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## हर बहना को हर साल ₹12 हजार

### 18 से 20

वर्ष की बहन-बेटियों  
को भी योजना से लाभ

48,15,048 बहनों  
का योजना के तहत  
हुआ निबंधन

45,36,597 बहनों  
सम्मान राशि से  
अब तक आछादित

हर महीने की  
15 तारीख तक  
हर बहन के खाते में  
पहुँचेगी सम्मान राशि

### लुगु बुरु घंटाबाड़ी धोरोम गाढ़ की पवित्र भूमि ललपनिया से

# करम पर्व

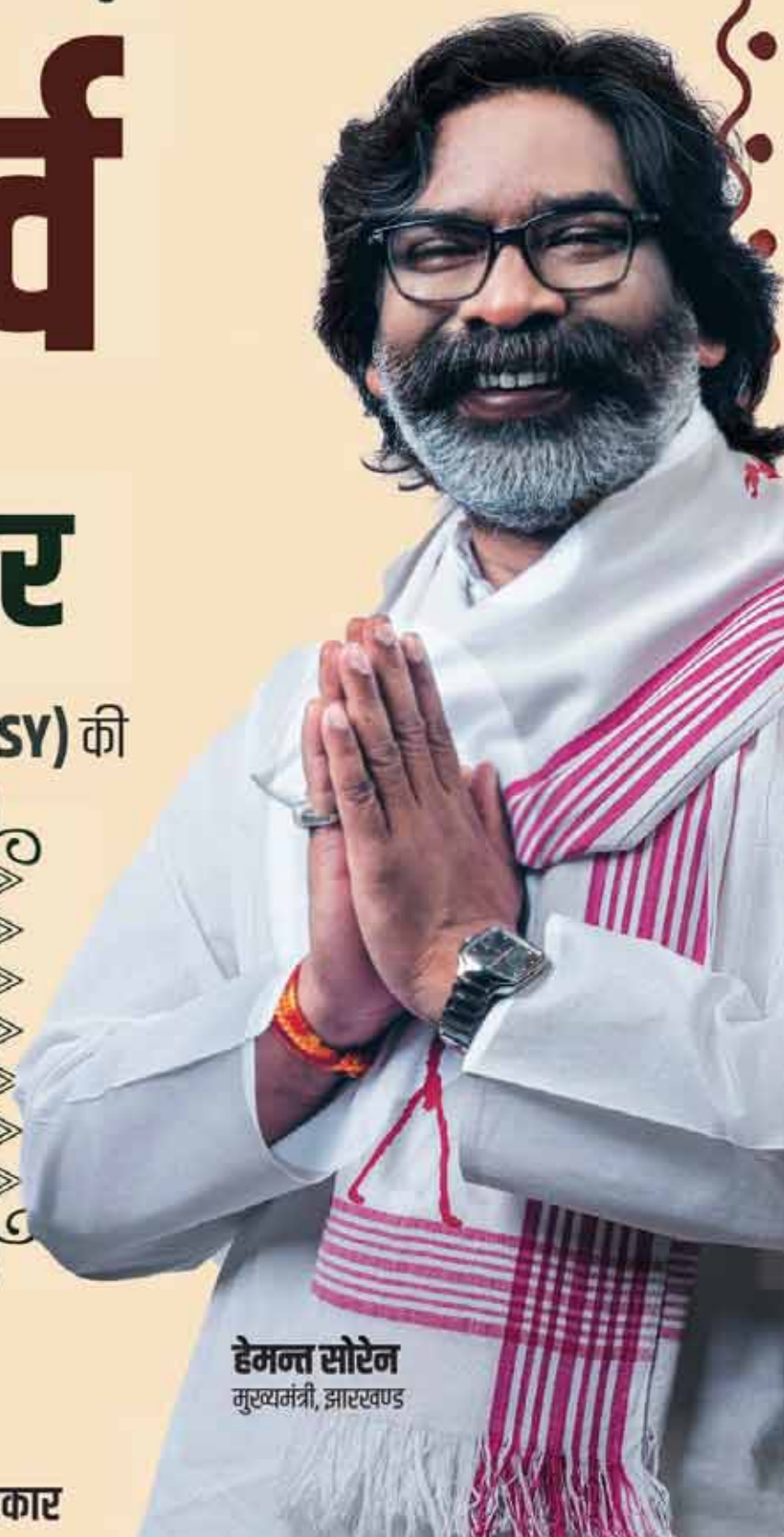
की पूर्व संध्या पर लाखों बहनों को  
खुशियों का उपहार

झारखण्ड मुख्यमंत्री मईयां सम्मान योजना (JMMSY) की

## दूसरी किस्त का होगा हस्तांतरण

13 सितंबर, 2024 | अपराह्न 12:30 बजे से  
ललपनिया फुटबॉल मैदान, गोमिया, बोकारो

महिला, बाल विकास एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार



हेमन्त सोरेन  
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

# Modi's visit: Admin races to finalise preparations, focus on crowd management

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The city is gearing up for a momentous occasion as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, scheduled for 15 September, draws closer. With the event poised to be a significant milestone in the city's development journey, the district administration is leaving no stone unturned to ensure smooth and flawless execution of the day's proceedings. The Prime Minister's itinerary includes the much-anticipated flag-off of the Vande Bharat Express at Tatanagar Railway Station, followed by a public address and a grand roadshow culminating in a rally at Gopal Maidan.

The inauguration of the Vande Bharat Express from Tatanagar Railway Station. This development is set to further boost connectivity in the region, positioning Jharkhand as a key hub in India's rapidly expanding railway network. Following the flag-off, the Prime Minister will address a gathering of beneficiaries at the station premises, where he will speak on the various welfare schemes implemented under his government, highlighting their impact on the people of Jharkhand.

In what is expected to be one of the largest public gatherings in the city in recent times, the Prime Minister will then lead a grand roadshow from Voltas Roundabout to



Gopal Maidan. Thousands of citizens are expected to line the streets to catch a glimpse of the leader as he interacts with the public. The roadshow will culminate at Gopal Maidan, where a massive public meeting is planned, with dignitaries and officials from across the state attending. The district administration, led by District

Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, is working around the clock to ensure that preparations are completed on a war footing. Mittal chaired a high-level meeting at the Collectorate Auditorium on Wednesday, giving crucial directives to senior officials

from various departments. Every minute detail of the Prime Minister's visit was discussed and meticulously planned to ensure a smooth and secure event.

Key areas of focus include the security arrangements for the Prime Minister's arrival, the precise coordination of the helicopter landing

at Sonari Airport, and the readiness of Tatanagar Railway Station and its premises for the inaugural event. The DC also reviewed the arrangements for the roadshow route and the massive public rally at Gopal Maidan. Special attention is being paid to crowd management and safety, with barricading and designated zones being planned to ensure the Prime Minister's security while also allowing the public to participate. During the meeting, various officials were assigned specific roles and responsibilities to ensure that all aspects of the event are seamlessly coordinated. The Executive Engineer of the Building Construction Department was instructed to

finalize the stage setup as per security protocols, ensuring that it meets all requirements for the public address and media interactions. Magistrates and security personnel will be deployed across key points, including the roadshow route and around the public rally venue, to manage the massive crowds expected to gather. Officials from law enforcement, public safety, and health services were also present at the meeting, with specific instructions to ensure the readiness of emergency response teams. The Civil Surgeon was directed to place hospitals on standby mode, with ambulances on-site in case of medical emergencies. Fire and food safety

officers have been instructed to take all necessary precautions to ensure public health and safety during the event. Proximity passes and workforce passes for authorized personnel are also being managed carefully to prevent any security lapses.

In preparation for the Prime Minister's visit, a comprehensive dry run will be conducted on 14th September. This trial run will cover all major events, from the flag-off ceremony to the roadshow, ensuring that every detail is rehearsed and executed with precision. The dry run will allow officials to identify any potential issues and address them before the actual event, ensuring that nothing is left to chance.

## SAIL RSP achieves record hot metal production with 2 operational furnaces

PNS : BOKARO

Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP), under the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), has set a new benchmark for single-day hot metal production. On 11th September 2024, the plant produced an impressive 13,375 tonnes of hot metal, surpassing its previous record of 13,256 tonnes set on 15th August 2024. This achievement is particularly notable as RSP is currently operating with just two blast furnaces, BF#1 and BF#5, after shutting down Blast Furnace #4. Remarkably, BF#5 alone contributed 10,105 tonnes, marking the third time it crossed the 10,000-tonne milestone since its incep-



tion. Despite the challenges posed by the monsoon season, which is typically a difficult time for furnace operations, RSP's team has continued to deliver outstanding performance.

On 12th September 2024, Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge of RSP, visited BF#5 to congratulate the team and associated units for their hard work. Accompanied by senior offi-

cials, including Tarun Misra, ED (HR) and acting ED (Projects), and A K Behuria, ED (F&A), Bhowmick praised the collective effort. He emphasized the importance of value-driven work and maintaining the health of the furnace through best operational and maintenance practices.

The achievement was a result of coordinated teamwork across multiple departments, including the Sinter Plant, Coke Ovens, Raw Material Handling Plant, and the Captive Power Plant, among others. Sumit Kumar, CGM (BF), expressed gratitude for the support from all associated agencies and senior management.

## 'Outsiders' create ruckus during BJP opinion taking process

PANKAJ: DHANBAD

With assembly elections approaching in state and political parties gearing up for it by organising different meetings including an opinion taking process for selection of prospective candidates here in Dhanbad 'outsiders' created ruckus during an opinion gathering meeting held at BJP office on Wednesday. Some bigwigs that include people having huge investment in health, education and coal mining sector in the district want to oust sitting Dhanbad MLA and get BJP ticket on the basis of wealth.

This was the main reason for the ruckus created by supporters of one L B Singh owner of an outsourced mining company operating in BCL who came with supporters that he probably bought on payment to shout against the Dhanbad MLA. Later, when the Bank More BJP committee president identified them as not members of BJP they escaped and even threatened supporters of Dhanbad MLA. Later it was identified that those were members of RJD and Congress and had come with LB Singh to shout slogans for him. Besides, LB Singh, Harendra Singh, Amresh Singh, Upendar Singh also have thrown their hats in the ring besides some staunch supporters of newly elected Dhanbad MP Dhullu Mahto..

When asked to comment, sitting MLA Raj Sinha refused to comment but LB Singh said he is in line of candidates to get a ticket. When asked about the ruckus created by people brought by him, he said such things do happen during such meetings. This indicates that once claimed to be a party with disciplined workers has failed in maintaining discipline and that too when it's needed much more as elections are approaching.

## Moon & Your Emotions



BY GAURA GUPTA

A highly significant heavenly body in Vedic astrology, Moon signifies emotions, mood and mind.

Associated with romance, beautiful nights and mood swings, Moon is understood as auspicious or heavy as its position and size, ie the waxing and waning periods.

This much, I think all of us are well acquainted with owing to our culture, science books and of course Bollywood. But intrigued to the core, as to why only moon of the celestial entities is held responsible for the element of romance, I reached for Shri Guru Rajan Ji, who like always satiated my urge with his wisdom.

'Yat Pinde Tat Brahmande' is a Sanskrit axiom that holds a tremendous secret of this creation—'Whatever is in this body is in the cosmos too'. Water in our body, which roughly amounts to 70 per cent of our physical existence, is periodically affected by the phases of the Moon in the same way as its gravitational force controls the tides and tidal eddies. The fluidity in our body shifts and changes the balance in our mind, which activates our emotions to the extreme. Indian ancient scriptures such as Vishnu Purana talk about the origin of the Moon. According to this purana, the Moon has emerged from the Milky ocean with his soft and snowy beams.

Moon, called Chandra in Sanskrit, is also associated with the kapha dosha that combines water and earth elements.

Moon has a soothing and calming effect on the body-mind complex. It carries and reflects the sun's light energy without its harshness; balances excess heat.

Moon has the distinction of being the fastest moving of all the planets in astrology. It takes a journey through the twelve signs of the zodiac in just over 27 days.

Just like the mind... quickly running thoughts.

Shivji wears a crescent Moon upon the head like a jewel. This is to indicate the highest level of perception.

Moon pushes your energy in a certain way. If your quality is joy, you will become more joyful. If your quality is love, you shall experience more love. If you are meditative, your meditative inclination shall become strong. If you have a mental illness, that will also get enhanced. Full Moon amplifies your qualities.

When it comes to romantic compatibility, the placement of Moon in the astrological chart becomes important.

A strong emotional connect is struck if both people have the same Moon sign.

Moon signs in compatible elements (fire and air, or earth and water) lead to better emotional understanding between both the persons.

Moon signs in incompatible elements (fire and water, or air and earth) of the two persons may find them experience conflict and frustration in their relationship. The aspects between the Moon and other celestial bodies (Venus and Mars) impact our romantic relationships. For instance, if in one's birth chart, Moon is in harmonious aspect with Venus, one is loving and receptive to romantic overtures. However, if Moon is in a

challenging aspect with Mars, one is found to be argumentative and retaliating. In astrology Rohini is Moon's favourite wife amongst the 27 who make up the 27 nakshatras.

Y Moon rules Rohini Nakshatra, thus influencing intuition, emotions, and nurturing qualities. People born in Rohini Nakshatra are often very sensitive and have a strong connection to their emotions and the emotions of others. Moon is in Rohini Nakshatra, carries the energy of sensuality and devotion and is a time to express affection and care to those you love. Full Moon is a good time about romantic relationships as it is the peak of the lunar cycle when the Moon's is entirely illuminated by the Sun's rays. Associated with the completion of a cycle, signifying a sense of fulfillment, it relates to blossoming of a loving relationship to its fullest potential. Full Moon's shine hints at introspecting in relationships that could foster a deeper connection and understanding between partners. Pearl being the primary gemstone for Moon, followed by Moonstone, that may be worn besides exercising the following practices shall benefit one about a happy mind.

1. Drinking plenty water to please Moon.
2. Respecting one's mother and express love to her.
3. Taking a dip in the holy river Ganga on Amavasya and Purnima.

**Mantras of Moon**  
1. Om Shram Shreem Shrom Saha Chandramase Namah  
2. Om Som Somaaye Namah  
3. Om Shreem Shreem Chandramase Namah

**TO KNOW ABOUT MOON'S EFFECT ON YOUR LIFE, YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AND HOW TO ENRICH THE SAME, CONTACT SHRI GURU RAJAN JI AT : 9266514545, 9266524545**

## Dandiya Night lights up Ganesh Utsav in Jugsalai

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The festive spirit of Ganesh Utsav came alive as Sankalp Residency, located on Jugsalai ME School Road, hosted a vibrant Dandiya Night as part of its seven-day celebrations. The evening, filled with music, dance, and fun, saw women and their husbands dressed in traditional Gujarati attire, twirling to the rhythm of dandiya sticks under a sky illuminated with colorful lights.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, renowned local singer Monu Sharma enthralled the crowd with soul-stirring renditions of traditional songs, perfectly setting the tone for the evening. The beats of the dhol, the clinking of dandiya sticks, and the graceful movements of the dancers created an electric atmosphere that resonated with the joy of the Ganesh Utsav. The participants were also felicitated based on their performance.

The night wasn't just about dancing—fun competitions added to the excitement. Winners of engaging contests like Eat & Run, Sit & Draw, Spoon & Marble Race, the innovative No-Fire Cooking Contest, and the lively Party Makeup Contest were also felicitated. The contests brought out the best of creativity and friendly competition among participants, and each winner was celebrated with much enthusiasm.

