empower women and their self-help groups, Drone Didi programme was also inaugurated," a Raj Niwas official said.



North West Delhi BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia and Vice Chairman DDA Subhashish Panda, were also present on the occasion. A week earlier, Saxena had inaugurated 22 developmental projects in 18 urbanised villages of South West Delhi.

"Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan" was launched in December 2023 to improve living conditions in villages by extending civic amenities. For development of these villages, Gram Sabha Area Fund of about Rs 960 crore that was

lying unused with Delhi Government, was transferred to DDA for undertaking various developmental works in villages of Delhi," a senior Raj Niwas official said.

He added that the LG is spearheading various works to address rural challenges and to ensure that development works through various civic agencies including DDA are effectively implemented. "Till date, 573 works worth Rs 523 crore have been sanctioned under this Abhiyan. These include 89 projects of DDA," the officer said.

# Delhi BJP accuses AAP of not improving slum dwellers' lives in last ten years

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Tuesday accused the AAP government of not improving the lives of slum dwellers in the last ten years even as senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia visited southeast Delhi's Madras Camp, where residents have been served eviction notices to make way for the construction of a new flyover, and said the party "will fight strongly against dictatorship to save people's houses".

The Public Works Department (PWD) pasted eviction notices in the Old Barapullah Bridge area last week, asking the locals to vacate their homes within five days. The residents, however, have refused to leave unless they are given an alternative site.

"Injustice against slum dwellers will not be tolerated in 'Bulldozer Raj'. Thousands of people living in slums of Madras Camp in Delhi are an integral part of Delhi. If LG Sahab and BJP try to remove or demolish their houses, we will not tolerate it at all. We will fight strongly against dictatorship to save people's houses. Whether we have to fight in



court or on the ground for this," Sisodia said in a post on X.

He added that the AAP government has given shelter to the needy and built houses for people. "Free electricity, water and better education for children. But the BJP has only destroyed people's well-established homes. The level of education has gone from bad to worse. We will fight against this from the court to the streets," he added in the same post. Meanwhile, the Delhi BJP chief alleged, "The Delhi government's PWD issued a notice to the residents of Madras Basti to vacate, which the Delhi BJP has continuously opposed. Now, Manish Sisodia is trying to avoid responsibility for this

notice by making hollow statements."

He also claimed that the central government has undertaken the rehabilitation work of slum dwellers in Kalkaji, Jailer Bagh, and Kathputli Colony. "Manish Sisodia should name a single slum cluster in Delhi where the Kejriwal government has improved the lives of slum dwellers in the last ten years," he added.

He also mentioned that, like many other slum settlements in Delhi, Madras Basti in the Jangpura constituency was a case in court, but neither the Delhi government nor its DUSIB department presented any proposal to the court to save this settlement or for the rehabilitation of its residents.

# Mpox patient admitted to LNJP hospital in stable condition: Health Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Tuesday said that the mpox patient admitted at Lok Nayak Jaiprakash (LNJP) Hospital is in a stable condition.

Bharadwaj conducted a surprise inspection of the hospital to assess preparations for dealing with mpox and dengue and also spoke to the mpox patient. "This patient of mpox has a travel history. So, it is believed that he got this infection when he was outside the country. Right now, the patient has been kept in isolation in the disaster management ward here. His condition is said to be stable," said the minister.

Bharadwaj emphasised that there was no need to panic over mpox, as it spreads through contact, not through the air. "We have reviewed that how the doctors will identify a dengue patient if they come in emergency and then how will they be shifted to a different ward. Similarly, surprise inspections will be conducted in other hospitals as well so that if the need arises, all facilities are available in the hospitals," said the health minister.



The senior AAP leader talked to the hospital administration and assessed the arrangements made in the hospital for the patients of mpox and dengue.

"The patients as well as their attendants expressed their satisfaction in terms of cleanliness. Similarly, the patients and their family members expressed satisfaction about the quality of food provided in the hospital," a party leader said.

While LNJP has been designated as the nodal facility, two other hospitals are on standby. The LNJP Hospital has a total of 20 isolation rooms for the patients, including 10 for confirmed cases.

The Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital and Baba Saheb Ambedkar will have 10 rooms each for such patients, with five rooms each for suspected cases.

# MCD Standing Committee polls to be held on September 26

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Standing Committee elections will be held on September 26 to fill the vacancy after BJP councillor Kamaljeet Sehrawat was elected as an MP in the Lok Sabha elections.

The elections will be held in the MCD House meeting, which will convene on the same date. During this session, a member will be elected to the civic body's highest decision making committee and MCD's financial backbone Standing Committee to fill the vacancy. Once the elections are done, the process to elect the chairman and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee is expected to begin in October. These positions are crucial, as they have a significant influence over the MCD operations, including the allocation of funds and overseeing the development projects in the city. No project costing more than Rs 5 crore can proceed without



the standing committee's approval making the significance of the body important. The committee consists of 18 members out of which the BJP recently strengthened its position by securing seven seats in the ward committee. Twelve members from the ward committees will join the Standing Committee, with seven of them being the BJP councillors.

