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RAFAEL NADAL
WITHDRAWS FROM
LAVER CUP IN BERLIN
12 SPORTS

SUPREME COURT RELEASES KEJRIWAL

RAJESH KUMAR ■
NEW DELHI

Head of Haryana Assembly election, AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday walked out of Tihar jail, hours after being granted bail by the Supreme Court in the corruption case by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan ordered Kejriwal's release on a personal bail bond of Rs 10 lakh and two sureties in the like amount. Kejriwal got bail after spending six months in Tihar Jail.

The top court restrained Kejriwal from visiting the Chief Minister's Office and Delhi Secretariat. He shall also not sign official files unless it is required and necessary for obtaining clearance / approval of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor.

It also restrained him from commenting on his role in the money-laundering case against him and asked him not to interact with witnesses and / or have access to official files connected with the case. With bail conditions that do not give him complete freedom to perform his duties as Chief Minister, including that he cannot visit the Secretariat or the CM Office therein or sign any files other than those that have to be cleared by the Lieutenant Governor, officials said that the AAP Government



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal acknowledges supporters amid rainfall after walking out of the Tihar Jail, in New Delhi, Friday, Sept. 13, 2024. The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday granted bail to the AAP convener in a corruption case lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the excise policy 'scam'

may encounter some problems, albeit small. At the same time, both the judges were unanimous in the decision to grant bail to Kejriwal considering the fact that the chargesheet has been filed in the case and that the trial is unlikely to be completed in the near future. The same conditions imposed by the coordinate bench while granting interim bail in the ED

case will apply in this case too. However, despite granting bail, the Court held that the arrest of Kejriwal by CBI was valid and in compliance with relevant procedural laws. While Justice Surya Kant said Kejriwal's arrest by CBI does not suffer from any procedural infirmity, Justice Bhuyan, in a separate judgment, raised questions on the necessity and timing of the arrest.

Justice Bhuyan said the arrest raises more questions than it seeks to answer. Justice Bhuyan also expressed reservations about the bail condition that Kejriwal should not visit the CM's office or the Secretariat. However, he chose not to pass any direction in that regard having regard to judicial discipline and reverence for a direction passed by a coordinate bench.

"The Appellant has been granted interim bail by this Court in the ED matter on 10.05.2024 and 12.07.2024, arising from the same set of facts. Additionally, several co-accused in both the CBI and ED matters have also been granted bail by the Trial Court, the High Court, and this Court in separate proceedings," Justice Surya Kant said. "In our considered view, although the procedure for the Appellant's arrest meets the requisite criteria for legality and compliance, continued incarceration for an extended period pending trial would infringe upon established legal principles and the Appellant's right to liberty, traceable to Article 21 of our Constitution. The Appellant has been granted interim bail by this Court in the ED matter on 10.05.2024 and 12.07.2024, arising from the same set of facts. Additionally, several co-accused in both the CBI and ED matters have also been granted bail by the Trial Court, the High Court, and this Court in separate proceedings," Justice Kant observed.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, in a separate judgment, questioned the CBI for arresting Kejriwal, saying that such action by CBI raises serious questions on the timing of the arrest and such an arrest by CBI only fractured the bail granted in the ED case. Justice Bhuyan noted that the CBI did not arrest Kejriwal for 22 months and arrested Kejriwal on the cusp of his release in the ED case.

Six held for assault on two army officers, alleged rape

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
INDORE

All six men who attacked two Army officers and allegedly raped their woman friend near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh have been arrested, according to the police on Friday. Rohit Girwal (23), Sandeep Wariya (18) and Sachin Makwana (25) were held during the day from a forest patch near the site of crime, officials said.

The trio were on the run and a reward of Rs 10,000 each had been announced for their arrests. Three other accused, Anil Baror (27) and Pawan Bansunia (23) and Ritesh Bhabhar (25), were held on Wednesday and Thursday. They attacked near Jam Gate, a popular tourist spot some 30 kilometres from the Mhow military cantonment, on the intervening night of September 10 and 11, as per police.

Located on the Vindhya ranges, Jam Gate is surrounded by forests. In the rainy season, this place is frequented by tourists during the day, but as the night falls, it gets desolate. As per police, the army officers, aged 23 and 24, undergoing the Young Officers course at the Infantry School in Mhow cantonment town, had gone out for a picnic with their two women friends.

"The four were listening to loud music. Hearing it in the deserted area late at night, six accused reached the spot and committed the crime," Superintendent of Police (Rural) Hitika Vasal told reporters. One of the attackers threatened the



Police officers in uniform standing near a vehicle.

victims with a pistol, while the others were carrying sticks, Vasal said. The accused held one couple hostage while assaulting them and told the other couple that the hostages would be released only if they brought them Rs 10 lakh, she said. Vasal said the police reached the spot as soon as the incident was reported, "but the accused fled on seeing the headlight of the police vehicle."

A case was registered under sections 70 (gang rape), 310-2 (dacoity), 308-2 (extortion) and 115-2 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and under sections of the Arms Act. On the allegation of rape mentioned in the FIR, the SP said the victim is in a state of shock and is not ready to give her statement. In the meantime, the accused are being questioned about the alleged rape, Vasal added.

Another police official rubbished speculation on social media that the army personnel and the women had come in contact through a dating app.

Hindu groups demand demolition of illegal portion of mosque in HP



Police use water cannons to disperse protestors demanding the demolition of a mosque allegedly built on encroached land, in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, Friday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
MANDI/SHIMLA

Hindu groups held a protest march in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi on Friday demanding the demolition of an unauthorised portion of a mosque in the town and tried to force their way towards the structure, forcing police to use water cannons to control the situation.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu appealed to the

people of the State to maintain peace and brotherhood. "I have appealed to everyone to maintain peace and make no provocative statements. No one is allowed to take the law into their hands. We respect everyone. The land of Himachal respects all religions," Sukhu said after an all-party meeting in Shimla. Members of the Muslim community had on Thursday demolished a portion of the mosque in Mandi, saying it

was a wall that was encroaching on Government land. The protests in Mandi came just two days after Shimla saw protesters gathered on a call by Hindu groups clash with security personnel during a demonstration to call for the demolition of an illegal portion of a mosque in the Sanjauli area. Protests by Hindu outfits against the disputed structure in the Sanjauli mosque kept Shimla on the boil since last week. But on Wednesday, the protest took a violent turn with people breaking barricades and pelting stones as police used water cannons and batons to disperse them - something unheard of in the cosmopolitan town. About 10 people, including police and women, were injured in the Himachal Pradesh capital and police detained some protesters as well, including Hindu Jagran Manch secretary Kamal Gautam.

Delhi becomes Dwarka, the Sunken Capital

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

The rain Gods have blessed the National Capital Region with abundant water this year, but these blessings come with the curse of traffic chaos. From Gurugram to Ghaziabad, Vasant Kunj to Vaishali, Delhi is inundated and office-goers and school-children alike are struggling to get to their destinations. If this was an isolated story of the 2024 monsoons, it would be understandable. No city in the world is designed to survive such heavy rainfall. The private weather forecaster, Skymet, told PTI on September 10, that Delhi had 913.1mm of rain these monsoons, 56 percent higher than normal. This is even before the deluge of the past 48 hours is accounted for. But this is a story of every monsoon in Delhi for the past quarter-century.

The sight of a submerged vehicle under Minto Bridge should now be enshrined as a "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO, because it has become such an endemic image. Not an enduring image, an endemic image, an enduring image happens once and stays forever. This image is now an annual sight, sometimes twice to thrice every season. And while it must be noted that the authorities, including the Indian railways, the custodians of the bridge have made attempts to fix the problems, it appears unfixable. But this is the issue in Delhi, we try to fix issues that we may not be able to fix instead of working out solutions to issues that can be. Like repairing and rehabilitating Delhi's sewer systems well before the storm drains and sewers get clogged with the first flush of the rains. Or to repair the roads well before the rains, instead of them becoming off-road obstacle courses and driving people to buy large SUVs instead of small cars — and this applies to all the satellite cities around Delhi as well, especially Gurugram. In fact, Gurugram, home to large multinationals and some of the richest real-estate in India, where high-



A man lifts his motorcycle after it got stuck in a pothole on a waterlogged road after rains

Traffic horror in Delhi NCR with heavy downpour, severe waterlogging

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■
NEW DELHI

Traffic horror persists in Delhi with heavy downpour across different parts of the national Capital and adjoining areas of Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram on Friday along with severe waterlogging, frequent breakdown of buses, potholes, unregulated traffic and tree falling which irked commuters as vehicles were seen moving at a snail pace on city's road.

Delhi is deluged due to incessant rains since last night amid a complete collapse of civic infrastructure with disruptions of movement across the city. People complained about not being able to reach their work places due to waterlogging in different areas of the city including Mehrauli-Badarpur road, Mathura road, Sangam Vihar, Aurobindo Marg, Madhu Vihar road, Delhi Gate, Sainik Farms, India Gate, Janpath Road, Kalindi Kunj,



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on Delhi-Gurugram expressway as the service lane is closed due to construction work of the underpass between Rajokari (Delhi) to Sirhaul Border

Gazipur, Laxmi Nagar, MG road, Connaught Place, Safdarjung, Uttam Nagar, and Dhaujla Kuan. Resident Welfare Associations asked locals to be cautious of the traffic jams in the city including in Sainik Farms. However, they have proved to be no help to the residents who are reeling with nature's fury, and getting stuck in traffic for hours. A commuter Atul Jain

expressed his displeasure with the authorities and said, "I have been stuck for more than half an hour now since Punjabi Bagh area is heavily damaged due to bridge construction and waterlogging. What frustrates me more is even though this has been an issue for days now, no authority is getting it repaired. Daily heavy traffic is affected due to this section."

rise apartments in exclusive societies sell for over 25 crore has such serious flooding, that social media users called some of these apartments 'River View' homes as Golf Course Road had knee-deep water. In posh areas of Delhi as well, multi-million dollar basement apartments are flooded thanks to poor planning and a century-old sewage system on its last legs.

And then there are the buses. Delhi residents can sympathise with the fact that every day multiple buses, many of which are way past their sell-by date break down, often at awkward angles and invariably at the narrowest stretches of the road and cause kilometres-long traffic.

Yes, heavy rains which lead to bad traffic can happen, yes, there can be waterlogging. There can be subsidence and road blockages. But this does not mean the entire monsoon season is lost to such occurrences. Good city-planning, especially since city-planners in Delhi ought to know about the monsoons by now after a couple of millennia of the city being established, we should account for heavy rains.

Centre renames Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday renamed Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram. Port Blair is the Capital city of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Home Minister Amit Shah announced the renaming and said the decision has been taken to free the nation from the colonial imprints as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an "unparalleled place" in the country's freedom struggle and history. Shah said while the earlier name had a colonial legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in India's freedom struggle and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' unique role in it.

Gym owner shot dead in Delhi's Greater Kailash

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old gym owner was shot dead on Thursday night by two bike-borne assailants at the posh neighbourhood of south Delhi's Greater Kailash area in a suspected case of gang war. The victim has been identified as Nadir Shah, who was reportedly a member of Rohit Chaudhary gang. He had previous criminal cases against him, including charges of robbery and attempted murder. He recently opened a gym in Greater Kailash Part I and wanted to live a simple life, according to sources. The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested two persons in connection with the incident as police suspect involvement of associates of jailed gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Hashim Baba in the murder. "These two are suspected to have provided logistical support to the shooters. They are being further interrogated by a



team of Special Cell," a senior officer said. The officer said that four more people were detained and questioned in connection with the case but the main shooter is still on the run. Shah also owned a business in Dubai and is stated to be known to some of the Delhi police officials. Sources said that at the time of the incident, some officials from the Delhi Police Special Cell, an anti-terror unit, were also present with Nadir inside the gym at the time of the incident. After the incident, all were seen running out in plain clothes.

BJP holds marathon meetings for PM's rally and roadshow

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming rally and roadshow in the city on September 15, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its preparations, conducting marathon meetings across all 28 mandals of Jamshedpur. Senior BJP leaders, former district presidents, and booth-level workers participated in these strategy meetings, aiming to ensure maximum public participation for the historic event.