The event was a beautiful blend of tradition, celebration, and community spirit, with residents coming together to share in the joy of Ganesh Utsav while making lasting memories. The festive beats, colorful attire, and joyous faces reflected the essence of togetherness that the occasion is known for.



## YI and Energy Swaraj Foundation join hands for Energy Literacy Programmes

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR



The CII Young Indians (YI) Jamshedpur Chapter has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Energy Swaraj Foundation, led by Professor Chetan Singh Solanki. The agreement outlines a collaborative framework focused on spreading energy awareness through two major initiatives: the Energy Literacy Training Program and the Solar 101 Training Program.

The Energy Literacy Training Program aims to equip participants with essential knowledge about energy conservation, helping them understand the critical role of reducing energy consumption in combating climate change. Meanwhile, the Solar 101 Training Program will provide practical, hands-on learning about solar energy, highlighting its applications and the significance of solar solutions for creating a sustainable future.

As part of this collaboration, both organizations will host workshops, awareness campaigns, and community-driven initiatives to promote energy conservation. The partnership reflects a shared vision of fostering greater environmental awareness and making the local community more energy-conscious.

Udit Agrawal, Chair of YI Jamshedpur, highlighted the importance of this partnership, emphasizing that it will empower young individuals to take on leadership roles in energy conservation and sustainability efforts. Professor Chetan Singh Solanki echoed the sentiment, noting that energy literacy is crucial in today's world, and this initiative is a positive step toward building responsible energy citizens.

Through education and practical training, the partnership is expected to significantly contribute to local sustainability initiatives, paving the way for a greener and more informed community.

## 'Sports is a medium to enhance natural talent of children'

VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA

Khelo Jharkhand district level four-day sports competition organized in the playground of District Chief Minister Excellent School, Nadia Hindu and Catholic Middle School, Kaimo. All athletics competitions and hockey and football competitions of Under 14, Under 17 and Under 19 boys and girls categories respectively. Under 14 and 19 were organized from 09 to 12 September.



and the education department are conscious of the physical and mental development of the students. Sports strengthen the mental and health of the students. Ambujya Kumar Pandey said that sports has an important place in life. Sports plays an important role in the mental and physical development of students.

Ashok Pandey, APO said that sports brings discipline in life and dedication towards one's goal. Vishwadeepak Jha said that both winning and losing in sports are a part of happiness. Along with studies, sports also have importance in the new education policy. Career can also be made through sports. On the occa-

sion, all the first, second and third place participants were honored by the District Education Officer by giving them medals and shields. On this occasion, Jitendra Mittal, Nidhi Gupta, Arvind Kumar, Neelu Goyal, Ambika Sharan Pandey, teachers and participating students from various schools were present.

## Train managers oppose replacement of the Line Box with the trolley bag

PNS : DALTONGANJ

Train Managers (read guards) demonstrated to prevail upon the railway ministry not to replace their decades old Line Box with the trolley bag.

A protest was launched by the train managers on Wednesday at the Barwadeh railway junction under the Dhanbad division of the east central railway under the aegis of the All India Guards Council.

The train managers are of the firm view that instead of making it an issue for replacing Line Box with the trolley bag, the railway ministry should improve the facility and quality of work hours in the brake van where there remains broken iron chair with no toilet facility and the jerks of the train rattles their bones. Again the train managers demand inbuilt Line Box with all essential equipment and with a common lock. The train managers' other contention is that they are C category railway officials



**Train managers protesting against replacement of the Line Box with the trolley bag at Barwadeh railway junction. photo by PNS**

and hence pulling the trolley bag hardly commensurates with the dignity of their category. Line Box is transported by the points man who is category D personnel. On the other hand there are senior railway officials who see this stir of the

train managers opposing and resisting replacement of the Line Box with the trolley bag a wasteful exercise.

Their contention is that railways are heading towards modernization and hence every one in the railway job should

give a big hand. The train managers contend that if the railways are seriously and sincerely towards modernization then the sufferings of the train managers in the brake van be mitigated first where drinking water is a luxury.

**OPINION 6**

RESIGNATION SHAKES TRINAMOL CONGRESS

**WORLD 8**

NORTH KOREA HAS FIRED BALLISTIC MISSILE TOWARD SEA: SOUTH

**MONEY 10**

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

RANCHI, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹

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



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

**SAUMYA SHUKLA** ■  
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SC verdict on Kejriwal bail plea today

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

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



AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said they are "hopeful" and are waiting for the Supreme Court's decision on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's bail. "We are very hopeful. We are waiting for tomorrow," Chadha told reporters. AAP convener has challenged in the apex court the Delhi High Court's August 5 order which upheld his arrest in the corruption case. Kejriwal contended that his arrest was a strategic move. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi argued that the arrest, which followed Kejriwal's bail in a related money laundering case, was unexpected after nearly two years without action from the CBI. The high court had noted that the loop of evidence against Kejriwal was closed after the collection of relevant evidence following his arrest by the CBI and it cannot be said that it was without any justifiable reason or illegal.

The high court had also granted him the liberty to approach a trial court with his plea seeking bail in the case. The matter relates to alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which has now been scrapped.

## PM at CJI's residence; BJP plays defensive



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

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■  
NEW DELHI

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

The video of Narendra Modi attending the Puja celebration alongside the CJI and his wife Kalpana Das has gone viral. In a video, Chandrachud and his wife Kalpana Das were seen welcoming Modi at their house. In a post on X, PM Modi shared his experience stating, "May Bhagwan Shri Ganesh bless us all with happiness, prosperity, and wonderful health". Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Lok Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra hit back at the opposition and asked if the then Chief Justice of India (CJI) did not attend the Iftaar party hosted by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"They do not have any objection to the prime minister meeting the chief justice of India but Ganpati

Puja," he said and accused the Opposition leaders of indulging in politics. "I am surprised that if the prime minister meets the chief justice of India, you raise an objection. But when he (Rahul Gandhi) meets (US lawmaker) Illhan Omar, who is with Pok, in America, you have no objection," Patra added. Sharing pictures of Singh in a candid laugh with Balakrishnan, BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla, in an X post, wrote, "Judiciary is safe". "PM Modi attends Ganesh Puja at current CJI House - oh God Judiciary compromised," Poonawalla mocked the Congress in his post.

"Ganpati Utsav is being celebrated and people visit each other's house... I don't have information whether the Prime Minister has visited

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

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

In a post on X, senior lawyer Indira Jaising said the Chief Justice of India has compromised the separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary. "Lost all confidence in the independence of the CJI. The SCBA (Supreme Court Bar Association) must condemn this publicly displayed compromise of Independence of the CJI from the executive," she said in her post. Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora also flayed the critics and said it's unfortunate to see "reckless commentary" on Prime Minister Modi's visit to the CJI's residence for Ganapati Aarti.

"When verdicts favour them, the opposition praises the Supreme Court's credibility, but when things don't go their way, they conveniently claim the judiciary is compromised," he charged in a post on X.

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



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

## Militarisation of frontier a big issue with China, says EAM

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

## Indian-origin Israeli soldier killed near West Bank

**PTI** ■ JERUSALEM

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



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

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

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■ KOCHI

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

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



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

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

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

# CM to distribute second instalment of JMMSY on eve of Karma Festival

## More than 45 lakh women to get benefit of the scheme

PNS : RANCHI

On the eve of Karma festival, CM Hemant Soren will transfer the second instalment to the bank accounts of more than 45 lakh women of the state under the Jharkhand Chief Minister Mainiya Samman Yojana from the holy land of Luguburu Ghantabari Dhorom Gadh, Lalpania, Bokaro.

Earlier, the first instalment has been transferred by the Chief Minister in various phases. So far, 48,15,048 women have been registered to give the benefit of the scheme. 45,36,597 women have been covered by the honour amount so far. The Chief Minister has given the order to send the honour amount to the account of

every sister by the 15th of every month.

After the order of the Chief Minister and the approval of the State Council of Ministers, now the initiative has started to connect the daughters of 18 to 20 years of age of the state with Jharkhand Chief Minister Mainiya Samman Yojana. Soon they will also start receiving the honour amount. It is known that till now there was a provision to connect women of 21 to 50 years of age with the scheme. Applications for Jharkhand Mukhyamantri Mainiya Samman Yojana started from 03 August 2024. On 04 August 2024, the Chief Minister removed the problem in submitting online applications and ordered to take offline applications.



**Chief Minister Hemant Soren along with Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Avinash Kumar, CGM of Jharkhand Regional Office NABARD, SK Jahagirdar, GM Gautam Kumar Singh releases a book "NABARD in Jharkhand" in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS**

For the first time under the scheme, on August 18, more than 80 thousand women of Pakur were transferred the funds, on August 22, more than 2.50 lakh women of Latehar, Medininagar and Garhwa of Palamu division, on August 24, more than 13 lakh 94 thousand women of Ramgarh, Hazaribagh, Chatra, Koderma, Giridih, Dhanbad and Bokaro districts of North Chotanagpur, on August 27, more than 07 lakh 32 thousand women of Deoghar, Godda, Pakur, Sahebganj, Dumka and Jamtara of Santal Pargana, on August 28, more than 07 lakh 32 thousand women of East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Sarakela-Kharsawan of Kolhan divi-

signing program soon between the state government and NABARD. Jahagirdar told the Chief Minister that after the completion of the MoU signing program, additional funds will be provided by NABARD for the development of rural infrastructure in the state on priority. On this occasion, Chief Minister Hemant Soren also released the book "NABARD in Jharkhand". This book contains complete details of the development work done by NABARD in the state in the financial year 2023-24. Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Avinash Kumar, General Manager of Jharkhand Regional Office NABARD Gautam Kumar Singh and others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, in another development, Chief General Manager of Jharkhand Regional Office NABARD, SK Jahagirdar met Chief Minister Hemant Soren today. During the meeting, he told the Chief Minister that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is committed to the development of rural infrastructure in the state. He had a detailed discussion with the Chief Minister regarding organizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

# BJP LEADERS' VISIT TO STATE WILL REMAIN USELESS FOR POLLS: JMM

PNS : RANCHI

Taking dig at Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Leader tour to State, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), on Thursday, said that their visit will prove useless in Jharkhand as the people of the State will take out their last journey in upcoming State Assembly elections.

Addressing a press meet, JMM General Secretary and Spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said that next week will start with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's Jharkhand tour. "He is coming to Jharkhand on September 15. It was also learned that he will also give many gifts to Jharkhand. After this, President Draupadi Murmu will visit the State. She has been the Governor of the State for the longest time. During her tenure, some such steps were taken for the tribals and natives of the state, due to which the people here taught a lesson to the BJP Government in the year 2019. At the same time, Home Minister Amit Shah is also coming to Jharkhand on



**JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya addresses media persons at the party office in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS**

September 21. The visit of these three is happening at a time when the Government here, the Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the administrative officers here are going to the doorsteps of the tribals and natives to solve their problems. Our workers are in touch with the people," he added. Bhattacharya further said, according to the information, many State heads will also come to Jharkhand on September 21. "Many Central Ministers will come here. It seems that the entire Modi cabinet will sit here till

the elections. No matter how many trips BJP leaders make to Jharkhand, the people of Jharkhand will take out their last journey in December. Whenever the elections are held, the last journey of BJP is certain. If there has been infiltration, then the Home Ministry, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Defense of the Center are directly responsible for this because the matter of border security is their responsibility," he added.

JMM General Secretary said, in recent times, former

Chief Minister Champai Soren also joined BJP. "Champai Soren has been one of those leaders who have been raising the ideology of JMM prominently. One of our commitments is to implement the Sarna Dharma Code. It will be a great occasion, right after Karma Puja, when Champai Soren will be present on the stage with PM Modi. So he can ask the PM to take initiative towards implementing a separate Sarna Dharma Code. It will be a great occasion when Champai Soren gets PM Modi to announce that when the caste census will be held in 2025, the Sarna Dharma census will also be conducted along with it. It is also the responsibility of the PM that he will definitely respect the sentiment of the leader with whom he will be on the stage, that is Champai Soren," he added.

Bhattacharya further said, the Home Minister will also come to Jharkhand on September 21. The work of conducting the census is to be done by his Ministry. Champai can also raise this issue in front of Amit Shah at

that time. The final seal on the separate Sarna Dharma Code will be given by the President, who herself belongs to the Sarna religion who believes in Baha, Sarhul, Karma Sohrai, everything. She is a worshipper of Jaher Than, Lugu Buru, Marang Buru. Her stay in Jharkhand at this time will also give his approval to this proposal," he added.

The JMM Spokesperson said that the PM is going to give big gifts to Jharkhand. He will give a gift of Rs 21,000 crores to Jharkhand. "So Jharkhand's dues of Rs 1, 36, 000 crores to the center will also be given to Jharkhand. The PM should also announce this on September 15th. Otherwise, it will be considered that Jharkhand has been cheated again. Our rights and privileges will be killed. The identity of the tribals and natives will be compromised. PM Modi will have to say that he also respects what Jharkhand wants. We are not people from outside this Country. We are the people who give the most to this Country," he added.

## DURGOSTAV 2024

# Puja pandal as replica of Kashi Vishwanath's Dashashwamedh Ghat



DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

Amongst Durga puja revellers in Ranchi, Chandrashekar Azad puja pandal is known for its exemplary art work, décor and innovative concept. Being decked up since 1961, this year the City's oldest pandal will give a glimpse of Kashi Vishwanath's Dashashwamedh Ghat.

Located in the heart of the Capital City, this puja pandal attracts pandal hoppers in huge numbers each year. This year the theme of the pandal is 'Aarambh hi Anth'. Thousands of sadhus made of silicon will be seen meditating and worshipping inside the pandal.

The idol of Goddess Durga is being made of silicon which will be added attraction. A statue of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is also the Member of Parliament for Varanasi will be seen doing the aarti of the deity.

The structure of the pandal is about 65 feet in height, 75 feet wide and 80 feet in



depth. Traditional artists from West Bengal have been working round the clock to give the pandal a whole distinct identity. The structure is being primed at a whopping cost of Rs 40 lakh.

Various cultural programmes have also been planned by the committee. The pandal will be open to revellers on the fifth day of Navratri- October 7 when a Delhi based theatre group will showcase the nine forms of Goddess Durga and Goddess Vaishno Devi. This will be followed by a cultural performance by Bhojpuri singer Pawan Singh.

On the sixth day- October 8, singers like Anupma Yadav and Arvind Akele Kallu will mesmerise the audience with devotional songs while on the seventh day- October 8, 11 priests from Varanasi will do the aarti of the deities. This will be followed by a soulful performance by the famous bhajan singer Gajendra

Pratap Singh from the city of Ujjain. "From panchmi to Dussehra, we will be honouring doctors, cleaning and sanitation workers working across our City, senior members of Sarna Samitis, media professionals and NGO's. We have been doing this for the last three years and last year we had felicitated about 1700 people from various fields. At our pandal, we want to showcase our proud culture to our younger generation," said president, Chandrashekar Azad puja pandal committee, Ramesh Singh.

# Tribal population declined to 28% in Santhal Pargana: Centre tells HC



PNS : RANCHI

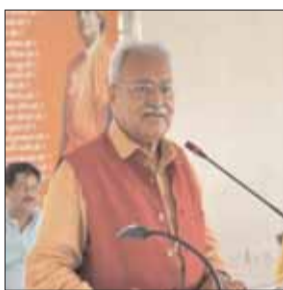
are being usurped through gift deeds.