For the remaining six seats, both the BJP and the AAP secured three each in the previous Standing Committee elections in 2022. One of the BJP's seats became vacant after Kamaljeet Sehrawat's election to the Lok Sabha and the upcoming election will fill this vacancy.

# 127 candidates file nomination papers today for Assembly polls in Haryana

STAFF REPORTER ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

A total 127 candidates filed their nomination papers on Tuesday, taking the number of nominations submitted so far to 277 for the assembly polls in Haryana. The enforcement agencies have seized Rs 14 crore so far which include Rs 10.45 lakh in cash, 2.44 lakh liters of liquor, 2,079 kg of drugs valued at Rs 4.36 crore, 30.5 kg of precious metals, and freebies/any other items worth Rs 1.35 crore.

Haryana Chief Secretary Dr. TVSN Prasad on Tuesday provided a detailed update on the state's election preparedness and law and order situation during the Inter-State Border Meeting convened by the Election Commission of India in light of the upcoming Haryana Legislative Assembly elections.

During the meeting, Dr. Prasad said that since the announcement of the elections, authorities in Haryana have seized illegal liquor, narcotics, cash, and valuables totaling Rs 14



crore. To further strengthen law and order, Haryana has established 435 flying squads and 377 Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) across the state. Additionally, 133 inter-state nakas have been set up along border points to prevent the movement of illegal substances, unlicensed weapons, and individuals with criminal backgrounds. Another 140 intra-state nakas have been established to curb the trafficking of liquor, drugs, and other illegal items within Haryana.

The Haryana Police have also seized 96 unlicensed weapons and 113 cartridges.

Furthermore, since the election announcement, 176 proclaimed offenders, 129 bail jumpers, and 210 warranted persons have been arrested. Dr. Prasad said that the law and order situation in Haryana is peaceful and under full control. For coordinating logistics and accommodation for security personnel, Nodal Officers of DSP rank have been appointed in each district.

Dr. Prasad emphasized that no unauthorized persons will be allowed to stay in Haryana during the crucial 48 hours leading up to the election, in order to ensure a free and fair voting process.

# 16 children rescued from clutches of child labour, 11 establishments sealed by SDM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major breakthrough, Prayas JAC Society with the help of Labor Department, the local police and led by the SDM Dwarka carried out a rescue operation and successfully freed 16 children from the clutches of child labour on Monday.

The operation, which was carried out under the authority of three different police stations namely, Dwarka South, Sagarpur and Palam where 6,8 and 2 children were rescued respectively, marks a key milestone in the ongoing fight against child exploitation.

The children aged between 13-18 hailed majorly from UP, Bihar, Delhi and Haryana and were found working in different establishments. The children (all boys) were rescued from sweet shops, restaurants, automobile repair shops and 11 establishments were sealed by the SDM.

Post-rescue, the children were taken to a safe space where they received medical atten-



tion, counselling and other necessary support. The orders have been given to register three FIRs. Following the orders of CWC Nirmal Chaya, all the boys were placed in the Don Bosco Home.

The rescue was meticulously planned and executed by the dedicated team of Prayas in coordination with local law enforcement agencies and the Labor department. The operation was a result of extensive investigation and planning that led to the identification of locations and rescue of the children.

For the past 36 years now, Prayas JAC Society has been at the forefront of fighting for child rights and this rescue operation adds to the organization's long list of successful interventions.

The efforts of Prayas over the years have not just been limited to rescuing and rehabilitating deprived, marginalized, exploited and abused children, women, youth but the organization also focuses on their education, skill training, employment, advocacy as well as providing essential health, services and legal assistance.

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

From Page 1

Meanwhile, hundreds of students from various schools and colleges spent the night at camps set up at Khwairamband Women Market in Imphal. The students, in their uniforms, were helped by women shopkeepers to set up camps at the market.

"We have given a 24-hour deadline for Governor Lakhman Prasad Acharya's response to the six demands we have placed. We will decide our future course of action after the deadline ends," student leader Ch Victor Singh told reporters on Tuesday morning.

Thousands of students protested in front of the Manipur Secretariat and Raj Bhavan on Monday, demanding action against those behind the recent drone and missile attacks, and calling for the protection of the State's

"territorial and administrative integrity." At least eight persons have died and over 12 injured in a fresh wave of violence, which included drone and missile attacks.

Later, the students met Chief Minister N Biren Singh and Governor Acharya. Student representatives who met Acharya later told reporters that they have placed six demands, including the removal of the Director General of Police (DGP) and the security advisor to the State Government for their alleged failure to control the violence. They also called for the Unified Command, currently chaired by former CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh, to be handed over to the State Government.

Police claimed protesting students also engaged in stone-pelting, forcing the law enforcers to fire tear gas shells to disperse them.

In Thoubal, a large number of protesters, including students, marched towards the district police headquarters and DC office on Monday.