The focus of the discussions was on rallying support from every booth and ensuring that a large number of citizens attend the public meeting, which will take place at Gopal Maidan in Bistupur. The roadshow will begin from Voltas Building and culminate at Gopal Maidan, with expectations of significant turnout along the streets of Jamshedpur.

In Golumuri mandal, a key meeting was held under the leadership of Mandal President Pappu Upadhyay at Kabir Club, Tuiladungr. The meeting, attended by senior leaders such as migrant Rajkumar Agarwal from Purvi Assembly, former

district president Dinesh Kumar, and several other prominent figures, laid out strategies to mobilize workers and residents from each booth. The emphasis was on ensuring that every household in the city is informed and encouraged to participate in the rally and roadshow. Rajkumar Agarwal addressed the gathering, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jamshedpur is a moment of pride for the city and that his leadership has brought the country to new heights of development. He urged the workers to work diligently to make the event a



success, with participation from every sector of the city. Former district president Dinesh Kumar highlighted the importance of the event from an organizational perspective, calling upon booth-level workers to actively engage the public and ensure their involvement. The meetings in all mandals were chaired by respective Mandal Presidents, with former district presidents tasked with overseeing the preparations. The speakers reiterated the need to connect with citizens at the grassroots level to ensure a historic turnout for the Prime Minister's visit.

The Golumuri meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from local booth president Mahavir Singh, and stage management was handled by Board General Secretary Ashok Samant. Leaders and workers such as Khemlal Choudhary, Appa Rao, Abhimanyu Singh, and many others attended the meeting, marking it as a significant step in BJP's preparation for the rally. The party remains confident that the streets of Jamshedpur will witness an unforgettable spectacle during the roadshow, making it a historic event for the Steel City.

Atrocities against women have gone up in State: Geeta Koda

PNS : RANCHI

Former MP and BJP state spokesperson Geeta Koda today took a dig at Chief Minister Hemant Soren. She said that in the JMM/Congress alliance government, the threats to the sisters and daughters of the state are constantly increasing. Daughters are unsafe today. And the criminals are unbridled.



She said that in the last 5 years, more than 7000 rape and molestation incidents are recorded in the state government records. In which most of the incidents have happened with the sisters and daughters of the tribal Dalit community.

She said that whether it is the suspicious murder of Rupa Tirkey, or cutting Rubika Pahadia into 52 pieces and throwing them away, pouring petrol on Ankita sleeping in her house and burning her to death, and killing Inspector Sandhya Topno by cow smugglers by crushing her with a truck. Thousands of such heinous crimes tell the condition of women in the state in the last 5 years. She said that the most unfortunate situation is that the Hemant government is appeasing crime as well. For the Hemant government, the vote bank is more important than the respect of daughters. He said that the Chief Minister should tell how many rapists have been punished by the state government so far. How many cases are pending in the fast track court. He said that the daughters of the state have come to know about the greed for power of the Hemant government. He has nothing to do with the respect of daughters.

UP CM Yogi's huge public rally in Lohardaga on Sept 26

VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA

The meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party officials and senior members was held on Friday in the BJP district office under the chairmanship of District President Manir Oraon. Southern division in-charge cum state BJP minister Ganesh Mishra was mainly present in the meeting. In the meeting, the preparations to welcome Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's huge public meeting and Parivartan Sankalp Rath Yatra on 26th September in Lohardaga Assembly were discussed. In this sequence, system heads were selected regarding the arrangements.

Powerganj Chowk and Siding. On the occasion, Ganesh Mishra said that there is anger among the people of the state towards the coalition government in Jharkhand. This government is not going to come to power again, change is certain. Bharatiya Janata Party has taken out Parivartan Sankalp Yatra in the Southern Division from 22nd September, which will cover a distance of 986 kilometers till 30th September. During this period, public awareness will be created among the people about the change in power. He said that a huge public meeting of Yogi Adityanath and State President Babul Marandi has been organized in Lohardaga on 26th, for which preparations are being made. Officers and senior members were present in the meeting.

Also, it was decided to welcome Sankalp Rath at Senha, Rana Chowk Lohardaga, Gudribazar.



SAIL Corporate Office hosts Rajbhasha Officers' meeting in Delhi

R SHARMA : BOKARO

A meeting of Rajbhasha (Official Language) Officers was held at the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Corporate Office in New Delhi. The event witnessed the participation of over 20 Rajbhasha officers from various SAIL plants and units.

Director (Personnel), K.K. Singh addressed the gathering, emphasizing the progressive promotion and use of Hindi in official work. Singh shared his insights on the growing importance of the Rajbhasha initiative across the organization.

Executive Director (Personnel), B.S. Popli was also present at the occasion, further adding to the significance of the meeting. The officers collectively discussed strategies to strengthen the implementation of the Rajbhasha policy within SAIL operations.



SBPS students qualify for CBSE National Taekwondo Championship



The students of Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi brought laurels to the school with their outstanding performance in CBSE East Zone Taekwondo Championship 2024 held in Varanasi from 9 to 12 September, 2024. 4 students, Nandini Mourya (VII C), Aakriti Oraon (VIII F), Siya Shukla (IX H) and Shourya Kumar (XI A) won silver medals and qualified for CBSE National level championship, and 5 students, Satyam Anand (VII G), Shreya Nandi (VIII C), Vaishnavi Choudhary (VIII D), Vanshika Srivastava (X H) and Anvesha Gupta (XII C) won bronze medals in the championship.

Hindi Diwas Celebrated at SCS



The Hindi Department of Surenranath Centenary School celebrated Hindi Diwas on 13th September 2024 with great enthusiasm, aiming to promote and preserve the language. A special assembly was held in the junior wing, featuring a thought-provoking speech by Sakshi Singh on the significance of Hindi Diwas and the language. The event showcased a group song, "Alag-Alag Hai Bhasha," highlighting India's linguistic diversity, and a Nukkad Natak, "Hindi ki Aatmakatha," tracing the journey of the Hindi language. Students from Classes VI to VIII recited poems by renowned poet Suryakant Tripathi Nirala, created cards, and wrote slogans to promote the language.

NCCF sells onions at Rs 35 per kg from mobile vans

The National Cooperative Consumer Federation of India (NCCF) has started selling onions at a subsidized rate of Rs 35 per kg from mobile vans in Ranchi. The initiative has been started under the supervision of the Consumer Affairs Department to control the rising prices of onions. NCCF Brand Manager Prince Kumar said that the aim is to provide quality onions at affordable prices and the services will be expanded to other places in the State. On Thursday, onions were sold at Ayodhapuri in Kokar, Naga Baba Kathal, Booty More and Kanke Road in front of Vidhan Sabha speaker's residence.

'Incredible India' exhibition at Carmel Junior College

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Carmel Junior College organized a vibrant exhibition on Friday under the theme 'Incredible India,' showcasing the rich diversity and cultural heritage of the country. The event saw enthusiastic participation from children of classes LKG and HKG, who presented stunning tableaux of eight Indian states—Jharkhand, Assam, Punjab, Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.

The program was inaugurated by school manager Sister Jyoti and principal Sister Sharel with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Following the inauguration, the Principal cut the ribbon to officially open the exhibition to attendees.

During the event, the children beautifully depicted the traditions, attire, food, and



lifestyles of different regions of India, emphasizing the uniqueness of a country where these elements change every few kilometers. The audience was charmed by the little ones' colorful presentations, which reflected the diverse cultures of the states. The exhibition was not only a visual treat but also an educational experience, fostering awareness about India's cultural richness. Teachers of Carmel Junior College played an integral role in guiding and preparing the children, ensuring the success of the event.

Minor girl from PVTG community sold from Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

A minor girl from the endangered primitive tribe Korwa family was taken away from her home on the pretext of making her dance in an orchestra and was sold in Patna for Rs 50,000.

The minor's father has registered a case against three people from the same village who sold her to the Bhandaria police station. The case is from Gobardah village of Ramkanda police station area of the district.

The father said that six months ago, Reena Kumari, Pramila Devi and Mantosh Korwa from the same village came home at night and said that they had to go to dance in an orchestra. My daughter went with them. After this, the three took her to Patna and sold her for Rs 50,000. A week ago, when the girl's father returned from Mumbai (who had been working as a laborer in Mumbai for a year), his wife told him the whole story. After this, when the father asked the three about his daughter, they refused to tell anything. On much insistence, they gave a phone number.

"When I talked on the phone, I got to know that Reena had sold my daughter for Rs 50,000," Victim's father said. After this, father Satendra and mother Sushila Devi reached Ramkanda police station and filed a complaint for registering an FIR against the above three people.

Ramkanda police station in-charge Surendra Singh Kutia said that a complaint has been received about selling a minor in Patna. The matter is being investigated. Action will be taken against the culprits.

Bokaro MLA expresses gratitude for construction of Town Hall

PNS : BOKARO

With the construction of the much-awaited multipurpose town hall in Bokaro, local MLA Biranchi Narayan expressed his gratitude to the former Urban Development Secretary, Vinay Choubey, and Bokaro Deputy Commissioner for their continuous support and coordination. Narayan highlighted that their assistance has been instrumental in fulfilling this long-standing demand of the people of Bokaro.

Legislator Narayan further noted that the demand for a town hall had been raised since Bokaro's establishment as a district. He stated that despite numerous challenges, efforts were con-



tinuously made over the years, with consistent support from the district administration, ensuring the project was completed on time. He reaffirmed his commitment to the development of Bokaro, stating that he remains vigilant and dedicated to the progress of the region.

The construction of the town hall has been carried

out by Jharkhand Urban Development Corporation (JUDCO). The facility includes a multipurpose hall with a seating capacity of 1,000 people, an open-space multipurpose activity center with a similar capacity, a VIP meeting lounge for 50 people, and a parking facility. Notably the total cost for the town hall project amounts to 24,46,95,382.14.

World Sepsis Day at Narayana Hospital, Jamshedpur



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In recognition of World Sepsis Day, Brahmananda Narayana Hospital, Jamshedpur organised an awareness program about sepsis, a life-threatening medical emergency that affects millions of people each year. The event aimed to educate both the public and healthcare professionals about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment in preventing sepsis-related deaths.

Throughout the day, the hospital hosted a series of activities, including health

screenings, and expert-led talks that focused on the symptoms, prevention, and treatment of sepsis.

Facility Director Vinit Raj, Clinical Director Dr M.L.Ali, Medical Superintendent Dr. Mukesh Kumar & Critical Care specialist Dr Sunil Kedia were present in the program.

"Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death worldwide, yet it is often overlooked. Early recognition is critical to saving lives, and we are committed to improving public awareness and healthcare response," said Dr. Sunil Kedia, Critical Care special

The hospital also emphasized its ongoing commitment to combating sepsis through advanced medical technology and training for staff.

The hospital's ICU team demonstrated its new protocols designed to rapidly identify and treat patients at risk of developing sepsis.

In line with this year's theme, "Save lives, Stop Suffering," BNH encourages everyone to learn the symptoms of sepsis, including fever, rapid heart rate, confusion, and difficulty breathing, and to seek medical help immediately if they suspect sepsis.

Karam Eve Milan Samaroh organised

PNS : LOHARDAGA

A Karam Purva Milan ceremony cum Larkudiya program was organized by Naarpump Trust in the residential school located in Bonga village of Kisco block, in which Honorable MP of Lohardaga Lok Sabha Sukhdev Bhagat was present as the chief guest and former police station in-charge as the special guest. Jagarnath Oraon was included. On reaching the venue, the chief guest and special guest were welcomed by washing their feet as per tribal tradition.

Addressing the program, Bhagat said that we have to preserve the tradition and heritage of our ancestors. Even though our ancestors may not have been educated at that time, they understood the importance of the Karam tree. This tree provides oxygen 24 hours a day, today people all over the world are benefiting from it. Karam



Parva inspires us to conserve nature. We all should be proud of being tribal.