It is worth noting that UIDAI has also filed its reply on behalf of the Centre. They said that Aadhaar can never be the basis of citizenship. It is valid only as a unique identification. The central government has stated the need to implement NRC here, looking at the entire situation of Santhal. It has been said in the affidavit of the central government that in the last few days, the number of madrasas in Santhal has also increased significantly. Most of the madrasas have been built in the border districts of Sahibganj and Pakur. Along with this, the Centre has also informed us that we have ways to identify the infiltrators and send them back. But this is not possible without implementing NRC. Earlier, last week the Centre told the Jharkhand High Court that the growing presence of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Santhal Pargana area of the tribal state is alarming.

Appearing for the Centre as the High Court took up a PIL on the issue, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who joined the court proceedings virtually, had said that the demography of the area is changing due to infiltration from Bangladesh.

After the High Court's rebuke on the PIL filed regarding Bangladeshi infiltration in Jharkhand's Santhal area, the Central Government has filed its affidavit. In its affidavit, the Central Government has clearly admitted that a big change has been seen in Santhal in the last few years. Explaining the current conditions of Santhal, the Centre has said that the number of tribals has decreased rapidly in the last decade. Earlier the number of tribals in Santhal was 44% which has now decreased to 28%. The Central Government has further said that Santhal includes not only infiltration but also conversion and migration. The Centre told the High Court that the state government itself is violating the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act in Santhal. People from outside are coming to Santhal. Infiltrators are being given protection so that they can infiltrate the land of the tribals. A large number of tribal lands

# JMM has accepted political defeat, says Bajpai



PNS : RANCHI

himself is behaving against the law. He has now become the spokesperson of JMM. He said that the Hemant government is now packing up. The results of the Lok Sabha elections have started scaring the Indy Thugbandhan.

He said that even at the time of departure, Hemant Soren is making false promises. But the public is fully aware of his truth. The public has lost faith in Chief Minister Hemant Soren. He said that BJP will fight the political battle, the battle for the state's identity and respect in the election field and will defeat the corrupt and useless government with the support of the people.

Meanwhile, BJP State President and former Chief Minister Babul Marandi also targeted Chief Minister Hemant Soren. He said that the people of Jharkhand are imprisoned in that culture rule for five years, where the Chief Minister is occupying the land of the tribals. The entire character of Hemant Soren, who is busy looting the wealth of Jharkhand, is covered in the cloak of corruption.

Marandi said that the tribals for whose rights the state of Jharkhand was established, everything was snatched

away during the tenure of Hemant Soren. Hemant Soren, who gave Bangladeshi infiltrators a top position, is being seen as a vulture by the rest of the world. Whereas the reality is that the government of Hemant Soren, who has torn apart the Jharkhandi identity, is deep in corruption. The future of the youth has gone to the abyss and the present of the people is stuck in a quagmire.

He said that the tribal people of Jharkhand are dying due to lack of treatment. There are no doctors in the hospital, due to which children are dying. Youths running for jobs are dying. Chief Minister Hemant Soren, sitting among brokers and middlemen, does not have a single issue on the basis of which he can ask for votes. Hemant Soren came to power by promising five lakh jobs but in five years he does not have five works to tell. Hemant Soren went to jail not in any public movement but for corruption and returned as a confirmed criminal. As soon as he returned from jail, he took steps to tear apart the tribal identity. When he could not tolerate being without power, he removed Champai Soren.

Bank said that Kashyap Memorial Eye Bank has done 920 eye transplants so far, which are more than 80% of the eye transplants done so far in the whole of Jharkhand. So far 80 eye transplants were done in 2024 and 106 eye transplants were done in Kashyap Memorial Eye Bank in 2023, out of those 106 eye transplants, only 38 eye donations were received from local people after death. A large team of cornea specialists is working successfully under the leadership of Dr. Nidhi Gadkar Kashyap. Dr. Shaheen, Director of

## JSRB held financial literacy cum awareness campaign

A one day financial literacy cum awareness campaign was organized by Jharkhand State Rural Bank (JSRB) branch in village Dehkele. In the said camp, as the chief guest, Regional Manager of Jharkhand State Rural Bank, Regional Office, Mukesh Kumar Verma appealed to the people to join the bank and avail the benefits. Branch Manager Prashant Kumar said that the bank runs many different types of schemes for people of all classes, which every person needs to avail. On this occasion, bank employee Naveen Kumar Pandey, Virani Tuti (FLC Coordinator), Bank Sakhi Neelam Devi, Sharmli Khan and others were present on the spot.

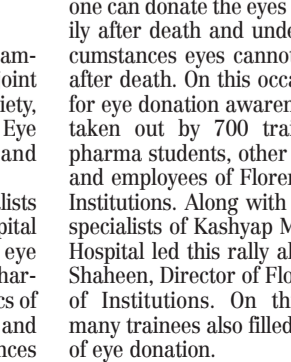


# EYEDAC, KMEB and FGI hold eye donation awareness rally in Ormanjhi

## 700 trainee nurses and paramedical students participate in the rally

PNS : RANCHI

one can donate the eyes of one's family after death and under which circumstances eyes cannot be donated after death. On this occasion, a rally for eye donation awareness was also taken out by 700 trainee nurses, pharma students, other paramedical and employees of Florence Group of Institutions. Along with this, the eye specialists of Kashyap Memorial Eye Hospital led this rally along with Dr. Shaheen, Director of Florence Group of Institutions. On this occasion, many trainees also filled the affidavit of eye donation.



**Students of Florence College of Nursing during Eye donation awareness rally in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS**

Dr. Bharti Kashyap, Medical Director, Kashyap Memorial Eye

Florence Group of Institutions, said that due to lack of awareness and confusion in India, people stay away from eye donation. At the same time, there are people who want to donate eyes, but they do not have the information. In such a situation, this eye donation awareness effort of Florence Group of Institutions and Kashyap Memorial Eye Bank is very commendable and it will continue in the future as well, which will become a big medium to make people aware, remove confusion and inspire people towards eye donation.

Bank of India ITI More Chas Bokaro, Jharkhand- 827013

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (UCET)**

**VINOBA BHAVE UNIVERSITY**  
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**ADMISSION NOTICE THROUGH OPEN COUNSELLING**

Eligible candidates are invited to take admission in UCET, VBU through open spot counselling in B.Tech (Branch- M.E, C.S.E, E.C.E and IT) for 1st semester and 3rd semester (Engineering lateral entry) A/Y 2024-25 on 13-09-2024 (10 AM—4:00 PM) and before 12:00 PM on 14-09-2024. For details about minimum eligibility criteria, admission process, list of required documents, vacant seat, matrix and fee structure please visit [www.vbu.ac.in/](http://www.vbu.ac.in/) / [www.ucetvbu.ac.in/](http://www.ucetvbu.ac.in/). For any query you may contact on 7717708560/9162523117.

By order of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor  
Sd/  
Registrar  
VinoBha Bhave University, Hazaribag  
Memo No. VBU/UCET/R/2154/2024. Dated : 12.09.2024

**Bank of India**  
ITI More Chas  
Bokaro, Jharkhand- 827013

It is hereby informed to all the general public that the original copy of registered sale deed (kevala) No. 3094 dated 14.12.1992 of the building & land of Mr Sheo Shankar Singh is missing since 19.09.2022. The missing information of the sale deed has been made at chas police station vide complain no 766020 dated 19.09.2022. This building is located at khata No.51 Plot No.34, Area- 07 Decimel, Mouza- Bhawanipur The Project is under consideration for housing loan Tie-Up by Bank of India for granting home loan facility for the purchase of building.

If any person/ firm/company has a claim on the above mentioned land of the project, then they can submit the, claim within 15 days of this notice before the competent authority at the following address-Branch Manager, Bank of India, Iti more Branch, Chas, Bokaro-827013. In case no claim is submitted or claim is submitted after lapse of 15 days from this notice, then bank of India will be completely free to take further action related to project approval and will not be obliged to pay any kind of compensation.

Sd./ Authorised Officer  
Bank of India

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

constituencies in Kashmir Valley.

His presence during the campaign period is set to boost the poll prospects of his party candidates.

On the other hand, it may also force the other key players to calibrate their campaign strategy to counter his campaign, especially in his strong bastion of North Kashmir.

Rashid's party emerged ahead of National Conference during the Lok Sabha polls on at least 14 Assembly segments. He handed over a crushing defeat to former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah by a margin of over 2 lakh votes.

As was expected, soon after landing in Srinagar, Rashid played to the galleries at every step. Moving out of the airport premises, he deboarded from his four-wheeler and went on his knees to kiss Mother Earth. Returning home after more than five years in prison, Rashid, in his first remarks said no one needs peace more



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

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

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

"Let me clarify this. If the INDIA alliance gives me written assurance that it will introduce a resolution in the Parliament about restoration of Article 370, I along with my party leaders will extend full support to it."

Seeking people's support Rashid appealed to the people to give him at least 40 seats in the upcoming elections in J&K.

Targeting the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah, Er Rashid said that the NC has released a detailed manifesto promising this and that. "Why couldn't the party do the same when they were in power," he asked.

He also attacked PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti continuously. Rashid said that it was the then PDP patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed who said that voting for PDP was a must to stop BJP's entry into J&K. "Then what happened? The same PDP provided a launching pad to BJP who bulldozed our dreams," Er Rashid said.



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ INDORE

Police on Thursday said they have arrested two of the six persons who allegedly assaulted two army officers and raped their female friend near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi slammed the BJP over the incident. The incident took place near Mhow-Mandleshwar road, 30 km from Mhow in Indore district in the wee hours Wednesday. The six men assaulted the two young army officers and raped one of their two female friends, police said.

the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and under sections of the Arms Act based on the complaint filed by the officer. One of those arrested reportedly has a case of loot registered against him in 2016.

Wednesday's incident took place in Jam Gate area of the hilly region surrounded by forests, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Hitika Vasal said. Badgonda police station in-charge Lokendra Singh Hirore said the accused held one of the couples captive while beating them up, and told the other couple that the hostages would be released only when they give them Rs 10 lakh.

"The complainant has told us that the accused took his woman friend away to a place and he suspected that she was raped. The woman's statement is yet to be recorded," the official said. Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP over the attack, saying the negative attitude of the BJP government towards increasing crimes against women is "extremely worrying".

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the prime minister talks big about women's safety, but women across the country are still waiting for a serious effort for their safety. In a social media post, Rahul Gandhi said the violence against the two army men and the rape of their female companion in Madhya Pradesh is enough to shame the entire society.

In her social media post, Priyanka Gandhi said the incidents of gang rape of a woman after holding army officers hostage in Madhya Pradesh and finding of the naked body of a woman on the highway in Uttar Pradesh are "heart-wrenching".

## CPI(M) in quandary over next party chief election

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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



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

make way for a new person. We do not know how the Marxists will view the possibility of Brinda Karat becoming the party boss," said Sujathan.

The death of Yechury comes at a time when the CPI(M) is facing severe crisis in Kerala, the one and only State which is ruled by the party. There is a strong move in the party ousting Pinarayi Vijayan from the Chief Minister's post and it is widely believed that Baby is the main force behind this mission. Hence the chances of Vijayan and his cohorts supporting Baby for the job look bleak.

The names of Mohammed Salim, the Bengal State secretary and Surjya Kant Mishra are also in circulation. Salim being a member of the minority community has better prospectus than others because of his standing in the party. The truth is that there are no other members in the party's polit bureau who has wider acceptability among the cadre.

## Former Congress MLA breaks down as party denies ticket

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ FARIDABAD/NEW DELHI

Former Haryana Congress MLA Lalit Nagar Thursday broke down in tears on being denied a ticket for the October 5 Assembly polls, saying even though he worked hard to strengthen his party, he was "stabbed in the back".

Addressing a gathering of his supporters in Faridabad's Tigoan, Nagar said, "I had invited you all thinking I will perform a 'havan' and then go to file my nomination today as a Congress candidate. But some of our enemies conspired and attempted to commit my political murder." Lalit Nagar was a ticket hopeful from the Tigoan assembly segment, but the Congress has fielded a new face Rohit Nagar from the seat. Other ticket hopefuls who were not picked by the Congress for the elections, Sharda Rahore and Jitender Kumar Bhardwaj, also expressed anger over the party's decision.



After the BJP, the Congress too is facing resentment in the state from some of the aspirants who have been denied tickets.

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

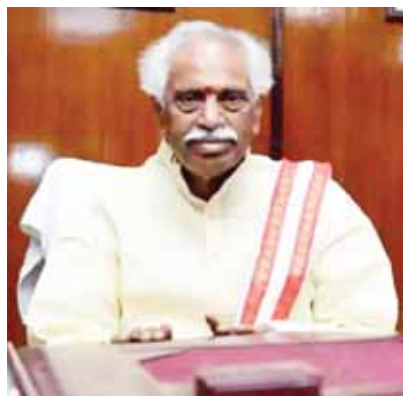
## Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya dissolves the State Assembly

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Thursday dissolved the state Assembly with immediate effect, a day after the state cabinet recommended the move to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting.

According to a notification issued by Haryana Vidhan Sabha secretariat, the Governor has dissolved the assembly with immediate effect in exercise of the powers conferred under Article 174 (2) (b) of the Constitution of India, which gives the Governor of a state the power to dissolve the state's legislative assembly. The Haryana cabinet had on Wednesday recommended to Governor Dattatreya to dissolve the Assembly to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting.

The term of the current Vidhan Sabha expires on November 3. After the governor's move to dissolve the assembly, the Nayab Singh Saini government will continue as a caretaker government till a new one is formed, sources said.



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

approval to a proposal regarding the dissolution of the 14th Haryana Vidhan Sabha, an official release had earlier said. "The proposal will now be sent to the Haryana governor for approval," it had said.

Polls have already been announced in Haryana which are scheduled to be held on October 5 and the results are slated to be out on October 8.

The government has been summoning the monsoon session in August, mostly after Independence Day. However, polls were announced on August 16 after which the government did not summon a session.

In the 90-member Assembly, which has been dissolved now, the present strength of ruling BJP members was 41 including the Speaker, Congress 28, JJP 6, Haryana Dal 1 member each, Independents 4, while 9 seats are vacant.

Among the nine seats, while seven fell vacant as legislators across parties resigned after joining other outfits, Badshahpur seat is vacant after Rakesh Daulatabad, Independent MLA representing the seat died in May while Mulana seat is lying vacant after Congress' Varun Chaudhary, who represented it, fought parliamentary polls and got elected from Ambala.

## Congress, BJP leaders file their nominations for Haryana Assembly polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Randeep Surjewala's son Aditya Surjewala, BJP's Shruti Choudhry, the granddaughter of former Chief Minister Bansi Lal, and Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal's mother Savitri Jindal were among several leaders who filed their nominations on Thursday for the Haryana Assembly polls.

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader Abhay Chautala filed his papers from Ellenabad while BJP nominee and minister Mahipal Dhand and former Haryana deputy chief minister Chander Mohan, a Congress candidate, filed their nominations from Panipat Rural and Panchkula seats, respectively.

Polling for the 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and votes will be counted on October 8. Thursday was the last day for filing nominations.

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done on September 13 and nominations can be withdrawn till September 16. Aditya Surjewala filed his papers from the Kaithal assembly seat. He was accompanied by his father and the Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala.

Shruti Choudhry filed her papers from the Tosham seat in the presence of her mother and Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhry and the BJP's Haryana in-charge Biplab Kumar Deb.

The BJP's Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal's mother Savitri Jindal, who was an aspirant for a poll ticket from the party for the Haryana Assembly elections, filed her nomination from the Hisar seat as an Independent.