"Police warned people to disperse but the unruly mob got violent and there was live firing from among the crowd at the police personnel in which one person was hit on the left thigh by a live round," Manipur Police said in a statement.

The unruly mob also damaged one vehicle parked outside the court complex. An ambulance carrying some injured personnel was also pelted with stones, it added.

More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic strife between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis since May last year.

# Sexual harassment complaint by IAF officer...

From Page 1

The lady officer in her complaint said the ordeal dates back to the night of December 31, 2023, during a New Year's party at Air Force Station, Srinagar. The lady said that after the party Wing Commander at the station asked her whether she had received the gift.

"I said that I hadn't received any. He asked me to come to his room where he had kept all the gifts. I went along with him to his room," she said in the complaint. The lady officer accused the Wing Commander of sexually assaulting her in his room. "Despite resisting his advances, I was forced into a traumatic situation," she alleged. "I revealed the incident to two lady officers. They guided me in putting up a complaint. I went into a mental shock being new to the

atmosphere. I was embarrassed and broken to the extent that I lacked the courage to report.

I can't describe the mental agony of being an unmarried girl who has joined forces and was treated in such a heinous manner. Since the incident, I have nightmares and in the dilemma whether to discuss or be quiet. Finally I took a call and decided to fight," she said in the police complaint.

She alleged that she was troubled to see that even after she submitted a complaint to AOC (Air Officer Commanding) and a Colonel rank officer was ordered to investigate the incident, the accused was made to sit with her. She alleged that an internal investigation was mishandled and her concerns were dismissed. "I had pleaded in front of the Internal Committee (IC) to

use their powers to summon a witness who was made to run away from the camp area before giving his statement, but the Internal Committee did not do so."

IC disregarded everything despite providing all facts and bringing out lies and contradictions in tutored witnesses. I brought out the negligence of Station Authorities' doings, how a witness was made to exit the camp area before giving his statement, body identification, etc.

She had even requested interim relief and requested leave multiple times but was denied leave each time. "I asked that either I or the accused should get posted out this place, but to date, both are posted in the same place. I am forced to socialise with these people and attend events with my abuser," she alleged.

# COURT GRANTS INTERIM...

From Page 1

Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh granted the relief to Rashid, who had moved the court seeking interim bail to campaign in the upcoming Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections. "I am granting interim bail till October 2. He will have to surrender on October 3," the judge said.

The judge granted Rashid the relief on a personal bond of Rs two lakh and one surety of the like amount. The judge also imposed various conditions on him, including that he shall not influence the witnesses or the probe.

# BJP Leaders criticise...

From Page 1

"This is wrong. They (the BJP) condemn India's founding fathers in the world, that is condemning India. We will condemn their policies and will keep doing so and raise the questions, it is our job," Khera said. Over the BJP's criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks that the Lok Sabha election was not fought on a level playing field, the Congress Leader said an independent body had put forward its statistics on how there was "bungling" on 79 seats. "When the PM says on foreign soil that people were ashamed

to be born on Indian soil, what was that? When he speaks against (Jawaharlal) Nehru abroad, what was that?" he said. On BJP citing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to slam Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the community, Khera said there is no connection between the two.

"A person sitting on the post of PM talks about recognising people by clothes. His party runs a movement against Hijab. Those who run a movement against hijab now will tomorrow also come for turbans of Sikhs. Nobody has a doubt about that," Khera said.

# Haryana: BJP releases second list, drops six...

From Page 1

It also dropped Hodal (SC) MLA Jagdish Nayar, Hathin MLA Praveen Dagar, Pataudi (SC) MLA Satya Prakash and Ganaur MLA Nirmal Rani. Amit Chand Mehta will contest from Ellenabad from where senior INLD Leader Abhay Singh Chautala is seeking re-election.

A new candidate has been named for the Rai Assembly segment, after incumbent legislator and Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli made it clear

that he would not contest the polls and instead work to ensure the party's victory. The ruling party also denied tickets to the sitting MLAs from Ganaur, Pataudi, Hathin and Hodal seats. Yogender Rana has been fielded from Assandh, Devender Kaushik from Ganaur, and Pradeep Sangwan from Baroda.

In place of BJP State president Mohan Lal Badoli, who had announced to opt out of the contest, the BJP has fielded Krishna Gahlawat from Rai.

However, another Minister Sanjay Singh, the MLA from Sohna, has been given ticket from Nuh. The party has fielded Pawan Saini, considered close to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, from the Naraingarh seat while Satpal Jamba has been nominated to fight the polls from from Pundri. The list, notified by BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, has names of candidates for 21 assembly seats in the state. Baldev Singh Mangiana will fight the Dabwali seat,

Manish Grover has been nominated for Rohtak, Krishna Kumar for Bawal (SC), Bimla Chaudhary for Pataudi (SC), Manoj Rawat from Hathin, Harinder Singh Ramrattan from Hodal (SC) while Dhanesh Adlakha will contest from Badkhal. While eight women figured in the first list of candidates, the BJP's second list has two women — Krishna Gahlawat from the Rai seat and Bimla Chaudhary from the Pataudi (SC)

segment. Bimla Chaudhary replaced Satya Prakash Jarawata who was denied renomination while Devender Kaushik has been given ticket for the Ganaur seat, replacing sitting MLA Nirmal Chaudhary.