Bhagat said that the tribal society is neither atheist nor theist, it is real because it worships the real nature. He congratulated everyone on the occasion of Karma Parv. Special guest Jagarnath Oraon said that to move our society forward, we will have to focus on education and stay away from drug abuse. He congratulated the organi-

zation for opening a residential school in Bonga village by Naarpump Trust and providing education to the tribal children according to their customs and traditions. A large number of villagers including Sanjeev Oraon, Sunita Oraon, Santosh Oraon, Sanjay Mahali, Mahendra Oraon, Ravi Tigga, Pandit Oraon, Alok Kumar Sahu, Phooldev Oraon were present on the occasion.

XISS, TISS, and FES jointly hold Policy and Research Dialogue on FRA

PNS : RANCHI

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi, in association with Tata Institute of Social Service (TISS), Mumbai, and Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) jointly organized a One-Day Policy and Research Dialogue on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006

in Jharkhand, in the campus on Wednesday.

Dr Joseph Marianus Kujur, Director, XISS, on stating the importance of this session said that, at XISS, we are committed to facilitate crucial discussions that drive progress and Forest Rights Act 2006 represents a significant step for securing the rights of forest-dependent

communities. Our goal through this workshop is to address the emerging challenges and to open a dialogue among policymakers, researchers, and community leaders and ensure that the benefits of the FRA reach those who need them the most.

Earlier, Ajay Nath Jha, Tribal Welfare Commissioner,

inaugurated the workshop and addressed the gathering said, "This workshop is an essential step in addressing a dialogue around the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, where research insights will be shared, and collective efforts will be made to ensure that the rights of people are secure. Recently, the state government has renewed its

commitment to the FRA by launching the "Abua Bir Abua Dishom" program, aiming to secure the rights of communities across Jharkhand in a mission-mode manner."

Geetanjoy Sahu, Professor and Dean, TISS, Mumbai, while setting the tone of the workshop, highlighted the situation of the FRA across the country and Jharkhand in specific. He mentioned, "Despite its significant forest cover and a substantial tribal population, Jharkhand has lagged in implementing the Forest Rights Act, 2006. According to an ATRIE report, Jharkhand has the potential to recognize up to 47 lakh acres of forest land under the FRA.

CM gifts 733 schemes worth Rs 753 crore to Bokaro and Ramgarh districts

Second instalment of JMMSY distributed among 45 lakh beneficiaries

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren today gifted 733 schemes worth about 753 crore 44 lakh rupees to Bokaro and Ramgarh districts in the program "Aapki Yojana- Aapki Sarkar- Aapke Dwar" at Bokaro. This includes the inauguration and foundation stone laying of 431 schemes worth Rs 40872.20 lakh under Ramgarh district, while the inauguration and foundation stone laying of 302 schemes worth Rs 52594.26 lakh was completed under Bokaro district. At the same time, assets worth about Rs 342 crore 90 lakh were distributed among thousands of beneficiaries of both the districts.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren distributing assets among the beneficiaries in the "Aapki Yojana- Aapki Sarkar- Aapke Dwar" program at Lalpania Football Ground under Gomia block of Bokaro district on Friday.PNS

Addressing people in the programme at Lalpania in Gomia block under Bokaro district the CM said, "Today our government is reaching every village. The entire government machinery is present at your doorstep to solve your problems. Come forward and empower yourself by joining the schemes of the state government. Positive change in your life is our priority. Please keep your blessings. We will bring many new welfare schemes among you

in the future too." The CM said that our government has taken a historic decision to implement the Jharkhand Chief Minister Maiyaan Samman Yojana towards the empowerment of half the population. Under this scheme, about 48 lakh women between 18 to 50 years will be given Rs 12 thousand in a year as honorarium. Its first instalment has been released and today on the eve of Karam festival,

the process of transferring the amount of the second instalment is being completed. Not only this, our government will also work to deliver 1 lakh rupees every year to every household during the next 5 years, so that women can stand on their feet and strengthen their home and family. The CM said that the government is committed to providing social security to the people of the state. Our

government has implemented the Universal Pension Scheme. As a result, today no old person is deprived of pension. Now you do not have to wait to join the pension scheme. As soon as you become eligible to get pension, you start getting its benefits. He said that today our government is giving you 200 free electricity, while our government has also decided to waive off the out-



Chief Minister Hemant Soren beats a traditional Drum during his arrival for laying the foundation stone of various development schemes of Ramgarh and Bokaro districts at Lalpania Football Ground under Gomia block of Bokaro district on Friday.PNS

standing electricity bill, which has benefited lakhs of electricity consumers of this state. Our effort is to provide maximum convenience and facilities to the people of the state, so that they can move forward on the path of progress. The CM said that our government is working to solve the pending problems of all categories of government employees who play an important role in bring-

ing the development of the state on the ground. Whether it is to give old pension scheme to government employees or by fulfilling the demands of other government employees like Jal Sahia, Anganwadi Sevika-Sahayika, we are also working to bring smiles on their faces. Today, happiness is being seen on everyone's face due to the decisions taken by us. The CM said that our gov-

ernment is taking the responsibility of everything from the education of girls to building their future. Now parents do not have to worry about the education of their daughters. More than 10 lakh girls have been linked with Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana so far. To enable our children to become doctors, engineers and officers, arrangements have been made to provide them education loan up to

Rs. 15 lakh without any guarantee under Guruji Credit Card Yojana. At the same time, the government is bearing the entire cost so that our children can receive good education abroad. Along with this, for those who are interested in self-employment, an amount of up to Rs. 25 lakh is being provided by the state government under the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Scheme. Our effort is to provide the best possible opportunities to the youth to move forward. In the programme, Ministers Satyanand Bhokta, Irfan Ansari, Baby Devi, MLAs Lambodar Mahato, Kumar Jayamangal Singh, State Backward Classes Commission Chairman Yogendra Mahato, Jharkhand State Coordination Committee member Fagu Besra, former MLA Mamta Devi, District Council Chairman Sunita Devi, IG, Coal Field Dr. S Michael Raj, DIG Surendra Kumar Jha, besides Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Ramgarh and Bokaro districts, several officers of the district administration were present.

JMM denying infiltration for appeasement and vote bank politics: BJP

PNS : RANCHI

State spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party Pratul Shahdev today advised Jharkhand Mukti Morcha that if they take off the glasses of appeasement and vote bank politics and read the affidavit filed in the High Court by the Deputy Secretary of the Home Ministry of the Central Government, then everything will become clear to them about infiltration.



Pratul said that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is denying the truth only because of the politics of vote bank appeasement. Pratul said that in point number 35 of the affidavit given by the Deputy Secretary of the Central Government Home Ministry in the High Court, it is clearly written that infiltration in 6 districts of Santal Pargana of Jharkhand took place from the area of Pakur and Sahibganj, which is an area close to Bangladesh via West Bengal. It is also written in this point that a large number of madrasas have been built in these border districts.

Pratul said that in this affidavit of the Central Government, it is mentioned that in 2021, the Center had written a letter to the state government twice and handed over the list of 203 and once 145 infiltrators. The Center had also asked the state to take action on this. But the state government suppressed it and sat down.

Pratul said that Hemant Soren is not fulfilling Rajdharm, he is only doing vote bank politics. He said that the government is forcefully creating tension over the pandal being built in the form of Ram Mandir in the old Vidhan Sabha ground of Dhurva. "After 500 years, Ramlala has been seated in Ayodhya and if a grand pandal in the form of Ram Mandir is being built, then why does the government have an objection to it? If not in India, will the Ram Mandir pandal be built in Pakistan?" he questioned.

BJP raising communal demography due to lack of issues: JMM

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), on Friday, said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has no issue related to public interest so they are talking about communal demography.

Addressing a press meet, JMM General Secretary cum Spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said that the affidavit submitted by the Central Government in the High Court (HC) in the infiltration case. He said that a case is going on in the HC regarding infiltration in our State. "We also read that affidavit. The affidavit was filed yesterday and then its hearing will be held on next Tuesday but before that, a political statement came from the BJP that the demography has changed. There are Bangladeshi infiltrators in Santal," he added.

Bhattacharya said that there is no mention from the Government of India or the Aadhar authority that some people from Bangladesh have come and are living in the area of Santal Pargana. "In the affidavit, the 2011 census was made the basis. In that, 1961 was considered as the baseline and the 2011 census was given. That means a period of 50 years," he added. Referring to the affidavit, the Party General Secretary said that it was also mentioned in it that at that time the percentage of tribals was this much and that of Muslims was



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya during a press conference in Ranchi on Friday. Pix by Ratan Lal

this much and that of Christians was this much and now it has remained this much. "The numbers are not mentioned anywhere in it. An affidavit was filed in the court regarding these six districts. This demographic change has happened in the whole of India in these 50 years," he added. "What kind of game is this going on? And why is the court being brought into this? If something is going on in the court, then why is it being criticized in the party offices? The office of a political party is not a court. If a political party has to intervene in any court action, then they will have to

become an intervener. Is BJP an intervener in this case that this is happening in their office?" asked Bhattacharya.

The Party General Secretary said that an affidavit has been submitted in the court. "The court has to decide whether it will be heard or not. There will be a debate on it. Things will come to light. There will be an investigation. The court will give its verdict. Those who are not aware of them can go to the higher court. But here it seems as if there has been parachute dropping of Muslims and Christians," he added.

If you write Adivasi, then please tell whether it is Sarna or non-Sarna. Since ancient times, Santal Pargana, especially Bhattacharya said that Sahibganj, Rajmahal, Pakur, these areas are Bengali speaking areas. "Religion is not divided by language. Christians have increased. Christians have been indicated separately. Have they become separate from the tribals? The Central Government has made a joke of it. NRC is mentioned in the affidavit. Their MP talks about dividing Santal Pargana. We understand this game. This is a very dangerous game. In this way, divisiveness has been increased in the State. This is a political issue, bring it to the fore. I request the High Court to take suo motu cognizance of this. The conditions of the court should not be written in party offices," he added.

PM Modi to flag off 6 Vande Bharat Express Trains from Jamshedpur



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off six Vande Bharat Express trains on September 15 in a significant event that highlights the ongoing modernization of the railway network. These express trains, each linked to Jharkhand, will be inaugurated at a grand ceremony at Tatanagar railway station. The event is also expected to showcase several key railway infrastructure projects aimed at boosting connectivity and convenience in Jharkhand and neighboring states.

While initial reports indicated that up to ten Vande Bharat Express trains and the first-ever 20-coach Vande Bharat Express were set to be launched on this day, only six trains, specifically related to Jharkhand, will now be inaugurated on September 15th. The decision was reportedly taken to streamline the inauguration process, with the remaining projects scheduled for the following day, September 16th.

The six Vande Bharat Express trains will cover vital routes connecting key cities in Jharkhand and neighbouring states, significantly improving travel efficiency for passengers across these regions. The flagged-off trains include: Tatanagar - Patna (South Eastern Railway); Flagging off from Tatanagar, this express train will strengthen connectivity between the industrial hub of Tatanagar and Bihar's capital, Patna. Varanasi - Deoghar (Northern Railway); Departing from Deoghar, the train will link the spiritual centers of Varanasi and Deoghar, providing a faster and more comfortable journey for pilgrims and tourists alike.

Tatanagar - Brahmapur (South Eastern Railway); Inaugurating from Brahmapur, this service will further enhance connectivity between Jharkhand and Odisha, improving access for passengers traveling along this important industrial corridor.

Howrah - Dhanbad - Gaya (Eastern Railway): This route, with an inaugural departure from Gaya, will provide efficient travel between West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar, linking major industrial and educational hubs.

Howrah - Dumka - Bhagalpur (Eastern Railway): The train, departing from Bhagalpur, will bolster connectivity between West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar, passing through important educational and administrative centers.

Howrah - Tatanagar - Rourkela (South Eastern Railway): With the inaugural run departing from Rourkela, this route will cater to commuters traveling between West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha, supporting economic and industrial exchanges.

In addition to the inauguration of these express trains, the event will see the unveiling of several railway projects in Jharkhand, underscoring the government's commitment to improving regional infrastructure. These projects, which focus on enhancing rail connectivity and station modernization, are expected to bring about significant development in the region. Following the Jharkhand-specific inaugurations, the Prime Minister will lead another round of railway modernization projects on September 16 from Ahmedabad. During this event, PM Modi is expected to inaugurate additional Vande Bharat trains across the country and mark the introduction of the first-ever Vande Metro service, which will operate between Bhuj and Ahmedabad. "The introduction of the Vande Bharat Express trains across Jharkhand and adjoining states is a testament to the government's broader vision of transforming India's railways into a world-class network."