She had aspired for a BJP ticket to contest the polls from Hisar but the party renominated sitting MLA and state minister Kamal Gupta from the seat.

Forbes India has listed Savitri, the wife of noted industrialist late O P Jindal, as the richest woman in the country this year having a net worth of USD 29.1 billion.

Savitri was elected as an MLA from the Hisar seat twice. She represented Hisar in the Haryana Assembly for the first time in 2005 as a Congress MLA and was reelected from the seat in 2009. She was made a minister in the Bhopinder Singh Hooda government in 2013.

She quit the Congress in March this year when her son Naveen Jindal also left the party and later joined the BJP. After filing her nomination, she said, "I have pledged to serve Hisar for its development and transformation. The people of Hisar are my family and Om Prakash Jindal had established my relationship with this family."

"The Jindal family has always served Hisar. I am fully

dedicated to living up to the expectations of the people and maintaining their trust," Savitri Jindal said.

Congress nominee Ashok Arora, accompanied by senior party leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda, filed his papers from the Thanesar seat in Kurukshetra district. Party nominee Nirmal Singh filed his papers from Ambala City, Akram Khan from Jagadhri, Bharat Singh Benival from Ellenabad, Ram Niwas Rara from Hisar, Anita Yadav from Ateli and Bhagwan Dass from Nilokheri.

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be conducted on September 13 and nominations can be withdrawn till September 16. The ruling BJP is eyeing a hat-trick in the assembly polls but faces a stiff challenge from a resurgent Congress, which is looking to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor.

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

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The finance ministers of four opposition-ruled states expressed solidarity with Kerala on Thursday in its quest for fiscal flexibility and a performance-based share of funds from the Central government.

The non-BJP-ruled states -- Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Punjab -- took part in the conclave organised by the Left-ruled Kerala here, which was also attended by the senior officials of the participating states. Telangana Deputy Chief

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

Kerala Assembly, V D Satheesan. Addressing the gathering, Karnataka Minister Gowda said there was no reciprocity from the union government for the states that have been contributing to the Centre.

Punjab Minister Cheema said he expects the 16th Finance Commission to devise a formula for the allocation of the divisible pool that not only incentivises states to perform better on the development matters but also allocates ample resources to the states that need support to



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

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

capacity, while the union government enjoys greater financial flexibility.

"It is necessary that the Kerala interpretation of Article 293 is followed and the powers of Centre are redefined in favour of state fiscal autonomy. The framers of our Constitution never intended centralised financial control. The Finance Commission was established to ensure fair and equitable distribution of resources between the Centre and the states.

"I suggest that we study the impact of devolving more funds to the poorest states so

that we can explore changes if necessary," Mulla said.

The Telangana Dy CM said there should be an increase in the states' share in Central taxes from 41 per cent to 50 per cent, resisting the Centre's increasing use of cesses and surcharges, reducing the Centrally sponsored schemes and allowing the states to spend on their local priorities. He said it was not just about technical adjustments but was about justice, equity and the future of Indian federalism.

"We must ensure our states have the resources and autonomy needed to chart

their own development path," Mulla said. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Minister Thennarasu said the Indian polity has an "inherent imbalance" in the distribution of powers and responsibilities between union and the states.

He said while the states are entrusted with the majority of responsibility related to the development of society and delivery of public services, including education, health, agriculture, and social welfare, the union retains the majority of the powers of revenue generation.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Ayushman bhav!

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

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



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

to Rs 5 lakh per year. This applies on a family basis, ensuring that elderly individuals, even those abandoned by families or facing financial hardships, can now access free or affordable medical care. The extension of Ayushman Bharat to all citizens above 70 comes at a critical time. Procedures like dialysis, heart surgeries, and cancer treatments are not only expensive but also frequent among senior citizens. The new policy provides a safety net for seniors who have, until now, been forced to bear these expenses themselves or rely on insufficient public health programs. Rs 5 lakh coverage under Ayushman Bharat will lift much of this financial burden, enabling families to access quality healthcare without worrying about their savings. Apart from the direct medical benefits, this policy could have far-reaching social implications. India's senior citizens, especially those in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, often face neglect and abandonment when they become ill. This policy not only promises improved healthcare outcomes but also offers dignity and security to millions of older Indians at a time when they need it most. As this initiative rolls out, its impact on families, communities, and the healthcare system at large will likely be profound, marking a significant leap toward inclusive and accessible healthcare for all.

### PICTALK



Visitors at the Taj Mahal during rain, in Agra.

# Resignation shakes Trinamool Congress



SIDHARTH MISHRA

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

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



The West Bengal bill, which has now been referred by the Governor to the President, has also not found much echo outside the state. The Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, passed by the West Bengal Assembly is not the first of its kind. In the past five years, Andhra Pradesh (Disha) and Maharashtra (Shakti) passed similar bills with a death penalty clause against the rapists but they are still to bring any change in the matter. All these bills were preceded by Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 through which Capital Punishment for rape made its entry into the Indian Penal Code.

This followed the public outrage after the brutal gang rape and murder of a woman on a moving bus in Delhi on December 16, 2012, which shook the collective conscience of the nation. Parliament passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to allow the death penalty in rape cases where the accompanying brutality leads to death or leaves the victim in a persistent vegetative state. Whatever name you may give Aparajita, Disha or Shakti, these bills are meaningless as cases about rape remain pending in the courts for years together. In 2022, com-

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



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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

### CHIP MAKING IN INDIA

Madam—Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy. During his speech at the SEMICON 2024 conference the PM made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors.

A Year ago the Union Cabinet had approved a production linked incentive(PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display board, production in the country. Heavy surge in sales of electronic devices during the pandemic and the indefinite closure of giant chip companies during the lockdown had in fact given rise to a crisis of scarcity of semi conductors in the global market. These chips are infact the 'life' of millions of products in our daily life, ranging from automobiles to fridges and washing machines to computers and smartphones and so on. Insufficiency of these chips had slowed down the produc-

## Differently abled deserve a better deal



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

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

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

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

### REWRITING HISTORY AND SCIENCE

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

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The erosion of local cultures and the rise of digital colonisation

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

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



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

in our country was known by some unique geography, a specific market, or even the presence of a person. Nevertheless, colonialism has also led to the exchange of knowledge, culture, food habits, concepts, and technology between the native and colonised populations.

In the 21st century, the internet has brought about a new type of colonisation that has begun infiltrating our society. This new form of colonisation is known as digital colonisation.

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

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

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



BIJU DHARMAPALAN



## FIRST COLUMN

## DIPLOMATIC BOOST TO SEMICONDUCTORS

India and Singapore are building a resilient semiconductor supply chain



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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



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

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

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

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

## India's Paralympic journey of resilience and triumph



RAJDEEP PATHAK

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



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

Their tenacity and commitment to realizing their dreams on the global stage were evident as they competed and excelled across multiple disciplines, leaving an indelible mark on the world of sports. India delivered its best-ever performance at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, achieving a historic 29-medal haul that included seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze medals. This outstanding achievement surpassed the 19-medal tally from Tokyo 2020, where India had won five golds, and marked a significant milestone as the country crossed the 50-medal mark in its Paralympic history. A record 84 para-athletes represented India across 12 disciplines, including the debut participation in para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo. Among the shining stars, Avani Lekhara became the first Indian woman to win two golds at the Paralympic Games, defending her title in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 shooting event with a world-record score. Meanwhile, India saw its first-ever one-two finish in athletics, with Dharambir and Parnav Soorma clinching gold and silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also set a new Asian record of 34.92m. In athletics, several Indian para-athletes etched their names in the record books.

Praveen Kumar set an Asian record en route to winning the high jump T64 title, securing India's sixth gold medal – their highest total at the Paralympics. Javelin thrower Sumit Antil made history as the first Indian man to defend his Paralympic title, winning gold in the men's javelin throw F64 with a stunning throw of 70.59m, breaking his record from Tokyo 2020 not once but



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

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

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

with disabilities.

India began its Paralympic journey in 1968, overcoming numerous challenges such as limited resources, inadequate facilities, and low public awareness. Despite these hurdles, Indian para-athletes gradually rose to prominence on the global stage. A pivotal moment came in 2004 when Devendra Jhajharia won India's first Paralympic gold, setting a world record in the F46 javelin throw. This achievement heralded a new era for Indian para-sports, culminating in 35 medals across 12 Paralympic Games. The Paralympics exemplify India's commitment to inclusiveness, reflecting a broader national strategy to promote equity in sports. Government initiatives such as the "Target Olympic Podium Scheme" (TOPS), 'Khelo India,' and increased funding for para-sports provide athletes with special abilities access to advanced training facilities, coaching, and financial support. To foster a more inclusive sports ecosystem, India regularly hosts events like the National Para Games and Para Athletics Championships, enhancing visibility and opportunities for para-athletes. What is needed is corporate sponsorships and media coverage which are crucial in transforming societal perceptions of disability, empowering athletes and promoting social inclusion and awareness. Globally, several countries have successfully promoted inclusiveness through sports.

The United Kingdom, for example, has been a pioneer in fostering an inclusive sports culture. Looking back at the success of Team GB at the London 2012 Paralympics, where they ranked third with 120 medals, which stemmed from years of investment in para-sports proves this point.

The UK government, along with organizations like the British Paralympic Association, provided substantial funding, advanced training facilities, and comprehensive

support for athletes.

The extensive broadcasting and marketing of the London 2012 Paralympics also helped transform public perceptions of disability, inspiring a new generation of para-athletes. Similarly, Australia has excelled in promoting inclusivity in sports through the Australian Paralympic Committee, which focuses on talent identification, athlete development, and grassroots inclusivity.

Further, Japan's efforts during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics highlighted its commitment to accessibility, with significant investments in inclusive infrastructure, such as accessible public transport, venues, and accommodations, demonstrating a strong commitment to para-sports.

Moreover, the Paralympic Committee's 'ImPOSSIBLE' program, an educational initiative by the Agitos Foundation, was introduced in schools across Japan to educate children about the Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration, and equality, fostering a culture of inclusivity from a young age. In India, the road to achieving inclusiveness in sports has been long and challenging, but progress is evident.

The success of para-athletes at the Paralympics 2024 has helped break down barriers and challenge stereotypes, paving the way for a more inclusive society. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that people with special abilities have equal access to sports and the opportunity to compete at the highest level.

The future of Indian para-sports looks promising, as it is a powerful reminder that success in sports is not limited by physical ability but defined by determination, skill, and the spirit to overcome adversity. WE CAN is the catchword.

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

## Ozone Therapy: A holistic approach to enhancing health and wellness

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

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



MILHI SHAH

doctor, brings powerful antioxidant capabilities to restore tissues and body fluids.

**Harnessing Ozone's Power:** Ozone therapy involves the administration of ozone gas (O<sub>3</sub>), a reactive form of oxygen, into the body to stimulate healing and improve overall health.

Ozone therapy enhances traditional medical treatments, offering a synergistic approach to health and wellness, where

pain and the side effects of conventional treatment are alleviated by it. It has shown promise in managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and autoimmune disorders. For instance, in diabetes management, ozone therapy can improve oxygen utilisation and glucose metabolism, helping stabilise blood sugar levels. In cardiovascular ailments, ozone therapy can enhance blood circulation and reduce oxidative stress, improving heart health.

**Pain Alleviation:** Ozone therapy's analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties make it effective in pain management. Conditions like arthritis, fibromyalgia, and musculoskeletal injuries often cause chronic pain that is dif-

icult to manage with traditional methods. Ozone therapy can alleviate pain by reducing inflammation and promoting tissue repair.

For example, in arthritis, ozone therapy helps decrease joint inflammation and improves mobility. Compared to conventional pain management techniques, ozone therapy offers a less invasive option, with fewer side effects.

**Detoxifying with Ozone:** Ozone therapy supplies the body with potent oxygenation, increasing the life-giving gas' availability for cells, and improving their functioning and energy production. The resulting detoxification eliminates toxins, harmful free radicals and waste from the minutest units of our bodies. The result: Rejuvenated,



healthy and energetic selves. Stress Reduction Ozone therapy can aid in stress reduction by increasing oxygen delivery to tissues, promoting relaxation and a sense of calm. This is particularly beneficial in our fast-paced world where stress is a common issue.

**Athletic Performance:** Ozone therapy's unique restorative abilities are also extremely relevant to meeting the high performance and health needs of athletes. The increased oxy-

genation provided by ozone therapy improves endurance, enhances recovery, and boosts overall performance.

**Skin Rejuvenation:** The skin, the body's largest organ, is happiest when we have healthy cells and tissues. Ozone therapy, in promoting healthy cells, leads to several skin benefits. It is effective in treating skin conditions such as acne, eczema, and fungal infections due to ozone's antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties.

Ozone therapy promotes skin healing by increasing oxygen supply to the affected areas. Additionally, it has anti-ageing benefits. By improving blood flow and stimulating collagen production, ozone therapy can enhance skin elasticity and reduce wrinkles, resulting in a

more youthful and vibrant appearance.

**Multiple Ozone Therapy Applications:** Ozone therapy can be administered in various ways, including rectal insufflation, intravenous ozone mixed with saline, and major autohe-motherapy. These methods help activate cellular circulation, enhancing overall health. With over 20 different applications, ozone therapy offers versatile treatment options for a wide range of disorders, promoting healing and well-being through improved oxygen utilization and cellular function.

**The Science of Ozone Therapy:** The scientific reason ozone therapy works is its ability to stimulate the mitochondria, the energy powerhouse of the tiniest units of our

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

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

# Israel's crackdown on West Bank insurgency killing youths

AP ■ JENIN

As the world's attention focuses on the deadly war in Gaza, less than 80 miles away scores of Palestinian teens have been killed, shot and arrested in the West Bank, where the Israeli military has waged a months-long crackdown.

More than 150 teens and children 17 or younger have been killed in the embattled territory since Hamas' brutal attack on communities in southern Israel set off the war last October. Most died in nearly daily raids by the Israeli army that Amnesty International says have used disproportionate and unlawful force.

Amjad Hamadneh lost son Mahmoud when the 15-year-old's school dismissed students at the start of a May raid. "He didn't do anything. He didn't make a single mistake," says Amjad Hamadneh, whose son, a buzz-cut devotee of computer games, was one of two teens killed that morning by a sniper. "If he'd been a freedom fighter or was carrying a weapon, I would not be so emotional," says his father, an unemployed construction worker. "But he was taken just as easily as water going down your throat. He only had his books and a pencil case."

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

Palestinian teens killed in recent months were members of militant groups. Many others were killed during protests or when they or someone nearby threw rocks or home-made explosives at military vehicles. Still others appear to have been random targets. Taken together, the killings raise troubling questions about the devaluation of young lives in pursuit of security and autonomy.

The Israeli army said in a statement to the AP that it has stepped up raids since Oct. 7 to apprehend militants suspected of carrying out attacks in the West Bank and that "the absolute majority of those killed during this period were armed or involved in terrorist activities at the time of the incident."

On the June afternoon that 17-year-old Issa Jallad was killed, video from a neighbor's security camera shows, he was on a friend's motorbike with an Israeli armored vehicle in close pursuit. Days later, a poster outside his family's home in Jenin showed him cradling an assault rifle and declared him a holy warrior.

But the grainy tape, reviewed by the Associated Press days after the raid, and others from nearby cameras do not explain where he fit in the conflict. The Israeli army said that its soldiers had spotted two militants handling a powerful explosive



device. When the pair tried to flee, troops opened fire and "neutralized them."

But an Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem, says its review of multiple security camera videos showed Jallad and his friend posed no threat. "We all expected to be in this situation," said the teen's brother, Mousa Jallad. "It could have been to any of us."