In the first list of 67 candidates, the party fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from Karnal to the Ladwa seat. Saini served as the MP from Kurukshetra between 2019 and 2024. Prominent Leaders like former State BJP president Om Prakash

Dhankar, who now holds a national secretary role in the party, have been fielded from the Badli constituency. Another key figure, Anil Vij, the veteran party Leader and former State Minister, is set to contest from his traditional stronghold of Ambala Cantt.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday filed his nomination as the BJP candidate for the Ladwa constituency in the upcoming Haryana

Assembly elections. He was joined by Union Minister and former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, along with other party leaders, during the nomination process.

Further bolstering the possibility of going it alone in the State, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday released its second list of candidates for the Haryana Assembly elections. In its second list, the AAP has announced the candidates for Indri, Sadhaura, Thanesar, Ratia,

Adampur, Barwala, Tigaon, Faridabad and Bawal constituencies. Hawa Singh has been fielded from Indri and Praveesh Mehta from Faridabad. The second list included three more Assembly seats — Thanesar, Bawal and Faridabad - out of the 46 that the party had contested in the 2019 Assembly elections of which two, Sadhaura and Thanesar overlap with those where candidates declared by the Congress are also contesting.

# DUSU polls: Police taking proactive approach to manage law and order

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi police is taking a proactive approach to manage law and order in the university area now witnessing campaigning for the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) polls to be held on September 27. The police have already registered FIRs against leaders of different student unions including Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Congress' National Students' Union of India while heightening the security deployment in a three step

approach. Amid campaigning ahead of the keenly contested DUSU elections in full swing with posters up on walls, DCP North Manoj Kumar Meena said that a total of 23 FIRs have been lodged in the last 15 days in regards to defacement of public property including 18 against those leaders whose posters have been up on the walls of the north campus university area, which has prestigious colleges like Sri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Miranda House, Ramjas among others. Posters and banners of differ-

ent student political outfits have been pasted across the campus despite the 'democracy walls', which are dedicated spaces provided by the administration to paste campaign material. "To ensure that we maintain the law and order situation ahead of the DUSU elections and see that no violence happens, we have taken a proactive approach. First, we have registered FIRs against 18 student leaders whose posters have been put up outside the walls of the college and will continue to do so till the elections," Meena said. The five other



Ranjan Dimri

FIRs in regards to non-political posters including those regarding PGs and hostel accommodations for college students. The FIRs have been lodged under Section 3 of the Delhi Defacement of Public Property Act, 2007 which states "whoever defaces any property in public view by writing or marking with ink, chalk, paint or any other material except for the purpose of indicating the name and address of the owner or occupier of such property, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year,

or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees, or with both." Further, along with this, the police are also providing necessary security when drives by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and administration of the university are being carried out to remove such posters and banners. Strengthening and increasing security deployment round the clock around the campus zone from September 1 is another step taken by the police to ensure that nothing untoward happens in the anticipation of the elections. These

deployments will be gradually increased in the coming days till elections take place. Firstly, police personnel have been deployed in day and night to ensure vigilance in the area with increased deployment in the night. "We deploy 35 more police officers at night in addition to the existing ones to make sure no untoward incident happens," Meena stated. Further, the police are also patrolling the area by cars and bikes to keep the environment around the campus safe for college students. Additionally, vehicular checks around the area are also being done.

## Expedite recruitment for effective implementation of three new laws: LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the Chief Secretary to form a committee to expedite recruitment for effective implementation of three new criminal laws. They were implemented from July one. Giving details, Raj Niwas officials said on Tuesday, Saxena on Monday reviewed the ongoing implementation of the three new criminal legislations in the National Capital. Expressing satisfaction over the status and pace of the roll out, the LG asked for the recruitments against various posts required to be expedited. In this regard, he asked the Chief Secretary to form a Committee of all departments concerned so as to expedite the recruitment process of permanent employees by smoothening out processes like finalization of RRs, advertising of posts, etc. in one go. The departments involved in the matter of recruitments



include Services, Administrative Reforms, Finance and the user departments, FSL, Directorate of Prosecution and Prisons. Apart from the Chief Secretary, heads of all stakeholder departments viz, Home Department, GNCTD, Delhi Police, Forensic Science Laboratory, National Informatics Centre, Directorate of Prosecution, GNCTD, Health Department, Finance and Administrative Reforms Department were present in the meeting. Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