Birsa Hariyali Radio Station inaugurated at BAU

PNS : RANCHI

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Minister Deepika Pandey Singh inaugurated Birsa Hariyali Radio Station at Birsa Agricultural University on Friday.

Programs related to farmers, women, children, health, meteorology, local culture, government schemes etc. will be broadcast from here for 3 hours daily from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. 50 programs will be in Hindi and 50 percent of the programs will be broadcast in the local language Nagpuri. The program of this radio station can be heard on 107.8 MHz FM in a radius of 10 kilometers in hilly-plateau areas and 20 kilometers in plain areas. This station is equipped with a 50 watt FM transmitter.

Community radio is not allowed to do sponsored programs other than those sponsored by the Central or State Government. A committee of scientists has been formed in various faculties to prepare content and material for broadcasting. The cooperation of the students of the university is also being taken in the preparation and presentation of the program. The country's first community radio station was established in the year 2004 at Anna University, Chennai and the 500th community radio station was inaugurated in July 2024 by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Aizawl.



Agriculture Minister Deepika Pandey Singh along with BAU Vice Chancellor Dr SC Dubey during inaugural ceremony of Birsa Hariyali Radio Station at BAU in Ranchi on Friday. Pix by Ratan Lal

Mizoram. Community radio is not allowed to broadcast news.

The minister said in his address that through this radio, communication will be

be the first priority for any higher educational institution and they should be provided quality education, better environment and facilities.

"No matter related to student welfare should remain pending. Socio-economic upliftment of farmers should be done through research results useful for the region and special attention should be paid to the empowerment of women farmers," Deepika said. He also assured to make necessary efforts soon for the promotion of teachers and staff and appointment to vacant posts.

The Agriculture Minister directed the scientists to work on an effective strategy to make Jharkhand self-sufficient in terms of food grains, meat, eggs, fish and milk. She also reviewed the functioning

of the university by meeting with the Vice Chancellor and senior officials of BAU in the board room. The minister also visited the Veterinary College and interacted with the students there.

BAU Vice Chancellor Dr SC Dubey said that this year special attention has been focused on the renovation of university hostels, increase in facilities there, library, post-graduate research done by students and facilities related to extracurricular activities. He said that 80 percent of the posts of teachers, 50 percent of non-teaching staff, 70 percent of KVK personnel and 100 percent of university officers are lying vacant in the university, while the new education policy emphasizes increasing the intake of students every year.

Areas to be visited by Prez Murmu declared as 'No Drone Zone'

President Droupadi Murmu will arrive Jharkhand on September 19, to grace the foundation day celebration of ICAR- NISA

PNS : RANCHI

President Droupadi Murmu will arrive in Jharkhand on September 19, on a two-day visit to the State. During the trip, she will visit Namkom in Ranchi-based ICAR-National Institute of Secondary Agriculture (NISA) to celebrate its 100th foundation day.



was known as Indian Lac Research Institute. It was established on September 20, 1924, and thus, one of the oldest institutions within the ICAR system, having

completed the journey of 100 years of fruitful services to the Nation.

On September 20, President Murmu will participate in the ICAR- NISA programme. She is also scheduled to plant a sapling to kick start the plantation campaign under the banner of "Ek Podha Maa Ke Nam(Plant a tree in the name of Mother).

On the same day, President Murmu will be chief guest at the ICAR-NISA's Foundation function. Among VVIPs to attend this event is Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The district administration as part of security arrangement has declared the several areas in State Capital as No Drone Zone. From the security point of view, the areas around Birsa Munda Airport to Raj Bhavan and the program venue have been declared a No Drone Zone by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sadar, Ranchi, completely prohibiting Drones, Paragliding and Hot Air Ballons and other related activities.

From the security point of view, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sadar, Ranchi has issued the following prohibitory orders using the

powers conferred under Section 163 of BNSS: On 19.09.2024, from Birsa Munda Airport to Hinoo Chowk to Birsa Chowk to Argora Chowk to Raj Bhavan and on 20.09.2024, from Raj Bhavan to Argora Chowk via Kadru via Rajendra Chowk to Sadabahar Chowk to a radius of 200 meters of ICAR National Institute of Secondary Agriculture, Tata Road, Namkom, Ranchi has been declared as No Fly Zone in respect of Drones, Paragliding and Hot Air Ballons, along with this, Drones, Paragliding and Hot Air Ballons will be completely prohibited in and above

the said area. This prohibition will be in force from 05:00 am to 10:00 pm on 19th and 20th September 2024.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Assembly polls by year end, their visit is considered significant for the BJP. Even in Ranchi, the BJP state election incharge and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan who will welcome the President Murmu at the airport in Ranchi and participate in the centenary function of ICAR- NISA, has already guided party leaders to start operating at the booth level across 81 assembly constituencies.

Jaishankar reveals his father was on hijacked flight in 1984

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/GENEVA

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday revealed that his father was on a hijacked flight in 1984 and said he had a unique window on "both sides" in such situations – the perspective of family members and those in the Government. He disclosed this during an interaction with Indian community in Geneva.

Jaishankar was answering a question about the recently released television series on the hijacking of IC814 in 1999.

Jaishankar told the audience how as a young officer then, he was part of the team dealing with the hijack situation on the one hand and on the other, he was part of the group of families putting pressure on the Government.

During the question and answer session after his address to the Indian community, a member of the audience asked the Minister about his comments on the recently released series 'IC814: The Kandahar



Hijack' on Netflix, which he said, showed "the bureaucracy and the Government dealing with hijacking in poor light." With a disclaimer that he has not watched the series, Jaishankar went on to reveal his personal connection with the hijacking incident.

"In 1984 there was a hijacking. I was a very young officer. I was part of the team which was dealing with it. I rang up my mother,

actually, to tell her, 'Look, I can't come. There's a hijacking,' he said elaborating how it was his turn to go home and feed his young son as his wife too was working. "And then I discovered, my father was on the flight. The flight ended up in Dubai. It's a long story, but fortunately, nobody got killed. It could have ended as a problem," he added.

On August 24, 1984, an Indian Airlines flight from

Delhi to Srinagar was hijacked over Pathankot and ultimately taken to Dubai. After more than 36 hours, 12 pro-Khalistani hijackers surrendered to authorities and released all 68 passengers and six crew members unharmed. Jaishankar was an IFS officer and became a minister after his retirement. His father K Subrahmanyam was an IAS officer and a regular commentator on strategic issues.

"And it was interesting because on the one hand, I was part of the team which was working on the hijacking. On the other hand, I was part of the family members who are pressing the Government for the hijacking. So actually, I have that very unique window on both sides, in that sense of the problem," he added.

"So, often these are situations and movie guys don't make the Governments look good. The hero is supposed to look good. Then nobody would watch the movie and you got to accept that," he commented, evoking peals of laughter from the audience.

WHO grants first authorisation for Monkeypox vaccine



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday said it has granted its first authorisation for the use of a vaccine against Mpox in adults, marking a crucial advancement in combating the disease in Africa and elsewhere.

The prequalification of the vaccine from Bavarian Nordic A/S allows organizations like GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, and UNICEF to purchase it. However, with only one manufacturer currently producing the vaccine, supplies are limited, which could impact the distribution and availability in affected regions.

Last week, India also reported its first mpox case. The patient, a native of Haryana is recuperating at the LNJP Hospital here. However, the Government said that it was an isolated case and there was no immediate risk to the public at large.

The MVA-BN vaccine can be administered in people over 18-years of age as a 2-dose injection given 4 weeks apart. After prior cold storage, the vaccine can be kept at 2-8°C for up to 8 weeks.

The prequalification approval is expected to facilitate timely and increased access to this vital product in communities with urgent need, to reduce transmission and help contain the outbreak. WHO's assessment for

prequalification is based on information submitted by the manufacturer, Bavarian Nordic A/S, and reviewed by the European Medicines Agency, the regulatory agency of record for this vaccine.

"This first prequalification of a vaccine against mpox is an important step in our fight against the disease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa, and in future," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "We now need urgent scale up in procurement, donations and rollout to ensure equitable access to vaccines where they are needed most, alongside other public health tools, to prevent infections, stop transmission and save lives."

"The WHO prequalification of the MVA-BN vaccine will help accelerate ongoing procurement of the mpox vaccines by governments and international agencies such as Gavi and Unicef to help communities on the frontlines of the ongoing emergency in Africa and beyond," said Dr Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products.



Third edition of INDUS-X Summit concludes in US

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The third edition of the INDUS-X Summit concluded in the United States, marking a progress in the advancement of a joint defence innovation ecosystem in India and the USA. Held on September nine-10, the Summit was a landmark event jointly organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and Stanford University, defence ministry said here on Friday.

During the summit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between iDEX and the Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) under the US Department of Defence, to increase co-operation in defence innovation and deepen collaboration to facilitate industry, research, and investment partnerships among the stakeholders.

"Other key highlights of the Summit included announcement of a new challenge under INDUS-X, release of the INDUS-X Impact Report and launch of the official INDUS-X webpage on the iDEX and DIU websites.

"The Summit offers a platform for joint showcase of next generation technologies by startups/MSMEs. It also enables critical dialogue through Senior Advisory Group and Senior Leaders Forum, the two advisory forums under INDUS-X. The discussions focused, inter-alia, on future technology trends, capacity building of startups, funding opportunities for defence innovations and strengthening defence supply chains.

"Distinguished experts from defence industry, investment firms, startups, academia, think tanks, accelerators, policymakers, etc. from both nations participated.

"Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion) Amit Satija, who led the Indian delegation said the third edition of INDUS-X Summit reaffirmed the commitment of both the countries in advancing defence technology through innovation and strategic collaboration.

"The INDUS-X initiative is being steered by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) on behalf of Ministry of Defence and Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) under the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). Since the launch of INDUS-X during the Prime Minister's State visit to the United States in June 2023, the initiative has been able to achieve significant milestones in a short span of time.



Postal department to provide doorstep delivery to aged pensioners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The postal department will provide doorstep delivery of services to aged pensioners to help them submit their digital life certificates (DLCs), according to an official statement issued on Friday.

The move assumes significance as the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has decided to hold DLC campaign 3.0 from November one-30, 2024, in all district headquarters and major cities across India.

A preparatory meeting to structure the DLC campaign 3.0 in all district post offices was held by V Srinivas, Secretary (DoPPW) with Sanjay Sharan Director General Postal Services, Rajul Bhatt Deputy Director General Posts and R Viswesvaran MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), among others, on September 12.

"It was agreed that district post offices will coordinate with pensioner welfare associations, pension disbursing banks and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), among others, to conduct the DLC campaign 3.0 at district post offices, the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

Amit Shah to address 75th inaugural session of Hindi as official language

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday will address inaugural session of official language diamond jubilee celebrations and 4th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan here to commemorate the completion of 75 years of Hindi becoming the official language.

Shah will also launch the diamond jubilee special issue of 'Rajbhasha Bharti' magazine on the occasion besides releasing a commemorative postage stamp and coin, an official release said. He will present the 'Rajbhasha Gaurav' and 'Rajbhasha Kirti' awards on the occasion.

'Prime Minister Narendra Modi has



been constantly emphasising on the development of Hindi and Indian languages and better coordination between them, the release said.

"The home minister had conceptualised organising Hindi Diwas on a large scale in various cities of the country in 2019. Realising this concept, Hindi Diwas and the first Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan were organised in Varanasi in 2021.

'After that, Hindi Diwas and the second and third Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan were organised in Surat in 2022 and in Pune in 2023.

'Organising Hindi Diwas event and Fourth Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan here is also special in the sense that the official language department is celebrating this

occasion as the diamond jubilee, the release said.

"The 75-year journey of Hindi becoming an official language has not only crossed many important milestones but also made continuous progress in the field of technology.

"During the two-day fourth Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan, an in-depth discussion will be held on the progress of Hindi as an official language, public language and contact language in last 75 years.