Jenin's refugee camp has long been notorious as a hotbed of Palestinian militancy, raided repeatedly by Israeli forces

who have occupied the West Bank since seizing control in their 1967 war with neighboring Arab states.

The embattled territory was already seeing deadly clashes before the war began. But Israeli forces, which police about 3 million Palestinians while assigned to protect 500,000 Jewish settlers, has significantly stepped up raids in the months since.

Youths represent almost a quarter of the nearly 700 Palestinians slain in the West

Bank since the war began, the most since the violent uprising known as the Second Intifada in the early 2000s. More than 20 Israeli civilians and soldiers have been killed in the territory since October.

A military spokesman said the Israeli army makes great efforts to avoid harming civilians during raids and "does not target civilians, period." He said human rights group focus on a few outlier cases.

Military operations in the West Bank are fraught because forces

are pursuing militants, many in their teens, who often hide among the civilian population, said the spokesman, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani.

"In many cases many of them are 15, 16 years old who are not wearing uniforms and might surprise you with a gun, with a knife," he said.

Critics say the crackdown is shaped by retribution, not only military strategy. When sirens erupted at the start of the May raid, Amjad Hamadneh says, he called

Mahmoud on his cell phone and was relieved to hear that the brothers had reached their school. But then Mahmoud's twin brother, Ahmed, called back to say that the principal had dismissed classes. As students poured into the street, the brothers were separated in the chaos.

Four bullets hit Mahmoud as he fled, and another pierced his skull. He was the third student from his school killed in a raid since the war began.

A former classmate, Osama Hajir, who had dropped out of school to work, was also killed, along with a teacher from a nearby school and a doctor from the hospital down the street. "Now when I hear the sound of sirens I go to my room and stay there," says Karam Miazneh, another classmate, who was shot during the raid but survived. "I'm still in fear that they will come to shoot me and kill me."

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

ment until he could confer with police.

When Amjad Hamadneh heard his son had been wounded, he sped through Jenin's twisting streets, drawing gunfire as he neared the hospital. But Mahmoud was already gone.

Nearby, Osama's father, Muhammad, broke down as he leaned over his son's body. Months earlier he'd snapped a photo of the smiling teen beside graffiti touting Jenin as "the factory of men," tirelessly cranking out fighters in the resistance against Israel. Now, he pressed that same, still-smooth face between his hands. "Oh, my son. Oh, my son," he sobbed. "My beautiful son."

Since Mahmoud Hamadneh was killed, his siblings ask frequently to visit his grave. His younger sister now sleeps in his bed so her surviving brother, Ahmed, will not be in the room alone.

"I feel like I cannot breathe. We used to do everything together," Ahmed says. His father listens closely, despairing later that such grief could drive the teen into militancy. If the risk is so clear to a Palestinian father, he says, why don't Israeli soldiers see it?

"They think that if they kill us that people will be afraid and not do anything," he says. "But when the Israelis kill someone, 10 fighters will be created in his place."

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

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday announced plans for "major surgery" that is needed to reform the National Health Service (NHS) after a damning new review warned that the country's state-funding health service is in "serious trouble."

Starmer pledged the "biggest reimagining of our NHS since its birth" in a speech after former surgeon Lord Ara Darzi's probe concluded the service is in a "critical condition" amidst surging waiting lists and a deterioration in the nation's underlying health, identifying serious and widespread problems for people accessing services.

Based on Darzi's diagnosis of the challenges facing the NHS, Starmer outlined greater digitisation, reducing care burden on the hospitals and a greater focus on prevention rather than cure as the fundamental areas of reform.

"What we need is the courage to deliver long-term reform — major surgery not sticking plaster solutions," Starmer said in his major speech at the healthcare charity King's Fund in London.

"The NHS is at a fork in the road, and we have a choice about how it should meet these



down approach of the past, this plan is going to have the fingerprints of NHS staff and patients all over it," said Starmer. "And as we build it together, I want to frame this plan around three big shifts — first, moving from an analogue to a digital NHS.

A tomorrow service not just a today service. Second, we've got to shift more care from hospitals to communities... and third, we've got to be much bolder in moving from sickness to prevention. Only fundamental reform and a plan for the long term can turn around the NHS and build a healthy society. It won't be easy or quick. But I know we can do it," he said.

Darzi is an independent House of Lords peer and practising surgeon with 30 years of experience in the NHS. He examined over 600 pieces of analysis from across the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and external organisations during his investigation. He notes a deterioration in the nation's health over the past 15 years, with a substantial increase in the number of people living with multiple long-term conditions.

At the same time, NHS waiting lists have swelled and waiting times have surged.

rising demands. Raise taxes on working people to meet the ever-higher costs of aging population, or reform to secure its future," he said.

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

## UK waives settlement fees, unveils new visas for bereaved partners

London (PTI): Eligible foreign nationals dealing with the death of a partner and facing financial hardship will soon be able to apply to have the application fee for settlement in the UK waived, under new rules laid out in Parliament this week.

Currently, people who wish to apply for settlement in the UK following the death of their British citizen partner are required to pay a GBP 2,885 fee, irrespective of a change in financial circumstances following a loss. Indian-origin migration and citizenship minister Seema Malhotra told Parliament on Tuesday that this fee will now be waived from October 9 as part of a "fairer and more compassionate approach" to those wishing to stay in the UK and facing acute financial vulnerability during times of grief. "Losing a loved one is a deep and unimaginable pain, all too often compounded by the immense financial strain faced by those left behind," said Malhotra.

"Widows, widowers, and their dependent children who had become integral parts of our communities can now apply for a fee waiver if facing destitu-

tion, in order to settle and keep the life they have built. This marks a fairer and more compassionate approach to those unable to afford the settlement fees, but who have often worked, paid their taxes and contributed to life here in the UK, including the partners of our military veterans," she said. Those who qualify include partners on a family visa who meet the criteria for destitution, if their partner had either been a British citizen, had indefinite leave to remain in the UK, or was from the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and had pre-settled status. Bereaved partners of members of the Armed Forces, Gurkhas or Hong Kong military unit veterans — discharged before July 1997, may also benefit from such a fee waiver.

In her written statement in the House of Commons, Malhotra also announced the introduction of a new diplomatic visitor visa process as part of the UK border being transformed to include digital pre-travel checks. Under this, the current Diplomatic Visa Waivers (DVWs) will be phased out in favour of a "Diplomatic Visa Arrangement".

## US to sell anti-submarine sonobuoys to India

Washington (PTI): The US has decided to sell High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare (HAASW) sonobuoys worth USD 52.8 million to India, a move that would enhance New Delhi's capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations. Sonobuoys are air-launched, expendable, electro-mechanical sensors designed to relay underwater sounds to remote processors. These are effective and affordable antisubmarine warfare (ASW) that are capable of being used by airborne ASW warfighters.

"The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations from its MH-60R helicopters. India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces," the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week. As per the Arms Export Control Act, Congress has 30 calendar days to review the sale.

## N Korea has fired ballistic missile toward sea: South

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Thursday, South Korea's military said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to put his nuclear force fully ready for battle with its rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the missiles launched from North Korea's capital flying 360 kilometers (about 220 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed officials to ensure the safety of ships and aircraft, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

The reported fight distances suggest the missiles were designed to attack South Korea. The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff condemned the launches as a provocation that poses a serious threat to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The launches were North Korea's first public weapons firing activities in more than two months. On July 1, North Korea claimed to have tested a new tactical weapon capable of delivering a "super-large" 4.5 ton-class warhead. In a Monday speech marking his government's 76th foundation anniversary, Kim said he would redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies. Kim made such a pledge saying North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of what he called "the reckless expansion" of a U.S.-led regional military bloc that is now developing into a nuclear-based one.

Kim has made similar vows numerous times, but his latest threat came as outside experts believe North Korea could carry out a nuclear test explosion or long-range missile test-launches ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November to boost its leverage

in future dealings with the U.S. On Sunday, North Korea's state media published a photo of Kim inspecting a 12-axle vehicle that would be the country's biggest missile launch platform. That sparked speculation that the North could be developing a more powerful intercontinental ballistic missile designed to strike the U.S. mainland.

Recent commercial satellite images indicate that North Korea's northeastern nuclear test site incurred minor damage from heavy summer rains in recent weeks and that no notable recent work was detected at its tunnels, 38 North, a North Korea-focused website, said an analytical piece published Wednesday.

Thursday's launches also came after North Korea flew hundreds of huge balloons carrying rubbish toward South Korea for five straight days through Sunday.

Since 2022, North Korea has sharply ramped up its weapons testing activities in part of its efforts to perfect its capabilities to launch strikes on the U.S. and South Korea. The U.S. and South Korea have responded by expanding military drills that North Korea calls invasion rehearsals.

Last month, Kim had still held off from missile tests or other provocative military demonstrations as the United States and South Korea conducted large-scale summertime military exercises. North Korea has previously reacted with other major U.S.-South Korean military training with its own weapons tests.

But prior to the U.S.-South Korean exercises, Kim staged a big ceremony in Pyongyang to mark the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units and called for a ceaseless expansion of his country's nuclear program.

The Aug. 4 event added to concerns about Kim's push to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the tense border with South Korea.

## Billionaire takes pvt spacewalk from SpaceX capsule

Cape Canaveral (AP): A billionaire stepped out for the first private spacewalk Thursday, teaming up with SpaceX on the daring endeavour hundreds of miles above Earth. Tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman and his crew waited until their capsule was depressurised before popping open the hatch. Isaacman emerged first, joining a small elite group of spacewalkers who until now had included only professional astronauts from a dozen countries. "Back at home, we all have a lot of work to do. But from here, it sure looks like a perfect world," said Isaacman. The commercial spacewalk was the main focus of the five-day flight financed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's company, and the culmination of years of development geared toward settling Mars and other planets.

All four on board donned SpaceX's new spacewalking suits to protect themselves from the harsh vacuum. They launched on Tuesday from Florida, rocketing farther from Earth than anyone since NASA's moonwalkers. The orbit was reduced by half — to 460 miles (740 kilometres) — for the spacewalk. This first spacewalking test, expected to last close to two hours, involved more stretching than walking.

## Spanish PM meets exiled Venezuelan opp leader

AP ■ MADRID

Venezuela's opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González met with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Thursday, four days after fleeing to the European country in a negotiated deal with Nicolás Maduro's government.

González's flight to exile — after weeks of seeking refuge in the embassies of the Netherlands and Spain in Caracas — had dealt a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his opposition campaign. His supporters in Venezuela and beyond, along with the United States gov-

ernment, consider him the legitimate winner of the July 28 presidential election. Sánchez, who was on a trip to China when González arrived, posted a video of their meeting Thursday on the social media platform X. The two are seen strolling together in the Moncloa Palace gardens in Madrid. Spain has welcomed González as a sign of its "humanitarian commitment and solidarity with Venezuelans," Sánchez said in his post.

On Wednesday, the Spanish Parliament approved a proposal from the conservative Popular Party urging Sánchez's left-wing coalition

government to recognise the opposition leader as the elected president of Venezuela. The motion is non-binding.

Spain's government supports the European Union position of demanding that Maduro make public the raw polling results before the bloc recognises a winner.

The European Parliament will debate the outcome of the Venezuelan elections on Tuesday in Strasbourg, France.

González's arrival has further strained relations between Madrid and Caracas. On Wednesday, Jorge Rodríguez, president of Venezuela's National Assembly, asked

for "the immediate rupture of all diplomatic relations, of all commercial relations." "Let all the representatives of the Spanish government delegation leave, and let us bring our own," Rodríguez said in the Assembly and also called for "the immediate closure of all commercial activities of Spanish companies."

González, who was Venezuela's former ambassador in Argentina during the presidency of late Hugo Chávez, landed Sunday at a military airport near Madrid. He travelled aboard a Spanish military plane. Following the election, González and the

Venezuelan opposition's de facto leader, María Corina Machado, went into hiding as security forces rounded up more than 2,000 people — many of them young Venezuelans — who spontaneously took to the streets to protest Maduro's alleged theft of the election.

With his flight into exile, González joined the swelling ranks of opposition stalwarts who once fought Maduro before seeking asylum abroad in the face of a brutal crackdown. In Spain, he joins at least four former presidential hopefuls who were imprisoned or faced arrest for defying Maduro's rule.

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

Singapore (AP): Pope Francis on Thursday praised Singapore's economic strength as a testament to human ingenuity but urged the city-state to look after the weakest, too, especially foreign workers, as he opened the final leg of his tour through some of Asia's poorest countries in one of the world's richest.

Singapore celebrated his arrival by unveiling a new hybrid orchid named for him, the "Dendrobium His Holiness Pope Francis." Presented during an official welcome ceremony, the orchid "exudes a serene and pure beauty" of ivory white petals with a pink tinge at the center, according to

the National Parks Board. Francis arrived in Singapore from East Timor and began his official program Thursday by meeting with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong before addressing government authorities and the diplomatic corps at the National University of Singapore.

There, Francis marveled at Singapore's modern skyscrapers "that seem to rise from the sea" and the government's commitment to providing public housing and quality education and health care to its people. But he urged authorities to beware of rewarding excel-

lence at all costs, a reference to Singapore's highly competitive work and educational culture. "I would like to highlight the risk entailed in focusing solely on pragmatism or placing merit above all things, namely the unintended consequence of justifying the exclusion of those on the margins from benefiting from progress," he said.

In a common appeal from history's first Latin American pope, Francis called especially for dignified pay and conditions for migrant workers, who have helped build Singapore into one of the world's most advanced economic powerhouses.

"These workers contribute a

great deal to society and should be guaranteed a fair wage," Francis said.

Singapore has no minimum wage policy for locals or foreigners.

Singapore is the last stop of Francis' 11-day tour that is the longest and farthest of his papacy after earlier stops in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor. The economic disparities were obvious upon arrival Wednesday as Francis landed in Singapore's high-tech airport aboard the lone aircraft belonging to Aero Dili, the national carrier of East Timor, where around 42% of its people live below the poverty line.

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



# Blinken wraps up Europe trip with arms request

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

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

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

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

# Court seeks clarification of Imran's military trial

**PTI ■ ISLAMABAD**  
A Pakistani high court on Thursday asked the government to clarify the uncertainty surrounding the possible military trial of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) was hearing a petition filed to prevent Khans possible military custody and trial over his involvement in the May 9, 2023 violence in which supporters of his Pakistan

Teheek-e-Insaf (PTI) party allegedly attacked military installations following his arrest. The court raised concerns over the potential trial of a civilian in a military court, emphasising that the issue is a matter of serious concern for both the petitioner and the judiciary. During the hearing, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb asked Assistant Attorney General Azmat Bashir Tarar to seek directions from the Attorney General's office over the issue and provide a clear

response to the court. "You are saying there is no case now, but could there be one later?" the judge asked, highlighting the uncertainty surrounding the matter. The court adjourned the hearing until September 16, giving the federal government time to submit its response. PTI in a WhatsApp message also confirmed that the IHC ordered the government to file a reply on "possible military trial of Imran Khan by Sep 16". If the government denies any plans for a military trial, the petition will

be rendered moot. However, if such a trial is under consideration, the court will proceed to hear and decide the case. The 71-year-old PTI party founder has been in jail since August last year after being convicted in some of the nearly 200 cases slapped on him since his ouster in April 2022. Various government officials have been indicating about holding the military trial of Khan, but any such decision will depend on the final judgment of the Supreme Court.