(BSA) have come into effect from July one, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act respectively. It was the fourth Review Meeting headed by the LG in this regard. Various issues were deliberated upon in the meeting, including the training of nodal officers appointed by the Health Department, GNCTD for MedLEaPR (portal for medico-legal cases) and recruitments in various implementing departments / agencies: It was informed by FSL that the requisition for 200 posts had been sent to DSSSB

on 31.08.2024 and draft RRs for additional 11 posts had been published on the website for comments. For the proposed appointment of 165 Jr. Scientific Assistants on contract basis, till permanents appointments were made, 5000 applications had been received and the ongoing walk-in-interviews in this regard were to be completed by 12.09.2024. Rs 115 crore for procurement of additional equipment for Directorate of Prosecution (Rs13 Cr.), FSL (Rs 50 Cr.) and Prisons (Rs 52 Cr.) were being allotted by the Finance Department. On the decision in the last meeting with regards to expeditious procurement of Mobile Forensic Vans by Delhi Police and FSL, it was informed that 15 vans had already started working, another 15 were expected to be in place by the end of September and for another six vans, tenders had been floated by FSL. Directorate of Prosecution, which had been facing space crunch, had flagged the issue

in the last meeting and LG had issued directions to make space available for them at the earliest. Accordingly, it was informed that 13,000 sq.ft of space was being made available to the Directorate at DMRC Building at Shastrri Park. With regards to the proposal of draft charge sheets prepared by Delhi Police being sent to the Directorate of Prosecution through online mode only, it was informed that for resolving the technical glitches and availability of ample online storage space, NIC had submitted a purchase intent of Rs 40 Lakh. Central Government Hospitals, AIIMS, Safdarjung and Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital had been on board for MedLEaPR and 280 Delhi Government Doctors and 44 Central Government Doctors had registered on the platform and already generated 247 Medico Legal Reports on MedLEaPR. Regular Trainees through NIC and Law Department for all Doctors had been completed.

## Ensure no action taken against residents of Madraasi Camp for time being: HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the authorities to ensure that no action is taken against the residents of Madraasi Camp in the Old Barapullah Bridge area for the time being, who are facing eviction notice to make way for the construction of a new flyover. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued notice to the Delhi government, its Public Works Department and DDA on a plea by the residents of JJ cluster Madraasi Camp at Jangpura against the eviction notice. The bench said the question was whether the colony was impeding water flow or not and made it clear that in case it was impeding the water flow, it has to go. "If it is impeding the water flow, surely it has to go. The city is getting flooded unnecessarily. People who are living in Delhi and paying taxes, they don't want their houses to be flooded. We can't allow the city to be



flooded again and again. If the drain has to be cleared, it has to be cleared. "But we will ensure you are shifted to an alternate land. We will ask the authorities to rehabilitate you (residents). We will give you a right to rehabilitation," the bench said. The high court asked the authorities to file their status reports within 10 days on whether the colony is impeding the flow of water. Advocate Prabhshahay Kaur, representing the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), submitted that this colony was falling on Barapullah drain and it was

impeding the water flow and said the PWD may give complete details to the court. As the court was informed that the authorities are scheduled to take action against the residents on September 12, the court asked the lawyers for DDA and PWD to ensure that the authorities do not take any action for the time being. The PWD pasted eviction notices in the area last week, asking the locals to vacate their homes within five weeks. The residents are refusing to move from the area, which is their home for over 50 years, unless they are given an alternative site.

## AAP accuses BJP of conspiring to topple Kejriwal Government by imposition of President's rule

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP and BJP are at loggerheads a day after President's secretariat forwarded a memorandum by BJP MLAs that Delhi was facing a constitutional crisis to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) with the former accusing the BJP of conspiring to topple the Kejriwal government through "back door" by imposition of the President's rule in Delhi on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta alleged that the AAP government has no right to remain in power and demanded that the Kejriwal government must respond to the issues raised in the memorandum he submitted to the President Droupadi



Murmu on August 30. "Kejriwal has refused to resign, which is creating an unprecedented situation that has led to a complete breakdown of governance in Delhi. Critical administrative decisions are being delayed and essential services are severely affected, directly impacting the lives of Delhi's citizens," he said. Gupta added that the AAP government has repeatedly violat-

ed constitutional norms. "Due to these violations, the AAP government has no right to remain in power, and thus, we have requested the President to immediately dismiss this government," he asserted. Meanwhile, Senior AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi claimed, "If the Kejriwal government is toppled, the Delhiites will give a befitting reply by giving zero seats to the BJP in the upcoming assembly polls and the AAP will win all the 70 seats." Atishi said the BJP's only job is to topple the elected governments in the country through its "Operation Lotus" as happened in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Manipur. "They also tried Operation Lotus in Delhi to topple the government by poaching the

AAP MLAs, but they failed. Now, they are conspiring to impose the President's Rule through the back door to topple the popular government of Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi," she alleged. Atishi said that people of Delhi "love" Kejriwal because he provided them good schools, hospitals, electric buses, free bus travel to women and free pilgrimage to the elderly. "If the BJP topples the Kejriwal government, the people of Delhi will give it a befitting reply. The BJP will lose even the eight seats it holds now and will be reduced to zero in the upcoming assembly polls and the AAP will win all the 70 seats," she said. The elections to the 70 seats of the Delhi Assembly are due early next year.