'Additionally, there will be discussion on 'India's cultural heritage and Hindi' and a session on three newly launched criminal laws -- Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, it added.

SC halts tree felling for Kolkata metro project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that no trees would be felled or transplanted from now onwards for the metro rail project in the maidan area adjoining the iconic Victoria Memoria in Kolkata.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan issued notices to the West Bengal Government, the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and others seeking their responses on a plea challenging the June 20 verdict of the Calcutta High Court.

The high court had dismissed a petition seeking a direction to forthwith stop all metro construction in the maidan area due to alleged felling and transplantation of a large number of trees.

"Till the next date, we direct that no new trees would be felled or transplanted," the bench said and posted the matter for hearing after three

weeks.

"You can continue with the work but don't fell trees from today," the bench told the counsel appearing for the RVNL. The counsel appearing for petitioner 'People United For Better Living in Kolkata (PUBLIC)' told the bench that the maidan area was extremely important for the city.

He said the route chosen for the metro project goes through maidan area and a number of trees would be felled or transplanted for it. "We perceive that a large number of trees will be felled," the petitioner's counsel said, adding, "let them (authorities) come up with a plan for these trees."

The bench asked the counsel appearing for the RVNL to show it how the trees will be transplanted. n" Issue notice, returnable in three weeks," the bench said. It further said, "In the meantime, don't proceed with felling of trees."

SSC warns of legal action for recruitment exam malpractices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Government job recruitment G Agency Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has warned of disciplinary and legal action against anyone found involved in any kind of malpractices related to its recruitment examinations.

The SSC has time and again brought to the notice of candidates and other stakeholders that anyone found to be disclosing, publishing, reproducing, transmitting, storing or facilitating transmission and storage of test contents in any form (verbal or written, electronic or mechanical) of any information by any means "will be considered as serious misconduct and will be debarred/disqualified from exam", an official notice said.

"It said "taking away the rough papers supplied in the exam centre or found to be in unauthorized possession of



test content" will also be considered as serious misconduct, thus liable for necessary action.

"It has come to the notice of the Commission that some persons are engaged in the aforesaid activities through social media i.e. YouTube, twitter, Facebook, etc.," said the SSC notice dated September 10.

'Disciplinary and legal action would be taken against such candidates or persons/individuals involved as per rules and such matters would be reported to police, if

necessary, it added.

"The SSC is one of the largest recruitment agencies of the Government with its main mandate to conduct selections for non-gazetted posts in various central ministries and departments, among others.

'In another related move, the Centre had on Thursday allowed the SSC to perform Aadhaar-based authentication to verify the candidates' identity on a voluntary basis, both at the time of registration and during various stages of examinations and recruitment.



DRDO, Indian Navy test VLSRSAM successfully

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Research and Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy have conducted back-to-back successful flight tests of the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VLSRSAM). The second consecutive test was conducted on Friday from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha, defence ministry said here.

The missile intercepted a high-speed aerial target, flying at a very low altitude and simulating a sea-skimming threat, which showcased its precision and capability to neutralise targets. This follows the earlier test on Thursday when the VLSRSAM missile effectively engaged another low-altitude target. These consecutive tests not only demonstrate the weapon system's reliability but also validate the recent upgrades made to various components of the system.

'Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded the DRDO, the Indian Navy and all associated teams for the successful flight tests and stated that this missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the armed forces.

Fungal resistance to antifungals urgently needs Antimicrobial Resistance focus: Scientists

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Like bacteria with antibiotics, many fungal pathogens are increasingly developing resistance to antifungal drugs, scientists have highlighted this alarming trend while emphasising the need to include fungal pathogens in the broader Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) discussion. Ahead of the UN meeting on AMR later this month, they have called for including resistance developed in many fungal pathogens to curb the superbugs.

Intriguingly, while the threat of fungal pathogens and antifungal resistance has been on the rise across the world, the public health crisis has largely been "underrecognised" and "left out of the debate" by scientists, Governments, clinicians, and pharmaceutical companies.

Researchers from the University of Manchester, the University of Amsterdam, and the Westerdijk Institute revealed that many fungal



pathogens identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) are either already resistant or quickly acquiring resistance to antifungal treatments. These resistant pathogens are responsible for approximately 3.8 million deaths annually. The researchers have called for immediate global action, in a study published in The Lancet on Friday.

The scientists argued that focussing on bacteria alone will not help fully

combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). They called for immediate action, without which resistance to fungal disease will escalate.

Aspergillus, Candida, Nakaseomyces glabratus, and Trichophyton indotinea are the major fungicide resistant infections. These can have devastating health impacts on the elderly and people with weak immune systems. Dr Norman van Rhijn from The University of Manchester said that invasive fungal diseases have been responsible for many drug resistance problems over the past decades.

Van Rhijn explained that "the close similarities between fungal and human cells make it hard to find treatments that selectively inhibit fungi with minimal toxicity to patients".

The scientists suggested a global consensus on limiting the use of certain classes of antifungal molecules. They also stressed the need

for collaborating on solutions and regulations that ensure food security and universal health for animals, plants, and humans.

Dr Manish Jhangra, Gurugram based dermatologist who is not related with the study, said that India too is witnessing an alarming growing trend of antifungal resistance problem, with some fungal species exhibiting multidrug resistance. In India, up to 7 per cent of patients have a resistance to fluconazole, particularly non-albicans Candida specie while Tinea cruris and tinea corporis conditions which is endemic to India is resistant to the widely used drug terbinafine (TRB), he said citing various reports.

Also, there has been a significant increase in chronic, relapsing cases of this condition in India. These cases are often resistant to conventional antifungal drugs and doses, he said while stressing the need for global deliberation on the fungal resistance to the drugs.

Rahul Gandhi slams Government over restaurant owner apology video

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday slammed the Government over a video in which a restaurant chain owner is purportedly "apologising" to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for voicing concerns about GST, and said that when "fragile egos" of those in power are hurt, it seems humiliation is what they will deliver. The opposition party also demanded an apology from the finance minister over the issue.

Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai said on behalf of the party's state unit, he sincerely apologises for the actions of "our functionaries who shared a private conversation between a



respected business owner and the finance minister".

"I spoke with Thiru Srinivasan Avl, the esteemed owner of the Annapoorna chain of Restaurants, to express regret for this unintended breach of privacy. Annapoorna Srinivasan Anna is a pillar of Tamil Nadu's business community, contributing significantly to the state's and nation's economic growth. I request everyone to lay the matter to rest with due respect," Annamalai said.

"Two videos were being shared by several Congress

leaders and in one of them at an event on September 11, Sree Annapoorna chain of restaurants owner Srinivasan is seen purportedly highlighting concerns over varying GST rates. In the second video, Srinivasan was seen purportedly apologising in person to the Finance Minister.

"Rahul Gandhi said if this "arrogant Government" would listen to the people they would understand that a simplified GST would solve the problems of lakhs of businesses.

"In a social media post, Rahul Gandhi said when the owner of a small business, like Annapoorna restaurant in Coimbatore, asks public servants for a simplified GST regime, his request is met with "arrogance and outright disrespect".

Fierce firefight in Kishtwar ahead of PM visit, two terrorists neutralised

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A fierce firefight broke out between a heavily armed group of Pakistani terrorists and the joint team of security forces in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar late Friday evening ahead of the day-long visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bolster the party's poll campaign in the erstwhile Doda district which is headed to polls in the first phase of polling on September 18.

Two more terrorists were neutralized by the joint team of security forces in the Khandara top area of Basantgarh late Friday evening. Sharing an update Rising Star

Corps of the Indian Army posted on X, "In the Joint operation launched on 11 Sep Two Terrorists Neutralised & Large War Like Stores Recovered. Operations concluded"

Meanwhile, security has been further beefed up in and around the venue of the Prime Minister's rally in Doda. At the same time, a general alert has been sounded in the entire Jammu region to prevent any other incident of terrorist violence ahead of the first round of polling on eight Assembly seats in the region. Additional troops have been deployed at vulnerable places such as party offices, and venues of campaign meetings.

This is the third incident of terrorist violence in the Jammu region in the last five days.

Confirming the incident of a firefight, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police in a brief statement said, "Exchange of fire has taken place between search teams of security forces and hiding terrorists at Pingal Dugadda forest area, upper reaches of Naidgham village under the jurisdiction of Police Station Chhatroo, District Kishtwar". Official sources claimed a group of three terrorists believed to be the cadre of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit were trapped in the upper reaches of Chatroo. A team of the special forces of



The Indian army and the jawans of the special operations group of Jammu and Kashmir police were carrying out searches in the area when a group of terrorists hiding inside a dhok (temporary structure) attempted to

ambush the security personnel. Swift action by the elite para commandos resulted in the ensuing gunfight in the area. Unconfirmed reports claimed a soldier also received injuries and was evacuated to a nearby hospital.

On September 11, two heavily armed Pakistani terrorists, hiding in the upper reaches of Basantgarh bordering Kathua and Udhampur districts, were neutralized by the joint team of security forces.

On September 9, two heavily armed terrorists believed to be Pakistani were neutralized by the troops of the Indian army while they were attempting to infiltrate inside the Indian territory in the Laam sector of Nowshera in

the frontier district of Rajouri on Monday.

The election managers are banking heavily on the popularity of the Prime Minister in the erstwhile Doda district. BJP had won 4 out of 6 assembly seats in 2014 Assembly polls. This time the party is aiming to retain all its four seats and wrest at least two other seats from the opposition camp.

The BJP is facing a tough challenge in the region as the alliance partners Congress and the National Conference have been making all efforts to win more than two seats. Rahul Gandhi also visited Ramban to address an election rally. On the other hand, Omar Abdullah has also

addressed a series of election meetings to boost the morale of the party workers.

A senior BJP leader told The Pioneer, "We are banking heavily on the booster dose which our Prime Minister is expected to administer to the party workers ahead of the first phase of polling". So far the party candidates have received an impressive response on ground zero.

The BJP is contesting all the seats in the Jammu region and aims to replicate its 2014 performance when it won 25 out of 37 seats in the region. PM Modi is also expected to visit the Valley on September 19 when he will address another BJP election rally in Srinagar city.

Left planning attack on doctors to malign Government: Ghosh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The doctors' movement over the rape and murder of a lady doctor inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital took a sharp turn with the Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh on Thursday releasing an audio-tape suggesting some Left groups were planning attack on the agitating doctors to malign the State Government.

"The audio-tape pertains to a conversation between members of two Leftist organizations who are discussing the pros and cons of an attack on the doctors who are staging a sit-in demonstration outside the Swasthya Bhavan," Ghosh playing the tape said.

In the purported discussion between the two persons one is asking to send criminals to attack the doctors after their talks with the State Government fizzled out Thursday. While the other person however is reluctant



to mount such attack on "people who save our lives" the first person reminds him of the political dividend such an attack could produce painting the Mamata Banerjee Government in a bad light, Ghosh said adding the audio tape was forwarded to him by some sources and the police were already investigating it.

By late on Friday evening the Bidhan Nagar Police Commissionerate had instituted a suo motu case and started investigations into it, sources in the Government said adding the police were on high alert and security had been beefed up around the area where the doctors were staging a dharna demanding justice for the RGMCH victim and removal of top IPS officers including the Kolkata

Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal, State Health Secretary and two Directors of Health for playing an alleged role in destroying evidence.

While the doctors would not speak immediately, the Left leaders demanded an investigation into the purported conspiracy saying, "the Government is trying not only to scare the doctors indirectly into withdrawing the movement but also defaming the Marxists."

"It is strange that the Government is so much scared of a party which has "zero" representation in Assembly.

"Mamata Banerjee is a viciously cunning politician who is trying to shoot many birds in a single shot ... she is scaring the doctors to withdraw the movement ... she is maligning the Left because the Left rallies are getting bigger and longer ... and she is trying to divert the attention from the RG Kar incident to a different side," Sujan

Chakrabarty a senior CPI(M) leader said.

Curiously Ghosh's "revelation" came to the media in tandem with reports that the Government had asked the Principals of all the 26 Medical Colleges to prepare a list of junior doctors who had joined the cease work campaign, sources said.