# Lawyers for Kremlin's foe Navalny face trial

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

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

**MECHANIZED CLEANING OF COACHES OF THROUGH PASSING TRAINS**  
E-Tender Notice No: GEM/2024/B/5371559; Dated: 06-09-2024. Open tender in "Two Packet System" are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Name of work: Mechanized cleaning of coaches of through passing trains at New Jalpaiguri platform during halt under "Clean Train Station" (CTS) scheme for a period of four years. Tender Value: ₹20,77,14,613.60. Earnest Money: ₹11,88,600.00. E-Tender will be closed at 19:30 hrs. on 27-09-2024 and opened at 19:30 hrs. on 27-09-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website <http://www.gem.gov.in>

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is to inform to the public at large that Mohd. Ibrahim Khan who is the owner of the Residential Flat area measuring 65Sq. Yds., Kharsa No. 512, Village Chhotpur, Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. (owner vide Sale Deed dated 23.02.2017 (vide Doc No.1078) executed by Mr. Chandra Prakash Sharma to be financed by Grifium Housing Finance Limited, Ghaziabad, That Original Sale Deed dated 24.03.2006 (Vide Doc No.2421) executed by Mr. Sunder Singh in favour of Mr. Chandra Prakash has lost. If any Person having any type of claim/right/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-9/3B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301>Contact No: 9212042893

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

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform you that the Original Allottee of a Residential Flat No. A-159, First Floor, Jhalwa Vihar Sector-21 Noida, WG. CDR. H.K. NAGPAL (RETD.) S/o. B.D. NAGPAL R/O. A-159, SECTOR-21 NOIDA had executed a General Power of Attorney in favour of MRS. BEENA MATHUR W/o. SHRI RAKESH S. MATHUR R/O. A-301 GARIMA VIHAR, SECTOR-35 NOIDA vide GPA Dated 14/09/1992 and the same was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Noida and an Agreement to Sell is also been executed in favour of MRS. BEENA MATHUR W/o. SHRI RAKESH S. MATHUR which is not registered. On the basis of the aforesaid General Power of Attorney MRS. BEENA MATHUR wants to transfer the Residential Flat in favour of SHRI ABHISHEK SHARMA S/o. LATE SHRI HARSHANKER SHARMA R/O. A-158, JALVAU VIHAR, SECTOR-21 NOIDA. Because the aforesaid Agreement to Sell is not registered. So with the help of this notice it is informed that on the transfer of the above-said Residential Flat if any one has/have any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Office of AGM/OSD (Group Housing) Noida Authority along with the proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice.  
Beena Mathur W/o. Shri Rakesh S. Mathur R/O. A-301 Garima Vihar Sector-35 Noida.

**Public Notice**  
This is to inform general public that Mrs. Ashima Gupta has acquired the Third Floor, Front Side, LHS, with roof rights, area measuring 60 sq. yds., built on Property bearing No. C-15, out of Kharsa No. 333, situated in the area of village Bindapur, Delhi State colony known as Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059 by way Sale Deed dated 11.12.2022. Decree No. 28501, in the Court of Documents related to the above said property has been mispacted i.e. Original Sale Deed dated 10.11.2022 executed by Mr. Kanya Lal (having 25% undivided share), 2. Mr. Mohi Kumar Gupta (having 20% undivided share), 3. Mr. Ram Prasad Chaurasia (having 20% undivided share), 4. Mr. Naveen Kumar (having 25% undivided share), 5. Mr. Vinay Kumar (having 10% undivided share) in favour of Mrs. Ashima Gupta in respect of the above-said property. In view of the fact that the Original Sale Deed dated 10.11.2022, duly registered in Sub-Registrar Noida, Delhi, anyone who find the said document shall handover the same to the Manager/In-charge of Housing Section L&DO, Office Address: Office No. 167-169, 3rd Floor, Little Mount, Saeidapet, Chennai 600 015 or handover the same to Mrs. Ashima Gupta W/o. Hemant Gover R/O. C-33-34, Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059 Contact - +91 91 70829950 +91 9871 184 1693. Pramod Kumar Singh, Partner of Anucess Source LLP Contact No. 956030999

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

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Re: Entire ground floor and First floor without roof rights (hereinafter referred to as "Said Floors") built up on Property bearing No-C-165 (Plot no. 165, Block-C) area measuring 70 sq sq mtrs situated in the layout plan of Hyderabad residential now known as Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110065 ("The said Property").  
Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Mrs. Jaimati Jain W/o. Mr. Satya Narain Jain - she is the sole and absolute owner of the said floors. She owned the said property vide Conveyance Deed executed by DDA in her favour and registered as Document No. 6657, Volume No. 1064, pages 47-49, on 15.06.2000 (SRO-VI). Thereafter, she had sold the entire second floor (without roof rights) and Third Floors (with roof rights) separately and thus she is now the sole and absolute owner of the said floors. Now, our clientless intends to mortgage the said floors with IDFC FIRST Bank Limited for availing loan facility.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Reg. Old House Bearing No. 84 & New No. 118, 2/1A, measuring 104.5 sq. mtrs., situated in Mohalla Mirzajaban, Ghaziabad, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P. (Hereinafter referred to as the "said Property").  
Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our clientless, Mr. Mohd. Amir & Mrs. Raseeda (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said property from Mr. Vipin Kumar Garg, Mr. Sachin Garg, Mr. Pranshu Sharma (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are joint owners of the said property. The seller has informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mrs. Neeru Garg vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 15613, Book No. 4, Volume No. 7725, pages 311-326, on 22.10.2013. Mrs. Neeru Garg executed and the said property devolved on her legal heirs viz., Mr. Vipin Kumar Garg, Mr. Sachin Garg, Mr. Pranshu Sharma. Thus, the said property became the joint owners of the said property. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said property is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 02.07.2024 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Brahm Prakash (Borrower) and Mr. Bhupender Sharma (Guarantor) and Mrs. Savita W/o Mr. Brahm Prakash (Guarantor) - to pay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 1,73,39,629.11 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Nine and Paise Eleven only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower/s mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.  
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(14) of the said Act and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Anubhav Pandey/ Shaalja Mishra/ LBN000006262683	Unit Bearing No.C-305, 3rd Floor (Alongwith One Covered Car Parking), Tower-C, Nri Residency, Built On Plot No.GH-01, Situated at Sector-Omega-II, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ September 9, 2024	May 31, 2024 Rs. 57,03,591/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Minni Tiwari/ Sanjay Kumar Tiwari/ Vivek Tiwari/ DLB000003876309	Flat No.147, 1st Floor, New LIG Flats, Village Kondli Ghazoli, Mayor Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi- 110096/ September 10, 2024.	March 22, 2024 Rs. 15,88,929/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Shyam Nandan Yadav/ Kaushalya Devi/ TBDF000006263585	Lig Flat No.A-2, First Floor, Without Roof Rights, Plot No.324, Situated at Residential Colony Shalimar Garden Extension-1, Village-Pasoda Tehsil and District Ghaziodad, Uttar Pradesh- 201005./ September 10, 2024.	May 22, 2024 Rs. 14,75,945/-	DELHI/ NCR
4.	Ratnesh/ Parnesh/ DLB000002377176	Plot No.24, Ground Floor, Sector G-8, Pocket 3 Block B4 Narela Delhi- 110090/ September 10, 2024	February 08,2024 Rs.6,36,353/-	Delhi/NCR/ Sonapat
5.	Krishna Kumar/Rekha/ LBN000001365152	Plot No-S-2, Plot No-C-1/93 (SF Front Side LHS) DLF Ghaziodad Extd, Ghaziabad/ September 10, 2024	June 19, 2021 Rs. 5,03,188/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower/s (guarantor/s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
Date: September 13, 2024  
Place: Delhi/NCR  
Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

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

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
Plaintiff's Advocate Mr. B.G.Rajprohit Public Summons In the Court of Small Causes at Ahmedabad Court No.6  
New Small Cause Court Summary Suit No.-52023 Exh.23 (Old City Civil Commercial Court Suit No. 232/2021) (Old Small Cause court Commercial Civil Suit No.-358/2020 (Old City Civil Summary Suit No.-3049/2013)  
Plaintiff: 'Ms. 'MAGRAJ KANTIL FAB PVT LTD.' Office At: 705/1, Rangwala Market, Sakar Bazar, Kalupur, Ahmedabad- 380001. Usual offices at: 272, New Chh. Market, Sakar Bazar, Ahmedabad Through Director Shri KANTIL S/O MAGRAJ SANGHAVI Age: 66 Yrs. Occ. Business, religion: Hindu.  
Versus  
Defendants: (1) M/s. "SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD." (Registered Under the Provision of Company Act) (Factory: 73, G.Fr., Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN: 110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P.) PIN: 201301. (2) Shri AMIT K. MITTAL managing Director of M/s. "SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD." OFFICE: 73, G. Fr., Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN: 110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P.) PIN: 201301. RESI: 45, Defence Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110032. (3) Shri PUJA MITTAL a Director of M/s. "SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD." OFFICE: 73, G. Fr., Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN: 110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P.) PIN: 201301. RESI: 45, Defence Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110032. (4) Shri RAKESH KUMAR SHARMA a Director of M/s. "SHREE BHAGWATI APPARELS INDIA LTD." OFFICE: 73, G. Fr., Gagan Vihar, DELHI. PIN: 110051. FACTORY: C-2/3, Sector-58, NOIDA. (U.P.) PIN: 201301. RESI: 130/98, Kung Gali, Ramnagar Shahdara, DELHI-110032.  
SUIT valued at Rs. 19,58,422/-  
You, The Defendant is hereby informed that the above named Plaintiff has instituted the above mentioned Primary Suit against you for recovery of Rs. 19,58,422/- and interest.  
The court has tried to serve the summons as well as the court process was returned unexecuted. In the above circumstances, the Public Summons is hereby issued by way of publication in the daily News paper as per the Order passed below Exh-22 by the Hon'ble Court.  
Where the Plaintiff above named has instituted a suit against you, the Defendant under Order XXXVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for Rs. 19,58,422/- and interest. You are hereby summoned to cause an appearance to be tendered for you, within 10 days from the date of the publication of this public summons in the News paper, in default whereof the plaintiff will be entitled, after the expiration of the said period of ten days, to obtain a decree for any sum not exceeding the sum Rs. 19,58,422/- and such amount as the court may award for costs together with such interests, if any as the court may order.  
If you, the Defendant cause an appearance to be entered for you, the Plaintiff will thereafter, serve upon you a summons for judgment at the hearing of which you will be entitled to move the court for leave to defend the suit.  
Leave to defend may be obtained if you satisfy the court by affidavit or otherwise that there is a defence to the suit on the merits, or that it is reasonable that you should be allowed to defend suit.  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 07<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.  
Sd/- (J.H. Nayak) Registrar, Small Cause Court, Ahmedabad.

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD BRANCH  
(Address : SCOF 63, Sector 46 - Faridabad, Faridabad Phone No: 0129-2438938 & E-mail : [lob1836@job.in](mailto:lob1836@job.in))  
**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Rule 8(1)]**  
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, SECTOR 46- FARIDABAD, Faridabad, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20/05/2024 Calling upon the borrower's/mortgagor's/guarantors Shri / M/s:-  
1. M/S OSM Projects Private Limited (Borrower)  
2. Mr. Lokesh Sharma (Director)  
3. Mr. Surender Sharma (Director/Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
4. Mr. Dinesh Sharma (Director/Guarantor)  
5. Mr. Munesh Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
6. Mrs. Poonam Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
7. Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
8. Mr. Sushel Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
9. Mrs. Suman Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
10. Mr. Om Prakash Sharma (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
11. Mr. Vipin Shandilya (Mortgagor/Guarantor)  
12. Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma (Guarantor)  
(Hereinafter referred as 'borrower/mortgagor/mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.31,20,35,423.71 (Rs. Thirty one Crore twenty lakh 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 (2) of the said rules on this 11th day of September the year 2024.  
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs.31,91,53,920.06 (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 - Flat No 771/F-B, Sagar Presidency, 7th Floor, Sector 50 Noida In The Name Of Mr. Ajay Vikram Singh S/o. Shri. Janardhan Singh Area In The Property as per Title Deed - 146.87 Sq. Mtr.  
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no/Flat No 771 7th Floor In survey No F-8 Sagar Presidency //City or Town Survey No.-Kharsa No within the registration sub-district Noida and District Noida (UP)  
Bounded  
On the North by  
On the South by  
On the East by  
On the West by  
Dated: 13.09.2024  
Place: Faridabad  
Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

**PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai- 400 070. IN: L65910M13984PLC032639, Website: www.piramalfinance.com  
Branch Address : Dhiraaj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agrta Road, Hari Nilas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400 602.  
**DEMAND NOTICE**  
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 1190001237 of Noida Branch) Indu Bala (Borrower) Rohit Goyal (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1931193 / (₹ Nineteen lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Three Only) NPA (09-08-2024)	Flat No-1009 Ground Floor Pocket Gh-58/7 Paschim Vihar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110063
(LC No. 0100004950 of Chennai Branch) Mohan V (Borrower) Vanitha M (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 2657798.22 / (₹ Twenty six Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Eight Only and Twenty Two Paise) NPA (03-11-2019)	Plot No 3316 First Floor Block C33, TvS Swaya Sriperumbudur Village Kancheepuram Chennai Tamil Nadu - 602105
(LC No. 2490000225 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Hari Prasad Nath (Borrower) Beauty Moni Salkia (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1407203.02 / (₹ Fourteen lakh Seven Thousand Two Hundred Three Only and Two Paise) NPA (09-08-2024)	Dda Janta Flat No. 62, second Floor Sunrise Apartments, pocket 6 Nasirpur, dwarka New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 1980041484 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Parveen Kusam Hans (Borrower) Shanti Devi Hans (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 3991406.66 / (₹ Thirty nine lakh Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Only and Sixty Six Paise) NPA (09-08-2024)	T/3/0302, tower-3, third Floor, second Flank Lakeside Heights, lake Grove City, Kundli Hospital, South West Delhi, Delhi-110030
(LC No. 1330000610 of Cannaught Place Branch) Jitendra Omare (Borrower) Alka Devi (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 2338328 / (₹ Twenty Three Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Eight Only) NPA (09-08-2024)	Plot no. c-32, Second Floor Block L H S Kh No. 730, Mohan Garden, Villa Nawada Uttam Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi - 110026
(LC No. 2340000205 of Agr Branch) Uday Bir Singh (Borrower) Sashi Devi (Co Borrower 1) Amit Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 780865 / (₹ Seven lakh Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Five Only) NPA (09-08-2024)	Plot No. 25 On kharsa No. 130, Deep Puram Colony Noida - Aurangabad Bagh Agrta Mathura Uttar Pradesh - 281006
(LC No. 196DE36759 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) SANDEEP GUPTA (Borrower) Pooja Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1343902.6 / (₹ Thirteen lakh Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Two Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (09-08-2024)	H/flat No.1223, Floor. 17a, Village Yamuna Expressway Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201205
(LC No. M0268962 of Noida Branch) Zahidur Rahman (Borrower) Taslima Rahman (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 3090111.24 / (₹ Thirty one Lakh Ninety Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only and Twenty Four Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	Property No. C 50 B, Block C, Kharsa No. 79, Village- Babarpur, Sushila Public School, Kabir Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094.
(LC No. M0268962 of Noida Branch) Zahidur Rahman (Borrower) Taslima Rahman (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1341480.36 / (₹ Thirteen lakh Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Only and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	Property No. C 50 B, Block C, Kharsa No. 79, Village- Babarpur, Sushila Public School, Kabir Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094.
(LC No. BLSA00016063 of Delhi Branch) Aryanam Roy (Borrower) Rina Roy (Co Borrower 1)	17-08-2024 / ₹ 1229565.6 / (₹ Twelve lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (03-08-2024)	C3 Flat No.1

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



The combined inflation (rural and urban) fell to 3.65% in August 2024, compared to 6.83% in August 2023. However, it has increased by 110 basis points when compared to the previous month's 3.54%. This was the second time in nearly five years that overall retail inflation fell below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target. The last time was July 2024. The RBI's inflation target is

2023. Urban food inflation fell to 4.99% in August 2024, compared to 10.42% in August 2023. Rural food inflation fell to 6.02% in August 2024, compared to 9.67% in August 2023. Tomatoes have exhibited the lowest year on year inflation (-47.91%) as well as lowest MoM change in index (-28.8%). The prices of vegetables rose the most by 10.71%, compared to the other item categories. In urban areas, the rise was 13.22% and in rural areas, it was 13.22%. Bihar witnessed the highest combined inflation among all Indian states in August 2024 at 6.62%, followed by Odisha at 5.63% and Assam at 5.03%. On the other hand, Telangana had the lowest combined inflation of 2.02% followed by Uttarakhand at 2.37% and Delhi at 2.52%.