## HC permits seven students seeking admission in St Stephen's College to attend classes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Tuesday permitted seven students, who approached the court seeking admission in St. Stephen's College on the basis of the seats allocated by the Delhi University, to attend classes in the college. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, however, directed the varsity not to make any further allocation of seats. The division bench issued notice and sought response of the university and seven students on an appeal by the college challenging a single-judge's order which has granted admission to these candidates on the basis of the seats allocated by the varsity. The court asked them to file the



reply within four weeks and listed the matter for further hearing on January 28 next year. "The seven students who had approached the court are permitted to attend the classes till further orders. However, it is directed that the university shall not make any further allocation," the bench said. On September 6, the single judge had granted the relief to

the seven students, saying the candidates were not at fault but had to face undue hardship due to an ongoing dispute between the institution and the university. It said the indecision on the part of the college had left the petitioners in a state of uncertainty, preventing them from taking any further action at that stage. The seven students had

sought a direction to the college to provide them seats for the courses for which they have qualified. They had sought admission under the "single girl child quota" fixed by the DU. According to the university's bulletin for admission information, one seat in each programme in every college is reserved under the "supernumerary quota for a single girl child". The petitioners had submitted that despite being allotted seats by the university in the college for the BA Economics (Honours) and BA programme courses, their admissions were not completed within the stipulated time. While the university had supported the petitioners, they were opposed by the college.

## Power discoms battling menace of illegal e-rickshaw charging facilities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The power discoms are battling the menace of illegal e-rickshaw charging facilities that cause an estimated loss of around Rs 120 crore annually besides posing safety risks in the national capital. Delhi has around 1.6 lakh e-rickshaws out of which just 50,000 are registered with Transport Department of the city government. The department has been conducting a drive to seize and scrap unregistered e-rickshaws. The discoms and Power Department in the past tried to curb power theft in charging of e-rickshaws and address safety issues. Around 4,000 legal e-rickshaw charging connections have been given to individuals and operators. Each connection is capable of charging multiple e-rickshaws, discom officials said. "Besides revenue loss, illegal charging and sub-standard batteries pose significant safety hazards," said a discom official. Various incidents of fire and electrocution due to faulty charging facility have been reported recently in the city.

Last week, a man was electrocuted while charging an e-rickshaw in northeast Delhi. "This is a new kind of power theft being witnessed now. It's estimated that over 60 per cent of e-rickshaws are involved in power theft, resulting in a loss of 15-20 MW across the city, translating to an annual loss of around Rs 120 crore," they said. Illegal charging through direct theft and the use of sub-standard batteries pose significant safety hazards. Exposed electricity wires left open during illegal charging and non-adherence to safety standards often cause sparks and short circuits, they said. "Large-scale illegal charging of e-rickshaws at single, unplanned locations can also lead to breakdowns and voltage issues. Many e-rickshaws involved in power theft are charged in batches as part of an organized illegal network controlled by local strongmen, official sources said. "E-rickshaw owners or drivers pay a fixed fee of Rs 200-300 per day per e-rickshaw to the 'parking and charging' mafia. Charging usually takes 6-7 hours and occurs at night," they said.

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# 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.

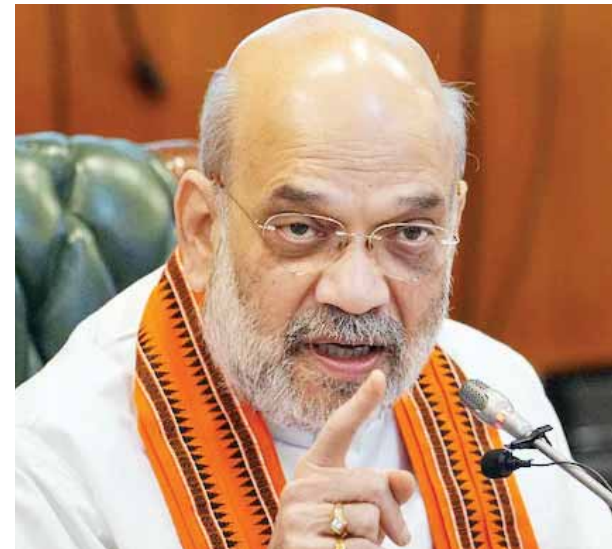
The Prime Minister emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs, according to the statement. He also discussed the need for upgradation and standardisation of institutions and suggested preparing a list of domain experts on the 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

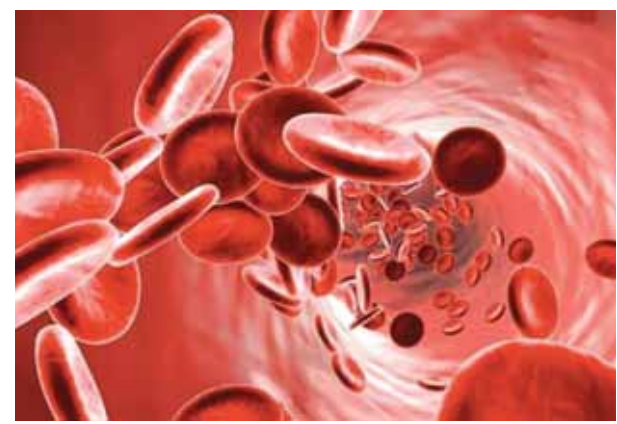
Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday slammed the BJP over the teachers recruitment case, alleging that it was playing a "double game" with the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories and harming them socially, economically and mentally. Her remarks come a day after the Supreme Court stayed the

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,



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 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.