Meanwhile, even as the doctors said that their movement would go on until the Government spreads out the dialogue table and addresses their demands a Kolkata Court on Friday rejected an application filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation seeking Narco Analysis Test of Sanjoy Rai the prime accused in the rape and murder case.

"The ACJM Court while rejecting the CBI application said that such an act goes against the Fundamental Rights of the person concerned if he is forced to undergo such test," a lawyer said.

Bengal Governor snaps social ties with CM, 'the Lady Macbeth'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has compared Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Lady Macbeth and snapped all social ties with her in the wake of RG Kar rape and murder case.

Speaking in the backdrop of the State Government's shoddy handling of the RG Kar rape and murder case the Governor on Thursday evening said "It is irony that the Health Minister happens to be the Home Minister. The Lady Macbeth of West Bengal holds the waters of Hooghly but cannot cleanse the tainted hands. The Home Minister is CM and CM is protesting instead of protecting. There is violence in the street, hospital, and cities."

"As the Governor of this State I am hurt ... I socially boycott her ... and I will not



share any public platform with the Chief Minister. I will take proactive steps against her for violating Constitutional provisions. My role as the Governor will be confined to the Constitutional obligations," Bose said.

Reacting to Bose's remarks TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that as a Governor he could not make such statements. "A Governor has to follow some Constitutional protocol being the Constitutional head ... here it seems that he is more of a political person than a Constitutional person," Ghosh said.

Jolt for BJP as three-time former MP joins Congress

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a "ghar-wapsi" of sorts ahead of the State Assembly polls to be held later this year, the ruling BJP on Friday suffered a jolt as three-time former MP and its leader from Gondia in Vidarbha region Gopaldas Agrawal quit the saffron party and joined the Congress.

Agrawal, who had tendered his resignation from primary membership to BJP President JP Nadda a few days, returned to the Congress at a function held in the presence of AICC general secretary Ramesh Chennithala, state Congress President Nana Patole, Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadetiwar and former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan.

Agrawal, who had won the Gondia seat in 2004, 2009 and 2014 for the Congress, had switched over to the BJP ahead of the 2019 State Assembly polls. In what came as a boost to the Congress, Agrawal staged a comeback to the Congress.

Agrawal's exit from the the



entry to all the corruption-tainted leaders, Chennithala said: "The government in Maharashtra is most corrupt. Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Ajit Pawar of involvement in a staggering Rs 70,000 crore scam, yet the BJP not only welcomed him but also made him the deputy chief minister. The BJP-led alliance runs an ayaram gayaram government in Maharashtra. The people of the state have made up their mind to show it the door to the BJP in the state Assembly polls. Accusing the BJP of indulging in false propaganda against Congress Rahul leader, Patole said: "Rahul Gandhi has all along spoken about removing 50 per cent on reservations so that all sections of society can benefit from the reservations. On its part, the BJP government sold off public institutions, destroyed jobs, and weakened constitutional bodies, which Rahul Gandhi has exposed. That is why the BJP is spreading false propaganda against him. The accusation that Rahul Gandhi is against reservations is like 'the pot calling the kettle black' "

entry to all the corruption-tainted leaders, Chennithala said: "The government in Maharashtra is most corrupt. Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused Ajit Pawar of involvement in a staggering Rs 70,000 crore scam, yet the BJP not only welcomed him but also made him the deputy chief minister. The BJP-led alliance runs an ayaram gayaram government in Maharashtra. The people of the state have made up their mind to show it the door to the BJP in the state Assembly polls. Accusing the BJP of indulging in false propaganda against Congress Rahul leader, Patole said: "Rahul Gandhi has all along spoken about removing 50 per cent on reservations so that all sections of society can benefit from the reservations. On its part, the BJP government sold off public institutions, destroyed jobs, and weakened constitutional bodies, which Rahul Gandhi has exposed. That is why the BJP is spreading false propaganda against him. The accusation that Rahul Gandhi is against reservations is like 'the pot calling the kettle black' "

Maharashtra protests: Rahul takes centre stage as BJP-Congress trade charges

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ruling BJP and Congress traded charges against each other on Friday, as they staged protests in different parts of the Assembly poll-bound Maharashtra in matters relating to the leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

While the BJP held demonstrations against the "anti-reservations" and "anti Constitution" statements made by Rahul Gandhi in the US, the Congress staged protests against the death threats handed to the leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha by BJP leader from Delhi and former MLA Tarvinder Singh Marwah.

The BJP leaders -including State party chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule, its national general secretary Pankaja Munde, senior minister Chandrakant Patil and Mumbai city president Ashish Shellar - accused Rahul Gandhi of trampling upon the Constitution by announcing that his party wanted to annul reservations in the country. Wearing black ribbons, the BJP workers raised vehement slogans against Rahul Gandhi



at various places. While Bawankule led the protests at Akola in Vidarbha region, leaders like Pankaja Munde, Patil and Shellar held demonstrations at Ghatkopar in north-east Mumbai.

Simultaneously, the Maharashtra Congress staged vociferous protests against Delhi BJP leader Tarvinder Singh Marwah for allegedly handing a death threat to Rahul Gandhi.

A party activist Akash P. Taywade lodged a complaint with the Sadar Police Station at Nagpur against Marwah for allegedly issuing death threats he made against Rahul Gandhi. Senior party leaders, including State Congress chief Nana Patole, former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan Congress Legislative Party leader Balasaheb Thorat, party's state working president M. Arif Naseem Khan, district party leaders and thousands of activists joined the protests in various district headquarters across the state.

The protestors, including a large number of youth and women, carried posters, placards and banners flaying Marwah for targeting Rahul Gandhi, and raised slogans condemning the BJP for not

taking action against its party leader in the serious matter. The leaders accused the BJP leaders of selectively twisting Rahul Gandhi's statements pertaining to quotas at an interaction during his US visit. Rubbishing the BJP's claims that the Congress wanted to do away with reservation, the Congress leaders said that in its manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the party had committed itself to raising the ceiling of quotas beyond 50 per cent to ensure that benefits reached the largest segments of the deprived sections of society.

"Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly stressed the need to conduct a Caste Census to ascertain the backwardness among various sections of the population. However, the BJP is only interested in creating enmity in the name of castes and religions in the country," Patole said.

"Rahul Gandhi has never said that he would stop reservation and is indulging in a fake narrative without verifying the truth. They are spreading falsehoods and then carrying out agitation. The people of the country know very well that the BJP is opposed to quotas and is anti-Constitution," Thorat said.

FSSAI asks officials to increase monitoring of sweet sellers, producers across nation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With demand for sweets, savouries and products such as ghee, khoya, and paneer on surges during the ongoing festive season, increasing the chances of such products being adulterated, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has asked its state-level officials to increase monitoring of sweet sellers and producers across the nation.

".....preventive actions including special surveillance and enforcement drives by food safety officers and designated officers can curb such practices effectively and ensure the safety of such products," Inoshi Sharma, executive director, (regulatory compliance) at FSSAI, said in a letter to state and UT

food commissioners. State food safety inspectors have been ordered to investigate the stores and collect samples for quality control. They have been directed to take action against those who have been found to be in violation of quality standards.

The regulator also said frequent enforcement and surveillance drives must be conducted to prevent malpractices and that mobile-testing units must be deployed at key places.

"Also, the Food Safety on Wheels (FSW), where available, are to be positioned in prominent markets and/or on the basis of specific intelligence inputs so as to ensure that such products are safe to consume and are strictly as per the respective food products standards.

Bengaluru court extends judicial custody of Darshan, other accused till September 17

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A court here on Friday extended till September 17 the judicial custody of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa along with his friend Pavithra Gowda and others, who are accused in the Renukaswamy murder case.

All the 17 accused, including Darshan and Pavithra, were produced before the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court through video conferencing from various prisons across the state, where they are lodged, as their judicial custody ended today.

Policed on September 4 had submitted to the court a 3,991-page preliminary chargesheet to the court in the case.

The 47-year-old actor is currently lodged in Ballari prison. He was shifted there from Parappana Agrahara Central jail here by obtaining court

permission, after a photograph of him hanging out with three others, including a rowdy-sheeter, on the lawns of the jail had gone viral, sparking an uproar.

In the picture, the actor is seen in a relaxed mood, sitting on a chair and holding a cigarette and a coffee mug. Also, a purported video of Darshan speaking to a person over a video call from the prison too had surfaced on social media.

The court had also permitted shifting of other co-accused in the murder case to various prisons in the state.

Other accused -- Pawan, Raghavendra and Nandish -- are now lodged in Mysuru, Jagadish and Lakshmana in Shivamogga, Dhanraj in Dharwad, Vinay in Vijayapura, Nagaraj in Kalaburagi/Gulbarga Jail, Pradosh in Belagavi Jail. Three accused -' Pavithra

Gowda, Anukumar, and Deepak -- continue to remain at Parappana Agrahara Central Jail here. Four accused -- Ravi, Karthik, Nikhil and Keshavamurthy -- were earlier shifted to Tumakuru prison and they continue to remain lodged there.

Nine prison officials, including the Chief Superintendent of the Parappana Agrahara jail, were suspended over their "lapses" after a preliminary probe into "special treatment" to Darshan.

Also, three FIRs were registered, including against Darshan, under sections of the Prisons Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

According to police sources, 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor, had sent obscene messages to Pavithra, which enraged Darshan, allegedly leading to his murder. His body was found near

a stormwater drain next to an apartment in Sumanahalli here on June nine.

Raghavendra, one of the accused who is part of Darshan's fan club in Chitradurga, had brought Renukaswamy to a shed in R R Nagar here, on the pretext that the actor wanted to meet him. It was in this shed that he was allegedly tortured and murdered.

According to the post-mortem report, Renukaswamy, a native of Chitradurga, died due to shock and haemorrhage as a result of multiple blunt injuries.

Police accused number Pavithra, who is accused number one, was the "major cause" for Renukaswamy's murder and claimed that it has been proved from the probe that she instigated other accused, conspired with them, and took part in the crime.

Chargesheet filed against Ex-MP Prajwal Revanna in second case

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police has filed a chargesheet in the second case registered against former MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual assault, in a special court here.

Revanna is currently under judicial custody at Parappana Agrahara Jail here, and a Special Investigation Team is probing four separate cases against him, officials said on Friday.

According to police, the second case against Prajwal Revanna was filed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on May 1 after a 44-year-old former member of the Hassan Zilla Panchayat accused him of repeatedly raping her. In a statement, police said the SIT team conducted a comprehensive investigation of the case

and during the probe, more than 120 witnesses were interrogated and statements of victims, key witnesses were recorded.

"A 1691 page comprehensive chargesheet has been filed against former Hassan Lok Sabha constituency MP Prajwal Revanna. The chargesheet has been submitted to a special court here after collecting evidence and obtaining expert opinions," it stated.

He was arrested by the SIT on May 31 upon arrival at Bengaluru Airport from Germany in connection with a case registered at the Holarasipura Town Police Station. Prajwal Revanna was remanded to custody the following day. Revanna had failed in his bid to retain the Hassan parliamentary constituency in the recent polls.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Adieu comrade Yechury!