# Nifty hits lifetime high

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

The NSE Nifty surged 470.45 points or 1.89 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 25,388.90. The benchmark hit its fresh all-time intra-day high of 25,433.35, a jump of 514.9 points or 2 per cent. Nifty and Sensex opened higher and traded in a range till late afternoon trade. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, JSW



Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest gainers. Nestle emerged as the only laggard from the blue-chip pack.

While the session remained subdued for the most part, strong buying in heavyweight stocks across sectors propelled the indices sharply upward in the final hours, Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled with significant gains while Shanghai ended marginally lower. European markets were trading higher. Wall Street ended with sharp gains on Wednesday. Latest US inflation numbers are mildly positive for markets. August CPI inflation coming at 0.2 per cent has brought down the

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

"This paves the way for a rate cut by the Fed in September. But since core inflation continues to remain high at 3.2 per cent the Fed is likely to be cautious and refrain from a 50 bps rate cut, finally settling for a 25 bps rate cut," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,755 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. FIIs turning buyers in the cash market during the last three days is another indication that the market will continue to be resilient, Vijayakumar added. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.39 per cent to USD 71.59 a barrel. The BSE benchmark dropped 398.13 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 81,523.16 on Wednesday. The NSE Nifty declined 122.65 points or 0.49 per cent to 24,918.45.

# DGCA orders audit of flying schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a special audit of flying training organisations in the country amid recent accidents involving training aircraft. The audit of flying training organisations (FTOs) will be conducted in three phases from September to November 2024. It will cover 33 FTOs. "This audit aims to thoroughly assess the safety standards, operational procedures, and systemic deficiencies within flying training organisations to ensure the highest levels of safety and compliance," DGCA said in a release on



Thursday. The regulator said the move follows a series of recent training aircraft incidents that have sparked concerns regarding the compliance of FTOs with respect to the established aviation regulations and safety protocols. The last such special audit was conducted in 2022. "The audit will scrutinise each FTO's adherence to DGCA's regulatory standards, including aircraft maintenance, airworthiness, and training operations," the release said.

# India, China talk aviation cooperation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and China on Thursday discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the civil aviation sector, including resumption of direct flights between the two countries. Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam and other senior officials met with representatives from China on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in the national capital. In a post on X, Naidu said he along with senior officials had a courtesy meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Song Zhiyong. The meeting focused on

exchange of views regarding "further strengthening civil aviation cooperation between the two countries, especially promoting early resumption of scheduled passenger flights between us," the minister said in the post. Later, Naidu told reporters that the Chinese side mentioned about resumption of direct flights but no decision has been taken. A decision will be taken after discussions with the external affairs ministry and other stakeholders. Currently, there are no direct flights between India and China. The services stopped at the time of coronavirus pandemic. IndiGo and Air India had flight services to China.

# Oil prices drop, fuel costs may follow

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell below USD 70 per barrel on Tuesday - the first time since December 2021 - but gained thereafter after Hurricane Francine hit crude supply in the Gulf of Mexico. Brent rose above USD 71 a barrel on Thursday while West Texas Intermediate advanced to trade near USD 68. Petrol and diesel prices - which have been on a freeze for over two years now



barring a pre-election reduction earlier this year - will be revised if the declining trend sustains, they said. Oil Secretary Pankaj Jain speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, said the oil companies will be taking appropriate decisions on reducing fuel prices if international oil prices were

to settle lower on a sustained basis. Industry sources said the three state-owned fuel retailers are making good profits on petrol and diesel but want the trend to continue before deciding on a revision. "They don't want a situation where they cut prices and are faced with a situation where international prices rise," an official explained. Brokerage Emkay Global Financial Services in a note said it expects Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to cut petrol and diesel prices before elections in Maharashtra. "We believe there are expectations of a retail price cut in auto-fuels for oil

marketing companies (OMCs) amid the upcoming state elections. While we do not rule out the same, the model code of conduct for J&K and Haryana is on for a month. There could be a cut only toward Diwali and before Maharashtra election's model code of conduct, which could be Rs 2 per litre each for petrol and diesel and possibly coupled with an equivalent increase in excise duty," it said. However, during the next month, OMCs can earn supernormal marketing margins, covering LPG under-recoveries and inventory losses to a large extent. We estimate implied July-September gross marketing margins at Rs 9.7/8 per liter for petrol/diesel vs Rs 4.7/3.8 in Q1 (April-June) and a normative range of Rs 3.5-4 each," it said.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

health insurance cover would benefit senior citizens of around 4.5 crore families. Reacting to the announcement, Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH President Abhay Soi said, "We believe this initiative will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and strengthen India's position as a leader in inclusive healthcare". The benefit package needs to be tailored to the population segment so that it encompasses the entire continuum of care, he said, adding that NATHEALTH is ready to support the government with the rollout. Similarly, Organisation of

Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai described the initiative as "a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly". "It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move," he added. Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private



health insurance schemes, as "These individuals represent a segment that must be brought into the fold of financial protection," he asserted.

Welcoming the government's move, Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) Chairman Pavan Choudhary said the decision to extend health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above - irrespective of income under AB PM-JAY is commendable. "MTAI, having consistently advocated for this inclusion, recognises this move as a landmark step toward equitable healthcare for India's ageing population," he added. Paras Health Group Chief Operating Officer Santy Sajan described the government's

step as a much-needed step towards ensuring that India's elderly population has access to essential healthcare services. "As India's senior population grows, the demand for geriatric care is increasing, and this initiative is a timely response to that need. By providing comprehensive health coverage to our senior citizens, the scheme not only alleviates the financial burden on families but also reinforces the importance of accessible healthcare for all age groups," he added. Similarly, FICCI (Health Services) President Harsh Mahajan said, "As our elderly population grows, so does the

need for specialised geriatric care, and this expansion will enable more families to access essential services without the burden of overwhelming medical expenses". However, he said, expanding the beneficiary base by such a significant margin presents real-life challenges, particularly regarding the viability of the scheme for smaller and medium-sized hospitals. "These institutions often operate on tight margins, and the added pressure of accommodating a larger patient base, especially with senior citizens requiring more intensive care, could strain their resources," Mahajan said.

# WhatsApp Business introduces verified badge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With more businesses embracing messaging to engage with their customers, Meta on Thursday announced a slew of new features and programmes including full availability of verified badge - a trust marker - for small businesses to establish credibility and credentials with consumers. At the WhatsApp Business Summit in Mumbai, Meta also spotlighted Artificial Intelligence tools for enhancing the messaging experience. To start with, Meta will make it easy to activate AI directly from WhatsApp Business app to enable businesses to engage more efficiently with their customers - it has recently started testing this in India, and says early results are exciting.

The US social media giant also announced customised messages on WhatsApp Business app, as it pledged commitment to supporting the growth of small businesses in India. Meta said the line up of features and updates will help businesses across the country



build a presence and create great in-chat experiences for customers while driving performance ahead of the upcoming festive season. It also announced WhatsApp Bharat Yatra - an outreach to various tier 2 and 3 cities in India for offering on-ground, in-person training to small businesses. Under the initiative, it will train small businesses in setting up their WhatsApp Business accounts, creating catalogs, educating them on how to set up ads that click to WhatsApp, among others.

Meta India, Vice President Sandhya Devanathan noted: "The way we WhatsApp a business has only continued to grow. The manner in which Indians are WhatsApping businesses is second to none." According to the platform, the ease of WhatsApp has placed it at the centre of India's digital transformation, helping businesses with ideas and new models of growth.

# Industrial output growth slows down

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production growth slowed down to 4.8 per cent in July this year mainly due to poor show by mining and manufacturing sectors, according to official data released on Thursday. The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) witnessed a growth of 6.2 per cent in July 2023. India's Index of Industrial Production increased by 4.8 per cent in July 2024, an official statement said. The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew 4.6 per cent in July 2024 against 5.3 per cent in the year-ago month. Mining production rose by 3.7 per cent and power output increased 7.9 per cent in July 2024. In the April-July period, the IIP grew 5.2 per cent against 5.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

# Tata Power offers settlement chance at National Lok Adalat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), a leading power utility supplying electricity to the populace of over seven million in North Delhi, is participating in a National Lok Adalat in association with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) on Saturday, to settle cases of electricity theft and disconnected connections. The Adalat will be held from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at PLA-I, Sub Station Building 2/13, Sector - 13, Rohini, Delhi - 110085, near Venkateshwar Global School. "Those who want to take part in the proceedings of National Lok Adalat, need to register at helpline 19124 or by writing to eac.care@tatapower-

ddl.com. Registered litigants should carry their Photo ID, along with a copy of theft bill or disconnected connection," Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), said in a statement. "This is a good opportunity for consumers seeking amicable on-the-spot settlement of power theft cases and disconnected connections. In case of a default, the company will be obliged to initiate criminal/ civil proceedings against the consumers under the relevant provisions of Electricity Act, 2003 and DERC Regulations. Consumers can pay their bills through various means, such as Cheque, Demand Draft (DD), Debit Card, Credit Card and various online modes, or Cash.

# Soyabean oil imports surge amid price drop

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's crude soyabean oil imports reached a seasonal high of 4,54,639 tonnes in August, even as local soyabean prices have dropped below the minimum support price (MSP), industry body Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) said on Thursday. According to SEA, crude soyabean oil imports in August 2023 stood at 3,57,890 tonnes. The share of non-palm oils, including soyabean oil, made up 48 per cent of the total vegetable oil imports. The surge in imports comes as local soyabean prices dropped below the MSP, raising concerns about farmers' income with the new crop's arrival expected in the coming weeks. SEA praised the government's efforts to procure soyabean at MSP in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka, but suggested increasing import duties on crude and refined edible oils by 20 to 25 per cent across the board as a more effective solution. "This



will translate into remunerative price to the farmers for his produce and the market forces will be able to pay above MSP price to the farmers and at the same time the government does not have to procure at MSP," SEA said in a statement. The industry body noted that in the last two months, soyabean ex-mandi prices were Rs 550-600 per quintal below the MSP of Rs 4,892 per quintal causing unrest among farmers. However, total vegetable oil imports declined to 15.63 lakh tonnes in August from 18.66 lakh tonnes a year ago. In the non-palm oils segment, crude sunflower oil imports fell 22.34 per cent to 2.84 lakh tonnes in August.

# KS Rana named trade commissioner, Sultanate of Oman



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NANDINI SATPATHY RETOLD

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

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

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

Dr Samuel Johnson is rated as the most distinguished man of letters in English history. Johnson (1709-1784) was a literary critic par excellence and he was the trendsetter in this field. His style and thought process has resulted in the Samuel Johnson's school of criticism and continues to be the benchmark of this field of literature. But what is equally important is the biography of Johnson authored by James Boswell, a lawyer and writer. Scotland-born James Boswell wrote "Life of Samuel Johnson" which was published in 1791 based on the series of interviews and dialogues he had with Johnson. This biography stands out as

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

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

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

breaking books as he had personal contacts with these great sons of India.

Those who lambast Savarkar for reasons known to them only should take time and read Keer's books.

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

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

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

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

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

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

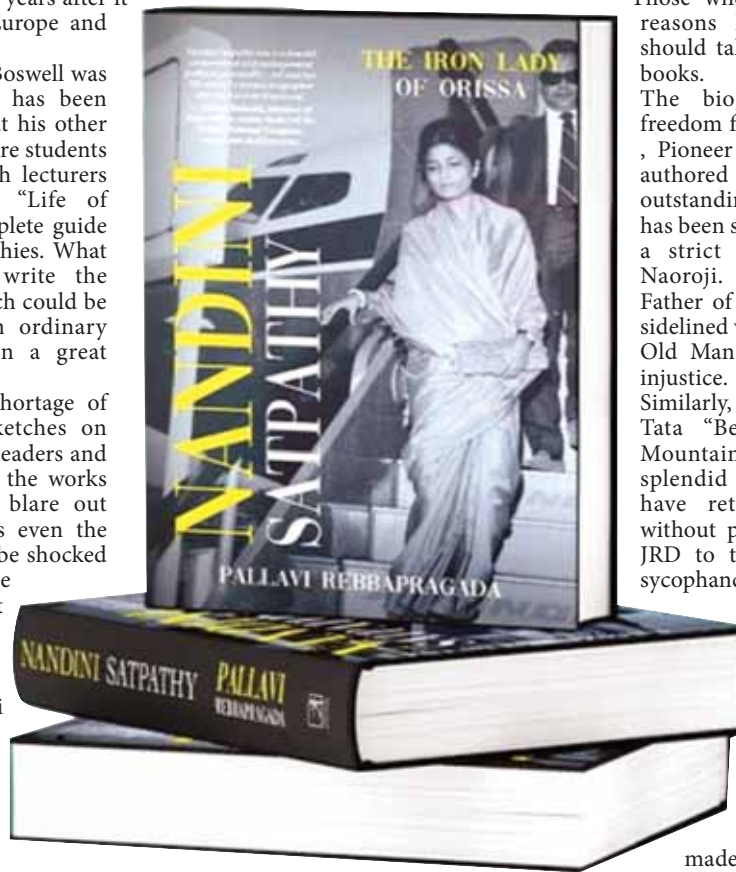
Nanavum Poyi" which was the Malayalam for "With Jagjivan's exit, the party lost its life, With Bahuguna's exit, the party lost quality and with Nandini gone, the party lost the last vestige of whatever reputation". To be candid, Nandini Satpathy's name hogged the national limelight when she left the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

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

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

**NANDINI SATPATHY**  
**Pallavi Rebbapragada**

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster India  
**Ptice:** INR 899/



## NEW RELEASES

by Rupa Publications India and Aleph Book Company

### Autocrats: Charisma, Power and Their Lives

RAJIV DOGRA

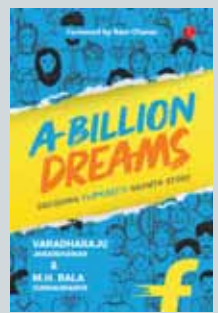
Rajiv Dogra's *Autocrats: Charisma, Power, and Their Lives* offers a penetrating exploration into the world of authoritarian leaders. The book dissects how such leaders' cults of personality take root and endure, revealing their psychological profiles, private lives and the progression of tyranny through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



(Price: INR 795, Pages: 352)

### A Billion Dreams: Decoding Flipkart's Growth Story

Varadaraju Janardhanan and M.H. Bala Subrahmanya



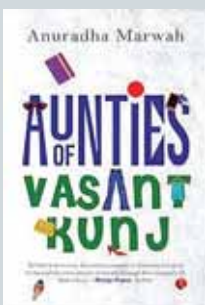
*A Billion Dreams* charts the extraordinary growth of Flipkart, from its humble beginnings as an online bookstore founded by Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal to becoming a major player in India's e-commerce sector. The book reveals how Flipkart's innovative approach and culture of corporate entrepreneurship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

(Price: INR 395, Pages: 176)

### Aunties of Vasant Kunj

ANURADHA MARWAH

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



(Price: INR 395, Pages: 304)

## The Silent Contributors to India's Economic Growth

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

Suhanaa Setty's debut book, *Invisible - Hands of the Indian Economy*, is a compelling and insightful examination of the often-overlooked contributions of women to India's economy. At just 16 years old, Setty offers a powerful critique of traditional economic frameworks, highlighting how the labour of countless women remains unrecognised in standard economic measures such as GDP. Her work is both a poignant exploration of personal stories and a significant challenge to conventional notions of economic value. The book focuses on the lives of 22 women from diverse backgrounds whose essential, yet unpaid, work is crucial to the functioning of both their families and the broader economy. Setty uses personal anecdotes and striking black-and-white photography to vividly illustrate these stories. Through these narratives, she contrasts the visible, often well-compensated labour found in offices and factories with the invisible, unpaid labour performed in homes and informal sectors. This approach serves as a powerful

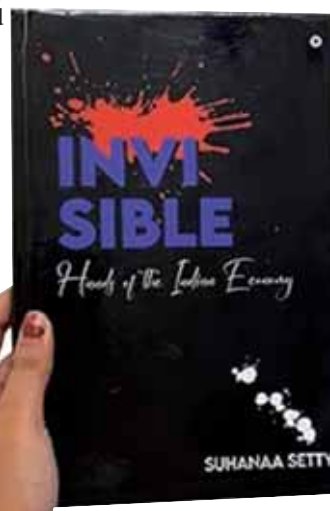
reminder of the importance of recognising and valuing work that sustains the economy but is frequently taken for granted.