# 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

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, Bhandarwah 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 Bhandarwah 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 Chandrashekar 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 rammied 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 Chandrashekar 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 rammied 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.



dice. 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.



decisions and provision of Sustainable Finance such as Green Bonds to encourage environmentally friendly projects. Fintech has the potential to support the transition to a circular economy by providing innovative financial solutions. This includes circular supply chains by offering financing based on the value of their Recovered and Reuse materials; business models that facilitate leasing and sharing of goods rather than ownership; and providing them data analytics to track the lifecycle of their products from production to disposal to reduce wastage. Furthermore, there is also provision of crowdfunding for renewable and green projects particularly solar and wind energy initiatives.

The banking sector, which plays an instrumental role in funds dispersion is increasingly incorporating green investment policies, such as providing sustainable loans and adopting environmentally friendly banking practices. Similarly, insurance companies are integrating environmental risk assessment into their underwriting processes

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

(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)

## 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/guarantors 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 : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("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**  
**FOR NORTHE: 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 : auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.

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

Date : 06.09.2024  
Place : NEW DELHI

# '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 gov-

ernment, 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

**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. Susheel 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  
Dated : 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**  
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- Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)
- Mr. Susheel 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  
Dated : 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. Susheel 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  
Dated : 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. Susheel 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. Susheel 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  
Dated : 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. Susheel 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 09th day of September the year (2024)

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 09/09/2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayment, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on 09.09.2024 is Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

(3) The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Residential Plot No. 550-A, Omaxe City, Sector 11-14 Palwal In The Name Of Sh. Surender Sharma S/o Shri Ramesh Chand Sharma  
Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed -264.25 Sq. Mtr.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. 550-A in survey No 550-A/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Palwal and District (Haryana)

Bounded  
On the North by : Plot no 549A  
On the South by : Plot no-551A  
On the East by : 12 Meter wide road  
On the West by : Other Property  
Dated : 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. Susheel 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 09th day of September the year (2024)

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 09/09/2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayment, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on 09.09.2024 is Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

(3) The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Industrial Land And Building Situated At Village Kot, Hathin, Palwal In The Name Of M/S OSM Projects Pvt Ltd  
Area Of The Property As Per Title Deed-7 Acres 1 Kanal 1 Marla

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/ Flat No. In Survey No/ City or Town Survey No-/ Khasra No within the registration sub-district Palwal and District (Haryana)

Bounded  
On the North by : Agri Land  
On the South by : Agri Land  
On the East by : PWD hathin Road  
On the West by : Agri Land  
Dated : 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. Susheel 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 09th day of September the year (2024)

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee as on 09/09/2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayment, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on 31.08.2024 is Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (Rs. Thirty one Crore ninety one lakh fifty three thousand nine hundred twenty and six paisa only) including unrealized bank guarantee payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

(3) The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Residential property - Plot No. 1008, Urban Estate Sec-2, Palwal In The Name Of Sh. Munesh Sharma S/o Shri Yogpal Sharma & Smt. Poonam Sharma W/o Mr. Munesh Sharma.  
Area Of The property as per Title deed - 84 Sq. Mtr

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/Flat No 1008 in survey No 1008/ City or Town Survey No-/Khasra No within the registration sub-district Palwal and District Palwal (Haryana)

Bounded  
On the North by : Plot no 1007A (Panchal Niwas)  
On the South by : Plot no 1009  
On the East by : Other Property  
On the West by : Road & Tagore Public School  
Dated : 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. Susheel 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.

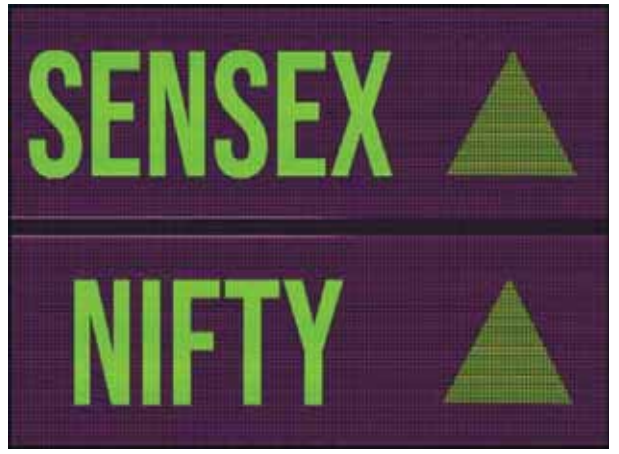
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the





# 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. 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. Avioo 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.