The untimely passing away of Sitaram Yechury is a defining moment for CPI(M) and Indian Left politics

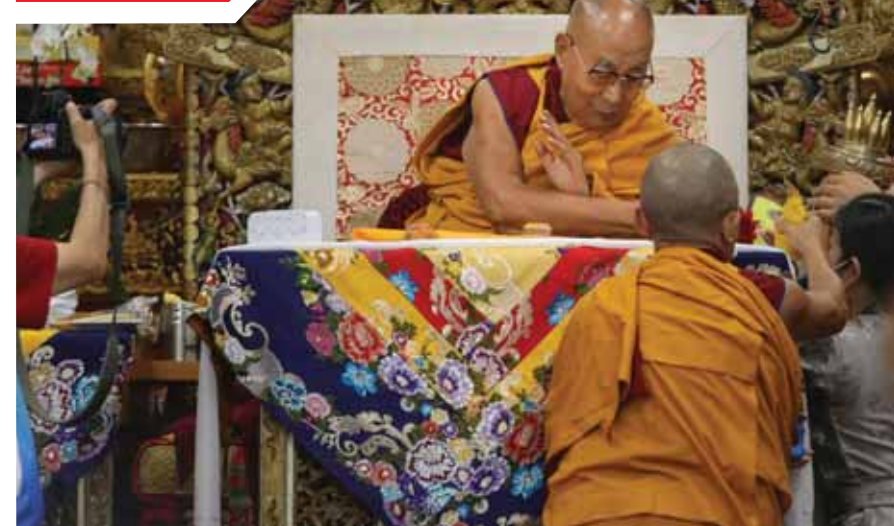
Sitaram Yechury, the General Secretary of CPI(M) and veteran Left ideologue is no more. He died after prolonged illness in Delhi. Yechury, one of India's most prominent left-wing politicians, has left a deep void in the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Indian politics. As the General Secretary of the party and a key ideologue of India's Left movement, Sitaram Yechury was widely recognised for his ability to bridge ideological divides within the CPI(M) and foster cohesion in a faction-ridden party. Under his leadership, the CPI(M) worked toward navigating the challenges of declining relevance, especially in key states like West Bengal and Kerala, where the party held sway. Yechury's pragmatic approach sought to balance Marxist orthodoxy with the demands of modern politics, often encouraging alliances with non-Left parties to check the rise of right-wing forces, particularly the BJP. His tenure as General Secretary was marked by his efforts to revitalise the party in an era where communist ideologies found not many takers. His ability to remain cheerful in the midst of crisis and light hearted won him many admirers across party lines. His ability to engage with younger generation was indeed remarkable. His influence extended beyond CPI(M) to broader Left coalitions, making him a key figure in shaping progressive political discourse in the country.



The CPI(M) has lost two of its prominent leaders in quick succession. Just a month ago, Buddhadeb Bhattacharya passed away, and now with the departure of Sitaram Yechury, the party may face a significant void in its politburo that will be difficult to fill. While Buddhadeb Bhattacharya brought pragmatic econom-

ics to the Left, it was Sitaram Yechury who steered Left politics towards a more centrist alignment. Yechury's passing poses a significant challenge for the CPI(M). His adeptness at navigating intra-party conflicts, especially between the hardliners and those favouring more pragmatic politics, was pivotal in keeping the party from splitting along ideological lines. His absence may lead to a leadership vacuum that could exacerbate existing tensions. The choice of Yechury's successor will be critical in determining whether the CPI(M) continues his centrist approach or swings toward a more hardline stance. However, replacing someone of Yechury's stature, who had both the intellectual capacity and the political acumen to lead in challenging times, will not be easy. In recent years, the left parties have struggled to maintain electoral relevance in most parts of India as the BJP and regional parties have filled the political space traditionally held by the Left. Sitaram Yechury, a politician and a gentleman, would be missed in Indian politics. His ability to transcend party politics and engage with a broader spectrum of ideas gave him a unique position in Indian politics. Yechury's absence will be profoundly felt, not only by his comrades but also by those who admired him as a kind and compassionate individual.

PICTALK



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama during a teaching session at the Main Tibetan Temple, in Dharamshala. PTI

Perfect parenting: Navigating expectations and aspirations

In an age where parenting seems to be under constant scrutiny, the stress of raising children has evolved into a modern-day burden

In the olden days, it wasn't uncommon to be born in large families and be raised along with several siblings. But for some reason, parents back then did it with a laid-back approach and have not been heard or known to feel pressured by the size of the family they had to support. My paternal grandparents had 13 children and my maternal grandparents had ten.

It is a scenario impossible to even imagine in modern times, where stress has become a staple for all - from kindergarten children to pensioners past their prime. Today's parents are engulfed in a whirlwind of expectations, constantly feeling the weight of being "perfect" while juggling the unrelenting pressures of life.

The irony is not lost on any of us—despite our best efforts, parents often feel they are falling short, outpaced by a society that holds them to impossible standards. Dr Vivek Murthy, the US Surgeon General, recently said that parental stress is a significant public health issue and called for shifts in cultural norms. In our hyper-con-



nected world, where every action and decision is subject to public scrutiny, the quest for perfection is an unending pursuit that only leads to exhaustion. We need to pause and ask: Are we, as parents, pushing ourselves into a corner, one where our best is never good enough? How far should we go to prove our merits and how much strain can we take before we break at the seams?

A young parent recently mentioned how she was waiting for her toddler to grow up by a few years so that the tensions of the difficult years are past, but the truth is the stress of parenting seldom leaves, no matter how old the children become. It is in the psyche of the parent to be ever concerned, with the concerns and expectations only changing with age. Once a parent, always a parent. There is a relentless battle to become the

perfect parents who have raised peerless offspring that the world would appreciate. This pressure to adopt the best practices of parenting is now increased manifold by the social media which presents picture-perfect family lives. What parents often forget is the travails of raising children are never easy and what seems perfect on social media are filtered versions of a life and landscape filled with challenges.

The idea of being a 'perfect parent' is a myth and it would be prudent on the parents' part to recognise that benchmarks set by society, media and peers are often unattainable. Each family should set its priorities and boundaries commensurate with its resources, circumstances and the children's capacity to undertake over-demanding expectations from all around. How parents of yore have been able to divide their attention between the litany of concerns and complaints their children must have presented baffles me. The joke that goes around in our family is this - the children just grew up; no one raised them by following any stringent stan-

dards. This attitude may not work in our times where the bars are set so high and the race for achievement is taken so seriously that parents find themselves caught in the quagmire of worry and anxiety even after the children have flown from their homes and built their nests.

The anxiety of being an inadequate parent haunts many and the truth is there is no single right way to parent; neither is there a prescribed format to make children successful and happy except by instilling the right values in them. Embracing their imperfections as parents and learning to let go are difficult but essential traits to pick up in their journey of parenthood. What children need most is not a parent who has everything figured out, but one who loves them, supports them and is present through the highs and lows of life. Constant fretting about children will only take away from the confidence of the children and make them incompetent to face life's numerous challenges.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal.)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Madam — According to the recently released National Crime Record Bureau data, only in 2022 more than 1 lakh 71 thousand Indians chose the path of suicide due to various reasons. On the other hand, according to the report of Lancet Public Health, this number worldwide is about 7 lakh 76 thousand. The brutal presence of global suicides simultaneously calls into question the overall social order of our individualistic lives. According to NCRB data, 12 out of every 1 lakh Indians take suicide-like decisions. More than 10 percent of them are farmers. An average of 154 Indian farmers commit suicide every day mainly due to unprofitable agriculture, failure to find a way out of chronic poverty, inadequate institutional financial credit system. Loneliness, family turmoil, childhood trauma, extramarital affairs, illness, and financial insecurity have emerged as causes of suicide among other segments of the population. Besides, the suicide of students makes us worried. Almost every day we come across such incidents, driven by the pressure of academic ambition as well as the artificial glamor of social media, which is increasingly drowning inexperienced teenagers in the darkness of gloom. In this situation, it is urgent to take appropriate measures to prevent this mental epidemic.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SLASH RATES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Madam— It is a hard fact, when there is a hike in international prices the government's revenues increase proportionately as customs duty along with other central taxes are imposed thus the government reaps a bonanza. But when there is a fall in global crude prices state-owned oil companies are still earning more profits on petrol and diesel. The recent declining trend in crude prices owing to geo-political reasons, the Indian basket of crude has fallen from \$90/barrel in March to \$69/barrel today. The government needs to cut prices of petroleum products to bring some relief to the common man who is otherwise living at skyrocketing price levels. The reduction in petroleum products may be on the basis of calculations.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

Madam — The people of Jammu and Kashmir are no strangers to the menace of terrorism. However, cross-border terrorist activities have surged noticeably in

Arka Goswami | Asansol

The statesman who bore the burden of Kandahar



BHOPINDER SINGH

In the Kandahar hijacking, Jaswant Singh stands out for his quiet resolve. He shouldered the responsibility of securing the release of 161 hostages

Beyond the usual 'manufactured-outrage', there was an inadvertent redemption with the role played of the Soldier-Statesman-Scholar, Jaswant Singh, in the recent OTT series IC-814 - The Kandahar Hijack. Undoubtedly, the hijacking saga casts a dark shadow on Indian governance with glaring mismanagement e.g., lack of cohesion among intelligence agencies, slow alignment amongst stakeholders, allowing the aircraft to take off from Amritsar et al, but in public memory, it is the singular image of Jaswant carrying three terrorists to Kandahar to secure the release of passengers and crew of IC-814. Many saw it as a moment of sovereign capitulation. Others saw it as successful negotiations under impossible circumstances, where negotiations were the only option (An entebbe-style raid, clearly wasn't feasible).

It was, as Jaswant himself puts it succinctly, "a choice between a bad decision, and a far worse decision". Negotiating the release of the hijacked passengers was a collective decision of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The composition of CCS was chaired by then PM Vajpayee, and had included the then Home Minister, NSA, Defence Minister, and of course the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh. If that is so, why was it only Jaswant who carries the can of blame for posterity? The answer can be attempted in a couple of ways - firstly by understanding the inherent construct of Jaswant the individual, and his understanding of his 'duty', and secondly by understanding the impulse of others in the same situation, who were also part and parcel of this complex and questionable decision. Why didn't Jaswant come clean (or at least forcefully enough) to share the blame with his colleagues? For starters, it has to do with Jaswant's imagined sense of himself and his conscience.

Honourable soldiers do what is to be done, with no fuss or grandiosity. Major Jaswant Singh was a cavalier from the illustrious Central India Horse and had left



the Indian Army prematurely but always exemplified its finest tenets and values steadfastly, throughout his public life. The institution had defined him, and he had marched out without any usual 'terminal benefit' but with what he reflected, "My service with is my benefit, and what the army gave me, taught me, left me with me is my priceless pension". One such 'officer-and-a-gentleman' quality is what General James Mattis (former US Defense Secretary) alluded to while expressing his measured disagreement with the unhinged Donald Trump i.e., the French expression 'devoir de reserve' (literally, the duty of silence).

Perhaps Jaswant was informed by decades of soldiering, politics and statesmanship that to brave a difficult situation like IC-814 was one thing, but to further weaken the 'moment' for India by name calling or finger pointing, even worse. His colleagues were spared the taint, for he had protected them. It is another story that many were incredibly absolving themselves of any knowledge of the exchange or his dash to Kandahar.

When one misstep after another was happening with IC-814 with no one taking charge of the situation, Jaswant had stepped up and personally



PERHAPS JASWANT WAS INFORMED BY DECADES OF SOLDIERING, POLITICS AND STATESMANSHIP THAT TO BRAVE A DIFFICULT SITUATION LIKE IC-814 WAS ONE THING, BUT TO FURTHER WEAKEN THE 'MOMENT' FOR INDIA BY NAME CALLING OR FINGER POINTING, EVEN WORSE

offered to go to Kandahar to secure the release, with the unpredictable Taliban and amoral ISI, across. The usually blustering and omnipresent Ministers were meekly abstaining from giving media bites or even talking to distraught relatives, as they knew the hopelessness and intensity of the situation.

The situation was fluidic, and anything could have happened requiring quick decision-making, and so Jaswant put himself in the line of fire. His colleagues were better politicians, and he, was a soldier to his country and conscience, first and foremost. We were to engage frequently at the Rashtrapati Bhawan when he was earlier an opposition MP, and later a Cabinet Minister (Defence, External Affairs & Finance), and then again, as an opposition MP. Each time in a gathering of civilians he would catch the eye of those in 'Uniform' and acknowledge them with a gracious nudge or salute when saluted.

In all his varied professional capacities, his sole and avowedly apolitical questions were about the welfare of the President's Bodyguards or about their magnificent horses, on whom too, his eyes rolled rather gently. Many questions can be posed about

Jaswant's decisions e.g., IC-814, but he remained an essentially decent and dignified voice of reason. So winds of politics in his partisan camp changed, and he became an 'outsider' in the new sensibilities. Like a noble soldier, he left his camp but didn't join the 'other side', as done by most. He was too proud to do that, so he passed away silently like a ship at night, saving his colleagues, party, and the country, like he saved the moment in Kandahar.