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

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

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

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



entrepreneurial ambitions with unpaid family care, are presented with empathy and respect. Setty portrays these women not as just statistics but as individuals with their own struggles, aspirations and contributions. This humanising approach makes the book more than just an academic critique, it serves as a tribute to the resilience and strength of women who significantly contribute to their communities despite facing considerable barriers. The visual elements of the book, including the evocative black-and-white photographs, enhance its impact by providing a tangible connection to the stories being told. The images capture moments of both work and reflection, helping readers appreciate the real, everyday labour performed by these women. This visual storytelling underscores the book's central message: that behind every overlooked contribution is a person whose work deserves recognition and respect. While Setty's book does not offer specific policy recommendations, it

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

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

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

## DRAUPADI'S MEMOIRS

### A new perspective on mythic fiction

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

Through her first-person narrative, Rajee explores the layers of Draupadi's life, from her enigmatic marriage to the five Pandavas to her strategic foresight in a hostile world. With easy-to-follow language and modern mythic fiction style, Rajee's debut offers a fresh take on ancient tales, appealing to readers of all ages. Draupadi is one of the most polarizing characters in Indian epics—adored and maligned in equal measure. Her silent acceptance of her mother-in-law Kunti's words, which made her the shared wife of five men, remains puzzling to many. Equally difficult to comprehend are her dismissive remarks towards Karna, rejecting him as low-born

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



moment when Draupadi refuses to let Karna attempt the challenge, leading to Arjuna's triumph. However, Draupadi's life takes an unexpected turn when Kunti unknowingly orders her sons to share whatever they have brought home, including Draupadi. While shocked by this command, Draupadi soon realizes the deeper need for unity among the brothers to navigate a dangerous world. Her acceptance is portrayed as both strategic and pragmatic. As the story unfolds, Draupadi's foresight comes into play. She repeatedly urges her husbands to seek partition, a move that eventually grants them a kingdom—though not as they imagined. The

Pandavas are given Khandavaprastha, a barren wasteland, but with confidence in their abilities, they set out to build a mighty empire. Sonali Rajee's *The Empress of Indraprastha* is told in the first person, offering Draupadi's own perspective on the events of her life. The 138-page book, part of a new genre of contemporary mythic-fiction, is accessible and engaging for readers of all ages. Rajee's scientific background and experience as an associate professor of chemistry add a unique depth to her storytelling, especially in revisiting a subject that has been explored by many authors before her.

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

**PTI ■ BUDAPEST (HUNGARY)**  
Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian mens team blanked Morocco 4-0, while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here. With world championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defense game while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins to start off confidently on Wednesday. In the womens section, R Vaishali and Tania Sachdev scored fine victories in the first time control itself. However, on the other two boards there was stiff resistance as Divya Deshmukh had to sweat hard for a much-needed victory while Vantika Agarwal was forced to concede a draw in the endgame against her rival. It was business as usual for the top guns despite the occasional hiccups. Top seeded United States also won 3.5-0.5 against Panama. Wesley So was the



lone American who was unable to force matters and had to be content with a draw. Armenian-American Levon Aronian came out of an early mishap to turn the tables and ensure smooth sailing for the American team into round two. As many as 99 teams in the open section started off with wins giving them all two points each. A total of 182 teams were paired while 15 teams were still grappling to reach Budapest. Praggnanandhaa was up against a Sicilian by top Moroccan Mohamed who had only himself to blame after the opening got over. The Indian teen had a stronghold on the king side that he utilised to the fullest to take the first point home for the team. Not very far behind was Gujrathi who was clearly in his elements. He also got an opening advantage out of a King pawn game against Jacques Elbilbia as he knocked down a pawn and never looked back. Erigaisi may have had to work harder but the Indian youngster, who is currently

Vaishali had no trouble in converting her position with black pieces as D Harika was rested on the top board. Tania Sachdev was in command right through and despite a little mess-up, she did not let the advantage slip through her hands playing on board four. On the second board, there were some serious issues for Divya Deshmukh but the recently-crowned world junior girls champion proved her mettle out of an equal position. The same, however, was not the case with Vantika as she was forced in a drawn queen and pawns endgame. The womens event features 178 teams as of now with 19 still awaited to join the extravaganza from round two onward. Indian results round 1: R Praggnanandhaa beat Tissir Mohamed; Jacques Elbilbia lost to Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi beat Ouakhir Mehdi Pierre; Anas Moayad lost to P Harikrishna. **Women:** R Vaishali beat Adani Clarke; Divya Deshmukh beat Rachel Miller; Raehanna Brown drew with Vantika Agrawal; Tania Sachdev beat Gabriella Watson.



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

**PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)**  
Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as defending champions India beat Korea 3-1 to register their fourth consecutive win at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here on Thursday. Paris Olympics bronze medalist India had defeated China 3-0, Japan 5-0 before thrashing last years runner-up Malaysia 8-1. Already assured of a semifinal berth, India will play arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday in their last league match in the six-team competition. The top four teams from the league stages will qualify for the semifinals scheduled on Monday, while the final will be played next Tuesday. India continued their fine form and struck twice early in the first quarter to take a 2-0 lead. Arajjeet Singh Hundal, who scored a brace against Malaysia, scored the first goal in the eighth minute before Harmanpreet, regarded as one of the worlds best dragflickers, converted two penalty corners in the ninth and 43rd minutes. Korea's lone goal was scored by Jihun Yang in the 30th minute from a penalty corner. As has been the case in the tournament so far, the Indians started on an aggressive note with Arajjeet handing his side the lead with a brilliant strike after being fed by Sukhjeet Singh. A minute later, the promising Raj Kumar Pal, who struck a hat-trick against Malaysia on Wednesday, earned a penalty corner for India and captain Harmanpreet converted the chance with a powerful dragflick. Indias reserve goalkeeper Suraj Karkera was impressive under the bar, denying Korea on a few occasions in the second quarter. After an impressive first quarter, the Indians seemed to have gone into a shell in the next 15 minutes as Korea dominated the proceedings with continuous forays on the rival citadel. The Indian defence stood tall until Korea pulled a goal just at the stroke of half-time through Yang whose effort went into the net after getting a deflection from Manpreet Singhs stick from a penalty corner opportunity. The Koreans secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 35th minute but India defended bravely. India secured their second penalty corner two minutes later but wasted the chance. The holders managed to restore their two-goal lead in the 43rd minute when Harmanpreet scored with a powerful low flick to the left of the Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim. At the start of the fourth quarter, Jarmanpreet Singh conceded a penalty corner but the Indian defence was up to the task. Thereafter, the Indians controlled the proceedings and did not let Korea create any scoring opportunity.

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

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



in Australia, besides recording some memorable wins elsewhere. With his aggressive captaincy, Kohli made everyone believe that the Indian team can win overseas as well, and his confidence rubbed on the side even when he was not around. During the last Test series in Australia in 2020-21, Kohli left for India after the first match due to the birth of his daughter Vamika. But India, under the captaincy of Ajinkya Rahane, battled injuries and the absence of key players to eke out a historic 2-1 series win. "They won a game at the Gabba, which just doesnt happen. I think their batters adapt to overseas batting conditions very well. "I dont think theyre as daunted by the Gabba or the Optus Oval as they may be once were. Maybe it is a selection thing, or they just dont fear the big stage anymore," observed Ponting. During Kohlis tenure, India won 40 matches and lost 17, with 11 ending

in draws out of the 68 Tests they played. This time around, Kohli will tour Australia under longtime India colleague Rohit Sharmas captaincy. "Their fast-bowling depth is great. The leadership in the last 6-7 years has been strong." Ponting also praised the Indian Premier League for producing players who like to play fearless cricket. "For the last 10 years being around the IPL, Ive noticed that a lot of the young guys (play aggressively without fear) as the IPL is high-pressure. It is like a World Cup for them. "Their batsmen are all very aggressive stroke-making players. They are not scared of failing," he concluded. The Aussies have failed to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy since their last series victory in 2014-15 at home. The Indians have claimed the title on four successive instances since then, winning twice each at home and away.

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

**AP ■ PARIS**  
Kylian Mbappé is not ready to compromise with Paris Saint-Germain. The France superstar rejected a mediation offer by the French soccer leagues legal commission on Wednesday in his dispute with his former club over wages and bonuses. PSG officials and Mbappés representatives met in Paris after Mbappé asked the commission to get involved. Mbappé, who joined Real Madrid this summer on a free transfer, says PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$60 million). In a statement to The Associated Press, Mbappés representatives said the player asked the commission to take note of the non-payment of three months salary and the last third of a loyalty bonus. "The eventuality of a mediation was mentioned this morning," the statement read. "This possibility was rejected during the meeting by the players representative. A mediation would be useless to record a lack of payment that would be seen from a simple analysis of the players payslip." PSG, which said it was pleased with the two-hour hearing at the commission on Wednesday, said in a statement it recalled that Mbappé had formerly made "clear, repeated public and private commitments that must be respected, having been afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over seven fantastic years in Paris." PSG has argued that it does not owe money to the World Cup winner under an agreement when Mbappé was sidelined ahead of the 2023-24 season - following his decision not to prolong his contract with the club - with the player allegedly stipulating that he would relinquish bonuses over his reintegration into the team. "To avoid its payment obligation, the club seeks to demonstrate the existence of a secret agreement that would justify it. But the club fails to demonstrate the existence of such an agreement," Mbappés representatives said. PSG said that the leagues legal commission recommended "mediation between the parties," which the club said it had been seeking for months. The French league did not respond to a request for comments from the AP. The players representatives did not say what action they will now take. In light of the current



deadlock, its likely the case will ultimately be settled by an employment court. Mbappés relationship with PSG ended amid deep tensions during his final season at the club. PSG felt let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in the clubs history when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players were not kept. When he signed the new deal, he was paraded in front of fans holding up a jersey with 2025 on it. Mbappé was reportedly annoyed about this because the contract was until 2024 with the option for an extra year. Mbappé stunned PSG in June last year by informing the club he would not take the option for an extra year. With his contract effectively into its final year, it put PSG in the position of needing to sell Mbappé to avoid losing him for free when the contract expired. His PSG career could have ended in the summer of 2023 amid a tense transfer standoff. After telling the club he would not extend his contract for an extra year, Mbappé was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. PSG said it would rather sell him than let the player leave for free in 2024, but he rejected a 300 million euro move to Saudi team Al-Hilal. PSG left Mbappé out of the teams opening league game of that season as the standoff continued but eventually let him return to the lineup after "constructive and positive talks" between the two parties, PSG said at the time.

# Chopra, Sable spearhead Indian challenge in Diamond League season finale

**PTI ■ BRUSSELS**  
Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra will have lofty expectations to live up to, while for steeplechaser Avinash Sable, it would be an opportunity to make up for a disappointing Olympics, when the star-studded Diamond League season finale begins here on Friday, featuring the best of world athletics. The showpiece is spread over two days for the first time and the field features top athletes from all continents, including an unprecedented number of Olympic medal winners, who will be vying for the top honours in 32 disciplines. Pole vault world record holder Armand DuPlantis, American sprint queen ShaCarri Richardson, and superstar hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone are among the big names who will light up the King Baudouin Stadium here. National record-holding 3000m steeplechaser Sable, after finishing 11th in the Olympic Games, will be in action on Friday in his maiden appearance in the DL season finale. Chopra, who added a silver to his Olympic medal tally in Paris following a historic gold in the Tokyo Games, will be aiming to end his season on a high on Saturday. It is for the first time that a DL finale features two Indians. Sable finished 14th in the overall Diamond League standings with three points from two meetings. But four athletes ranked higher than him — Lamecha Girma



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

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

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

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Rhythm Sangwan will be the only Indian shooter to compete in two events in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final here after double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker opted for a three-month rest following her exploits in the Paris Games. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Thursday announced a 23-member Indian squad for the tournament that will be held across rifle, pistol and shotgun categories from October 13 to 18 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range. The squad features nine members from the Paris Olympics team which returned with three bronze medals. A total of 11 Indian Olympians will gun for the title of the best shooter of the year along with the worlds best in 12 individual Olympic events. The 22-year-old Bhaker scripted history for India in Paris as she won a bronze each in the womens 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team

event (paired with Sarabjot Singh in the latter), and the Indian shooters participating in the prestigious tournament in the national capital will look to carry on the momentum at the familiar range. "We have a strong squad of proven performers for the ISSF year-end and look forward to a strong performance. Expectations from the sport have reached sky-high after the Paris performance...", said Sultan Singh, secretary general, NRAI. Four shooters — Divyansh Singh Panwar (mens 10m air rifle), Sonam Uttam Maskar (womens 10m air rifle), Rhythm (womens 10m air pistol & 25m pistol) and Ganemat Sekhon (womens skeet) have been selected by ISSF directly, while the



rest of the members have been picked on the basis of their Olympic trials rankings. The 20-year-old Rhythm will have Surbhi Rao for company in the womens 10m air pistol competition. Seasoned shooters and Olympians Mairaj Ahmed Khan (mens skeet) and Chain Singh (mens 50m rifle 3 positions) have returned to the team. Besides Rhythm, the other Paris Olympians in the squad include Arjun Babuta (mens 10m air rifle), Arjun Singh Cheema (mens 10m air pistol), Anish and Vijayveer Sidhu (mens 25m rapid-fire pistol), Shreyasi Singh and Rajeshwari Kumari (womens trap), Maheshwari Chauhan (womens skeet) and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka (mens skeet).