# 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 Kaynes. 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 still have some funds to take up some smaller projects and approve them. Thereafter, we will have to go back to 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

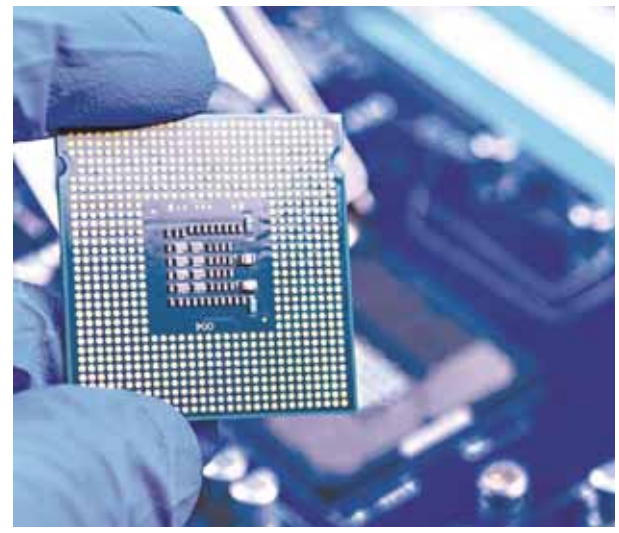
**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Gold prices rallied by Rs 600 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh buying from jewellery. In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,500 per 10 grams on Monday. Silver prices, too, jumped Rs 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 the Indian electronics industry, Bhupinder Singh, CEO of Messe Muenchen India, says, "The upcoming edition of electronica India and productronica India is a clear testament to the expanding global stature of the Indian electronics sector." To organize electronica India & productronica India, MMI is consolidating the entire electronics value chain under one roof. This landmark event is poised to transform the electronics industry landscape in India. The upcoming 2024 editions



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 Harvirinder 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.

# 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.



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

## GREATER NOIDA FAILS 'TEST' CASE



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 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 recce four to six months back, and even the visiting team had done their recce. 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 Rashed (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, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rashed, 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 Bhu, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sindhu, 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.

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', a 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 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.

Determined to carve his own path, he said: "I don't want to be like anyone else. I want to create my own identity and be known as Nahid Rana of Bangladesh," Rana said.

"I haven't followed any particular bowler. I've watched and learned from everyone -- my seniors and those I grew up watching," he signed off.

"I never set out to clock 152



## Keen tussle on cards as Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes in Delhi

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The cream of Indian women's golf including Hitaashee Bakshi, Sneha Singh, and Tvesa Malik will be back in action as the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes with the 11th leg at the Delhi Golf Club.

The field is huge with 46 players and the purse is a handsome sum of Rs.14 lakh.

Led by the leader on the Hero Order of Merit, Hitaashee, and last year's No. 1 Sneha Singh, the field includes almost all the stars barring Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor who have opted to rest before playing on the Ladies European Tour later this month.

Hitaashee and Sneha will need to contend with proven names like Tvesa, Amandeep Drall, Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi and Seher Atwal, all of whom have international experience and aspirations of going on to the LET and further.

While the Tour resumes after a gap of almost six weeks, the players have been playing in international events and some other domestic Pro-Ams.

Sneha who went to the United States has qualified for the second stage of the LPGA Qualifying while Hitaashee has been playing in South East Asia and was third at the Singapore Ladies Masters.

There are as many as nine amateurs and they are led by teenager Zara Anand, who was recently T-10 at the Junior Asia Pacific Championships in Manila. Her teammate Keerthana Rajeev is also in the field.

The top amateur is Mannat Brar, who created history by becoming the first Indian to qualify for the semi-finals of the R&A Juniors in United Kingdom. She is also the current the All India Ladies Amateur champion, and she beat Zara in the final.

The competition will be keen as the flagship event in India, the Hero Women's Indian Open, is scheduled next month and the top stars from the domestic Tour will get a spot in this prestigious event which is co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour and the Women's Golf Association of India.

## 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 Pudiyokkadda 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 (55t); 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 knockouts.

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.



# 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.

"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

seemed like "a kind of archenemy at times" when he was challenging for wins against Newey's previous employers. Newey joined Red Bull in 2006 and helped the team win seven drivers' titles -- including the last three seasons with Verstappen -- and six constructors' titles.

Red Bull said in May that its chief technical officer would be stepping back from F1 design and focus on a production car, the RB17, before leaving in the first quarter of 2025.

The announcement comes ahead of this week's Azerbaijan Grand Prix, and at a time when Red Bull's dominance of F1 seems to be slipping.

Max Verstappen - who recently called his Red Bull car a "monster" - and his teammate Sergio Perez have not won any of the last six races, the team's longest drought since 2020, while McLaren and Mercedes now seem to have faster cars.

Newey's departure is also part of a broader exodus of senior Red Bull staff in a season which began amid legal turmoil when team principal Christian Horner was accused of misconduct by an employee. Red Bull's parent company dismissed a complaint against Horner and an appeal was dismissed last month.



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