He was to profoundly introspect in, A Call to Honour, "between this 'right' act of saving 161 lives, or standing up against terrorism and letting them all 'go', for all to die - will that be another 'right' act? By choosing that which is otherwise extinguished for always - Life, for, in any event this fight against terrorism will continue, from one challenge to another". Just for the fact that the Gentleman (an old-fashioned word that he'd understand best) stood up for all his decisions (right or wrong) and never really blamed others (when he could have), he certainly deserves a better memory.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

Not a cakewalk for Congress in Haryana



This refers to the article, "Haryana elections: BJP faces Congress' resurgence" (September 12) by Kalyan Shankar). Despite the fact that the BJP is facing an anti-incumbency of 10 years rule in Haryana, the forthcoming assembly polls in the state may not be a cakewalk for the party due to some other factors. On ground sharp division among voters in the state on the lines of Jat and non-Jat as well as Urban and rural cannot be overlooked. Result of Lok Sabha polls also proved it.

The Congress snatched five Jat-dominated Lok Sabha seats from the Congress but the saffron party also managed to retain an equal number of seats dominated by non-Jat voters. This shows the BJP still has a strong presence in non-Jat as well as urban voters, however it is not sufficient to bring it to power third time. Besides BJP, the JJP-ASP alliance also may play a spoilsport for the Congress by denting in its dailit votes. Internal conflicts may also cost the Congress dear in assembly polls. Due to internal conflicts, the Congress failed to cobble an alliance with the AAP. Though former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has proved a greater say in the all matters including distribution of tickets but ambitions of Kumar Shailja, MP from Sirsa may play a spoil sport. A divided Congress will find it very difficult to defeat the BJP despite the latter being on a weak wicket.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

JAMMU AND KASHMIR ELECTIONS

Madam — The people of Jammu and Kashmir are no strangers to the menace of terrorism. However, cross-border terrorist activities have surged noticeably in

recent days, coinciding with the announcement of assembly elections in the state. With the first phase of polling set for September 18, incidents of terrorist activity have been reported across various regions, including Kathua. Fortunately, these threats have been effectively neutralized by the Indian Army. By instigating fear and anxiety among the local population, Pakistan seeks to undermine the democratic process set in motion by the Indian government. Despite India's relentless efforts, Pakistan continues to stir unrest, ensuring Kashmir remains a contentious issue. Conducting elections is the first step toward restoring democracy and peace in the region. It is essential to encourage the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to vote, strengthening both their state and the path to lasting peace and harmony, free from the shadow of terror.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

STRIVE TO HAVE AN EMPTY MIND

One must have empty mind which lead to the spiritual awakening



RAVI VALLURI

A eons ago a neophyte Zen student was an apprentice at a temple of knowledge. Regrettably, his mind was not robust enough and kept vacillating; so much so his mind and soul were not satisfied with "mere" breathing practices and meditation techniques imparted at the monastery. Petals of knowledge revealed. In a state of haughtiness, the Zen student arrived at another temple of knowledge where he remarked, rather dramatically that, "The human mind, Sakya Muni Buddha and other sentient beings, in reality do not exist." The pontiff of the monastery was silently listening to the outburst but uttered nothing for a while. And then abruptly and quite unexpectedly he whacked the tutee with his prized bamboo pipe which angered the student.

The Zen Master compassionately inquired of the tutee that if nothing existed, from where did his bout of anger and arrogance emerge? The mentee was momentarily nonplussed and then fell at the feet of the Zen Master, begging for forgiveness. A hollow and empty mindThe percipient Master agreed to admit the whippersnapper but with a few stipulations. It was incumbent upon the greenhorn to remember the cardinal principle of trying to keep the mind hollow and empty.Lord Krishna's fluteThere is an interesting parable about Lord Krishna and his flute. It is believed that he used to visit a garden and whisper, "I love you" to all the flora and fauna. In unison, the flora and fauna reciprocated their unalloyed and unadulterated affection towards Lord Krishna.

It so transpired that one day, an animated Lord Krishna approached a bamboo tree in the garden. The Lord broke the cataclysmic news that



he would have to snuff out the life of the bamboo plant.The entire garden was aghast as the news spread; several plants and trees were however secretly joyous that they were spared of the torture.The bamboo mulled upon the news for a while and then languidly responded, "Lord, you and I have no choice. At the altar of the Master of the Universe, I am willing to sacrifice my life." Hearing this, Lord Krishna beamed. With surgical precision, he struck the bamboo plant. Soon the bamboo was fashioned into a flute for Lord Krishna himself.The flora and fauna, all the gopis and gopikas were now covetous of the bamboo, that in its new avatar it would always be inseparable, constantly in the hands of Lord Krishna.

The exultant bamboo flute was to become a triumphant possession of Lord Krishna. "What was so noteworthy about you, that you were the chosen one?" was an incessant refrain faced by the flute. "Nothing but my singular capitulation to will of the Master; willing to be an instrument of the Lord," was the refrain of the flute.The classical epic Mahabharata is populated with numerous valorous characters. But the ace archer Arjuna stands out prominently. Why is that so? Arjuna is the Sakha, the Nara through whom Narayana revealed the divine celestial song – The Bhagvad Gita.It was Arjuna's unflinching devotion to the Lord that made the character so robust and aerobicized. He faithfully carried out all the commandments of the Lord.Only inner strength and a mature mind transfigure an individual to establish contact with the source of our inner energy.

This is possible through the process of authentic surrender. Breathing techniques like Sudarshan Kriya help to make the mind hollow and empty. "A mature mind is one who understands the impossibility of knowing the ultimate, and with this understanding there is a new dimension, the dimension of the being," said the philosopher, Osho.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

New world order: Is Western hegemony crumbling



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

In an unprecedented joint public appearance, CIA Director William Burns and MI6 Chief Richard Moore assert the enduring strength of their intelligence agencies

Last week, the heads of major Western intelligence agencies made a striking public appearance, first with a provocative op-ed and then in a high-profile interview with the Financial Times editor. Although some questions remained unanswered, their statements provided critical insights into their covert and overt operations. William Joseph Burns, Director of the CIA, and Richard Peter Moore, head of MI6/SIS, both distinguished diplomats before their current roles, asserted with conviction that their organisations are more formidable than ever. Their strong professional alliance highlights a key strategy: confronting their main adversaries, Russia and China. This unprecedented public engagement reflects Sun Tzu's strategic principle from The Art of War: "Appear weak when you are strong, and strong when you are weak." So, who is truly weak? Is this a perfect example of Orwellian doublespeak in the era of Artificial General Intelligence? The nuances of their statements suggest an intriguing answer when read between the lines.

This marks the first joint public appearance by Burns and Moore since their appointments, though separately they have spoken occasionally in public gatherings, signalling a departure from the traditionally more secretive approach of their predecessors. This dramatic 'openness' may be part of a broader strategy to project strength and capability in a shifting global power dynamic. Their commentary suggests that Western hegemony is waning, and those within the system must awaken and confront Russia before China is brought into the strategic equation, challenging the rise of Asia and the Global South. The article's audacious claim, if accurate, that "We have no more trusted or esteemed allies," starkly reveals the widening chasm among their partners.

This intensifying polarization is driven by rising discontent with the United States and the United Kingdom, whose actions have exacerbated global crises and dragged others into worsening conflicts. Burns and Moore emphasised the crucial role of transparency in the 21st century and democratic systems, noting that public engagement is key to demonstrating their agencies' priorities and building trust.

Burns highlighted the importance of visibility for attracting talent and enhancing public understanding of their work. The discussion also revealed the deep collaboration between their agencies, which has been instrumental in global events, such as providing early warnings about the war in Ukraine. Moore praised their joint efforts and the "best athlete model," where the most suitable agency handles specific operations, showcasing a high level of trust and effectiveness. They also addressed broader geopolitical issues, noting the threat posed by the cooperation among China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. While these nations share military technology, their collaboration is described as pragmatic rather than value-based, unlike the alliances within the Western intelligence community. Burns and Moore mentioned the lack of direct evidence of weapon transfers from China to Russia and the stalled status of the gas pipeline from Russia to China, attributing its likely incompletion to sanctions and shifting geopolitical factors.

However, they offered no new information on the widely reported Nord Stream pipeline sabotage, where it was suggested the CIA had prior knowledge. Regarding the increasing military cooperation between Russia and



THIS INTENSIFYING POLARISATION IS DRIVEN BY RISING DISCONTENT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHOSE ACTIONS HAVE EXACERBATED GLOBAL CRISES AND DRAGGED OTHERS INTO WORSENING CONFLICTS

North Korea, including the use of North Korean missiles in Ukraine, both spies recognised the heightened threat to US allies in Asia. Moore highlighted the gravity of the situation, stating, "North Korean weaponry and dual-use materials from China are already impacting the battlefield in Ukraine, and this cooperation poses a significant danger." Both leaders also stressed the critical importance of ongoing support for Ukraine, with Burns noting the severe and methodical nature of the conflict, where "Putin is using a traditional tactic of taking village by village, leaving nothing behind."

Despite the grim outlook, the resilience of the Ukrainian forces remains a focal point. Moore lauded Ukraine's bold strategy, such as the move into Kursk, as a game-changer. He remarked, "The Ukrainians, by going in and taking Kursk, have really brought the war home to ordinary Russians," disrupting Putin's narrative and demonstrating the effectiveness of their counteroffensive. Addressing the broader implications of the conflict, Burns acknowledged that while Putin's grip on power remains firm, it is not necessarily stable. "Putin's grip on power doesn't seem to be weakening, but don't ever confuse a tight grip with a stable grip," he stated. The recent Kursk offensive and past events, such as the Prigozhin mutiny, have exposed vulnerabilities within Russia, challenging Putin's confident narrative. Burns and Moore discussed the differing approaches of the US and UK in providing military aid to Ukraine. Burns reaffirmed the US's substantial support despite concerns over escalation, emphasising the ongoing commitment to Ukraine even amid Russia's nuclear threats. Moore echoed this, stressing that the West must not be intimidated. They also addressed Russia's intelligence operations in Europe, noting a shift toward using criminal elements for sabotage,

which has made these operations easier to detect.

The discussion also highlighted the threat of Russian intelligence, citing the 2018 Salisbury poisoning as a stark example of their reckless tactics. Moore emphasised the importance of dealing with such threats through intelligence sharing and collaboration. They also touched on Russian military intelligence activities in the Americas, particularly concerns about Russian agents operating in Mexico and potentially aiding illegal migration into the US. Burns assured that this issue remains a top priority, with law enforcement agencies closely monitoring and countering such threats. Burns updated on efforts to secure a ceasefire and hostage deal in Gaza, based on a three-phase plan proposed by President Biden: ceasefire, hostage release, and reconstruction. Despite progress, finalising the deal remains challenging, requiring strong political will and mediator support.

He hopes new proposals will drive action, with both leaders urging external pressure on Hamas for humanitarian aid and peace. Burns also backed the two-state solution but no questions were raised about the US's double standards—hosting ICC-wanted Benjamin Netanyahu while pushing other nations to arrest Putin on an ICC warrant. This highlights the hypocrisy in the US approach to international justice. Regarding Iran, Moore expressed concern about potential retaliation for the assassination of Qasem Soleimani. "We shouldn't let our guard down regarding the type of activity Iran might pursue," he cautioned, citing Iran's history of destabilising actions and support for militant groups. But the overthrow of Mosaddegh, the shooting down of Iran Air Flight 655, and unilateral sanctions show the real picture. The discussion then shifted to the strategic challenge posed by China. Burns and Moore both underscored that China remains a top pri-

ority for their respective agencies.

"The CIA has reorganised to reflect this priority," Burns noted, highlighting a significant increase in resources dedicated to addressing China's challenges. Despite economic difficulties in China, Moore observed that Xi Jinping remains a powerful and ambitious leader, making understanding China crucial for global strategic dynamics. Burns and Moore discussed the transformative role of AI in intelligence operations, with Moore emphasising its use in data analysis and counterterrorism, while Burns stressed the importance of maintaining open channels with China. They highlighted the need to balance AI advancements with human oversight.

Their public appearance reflects a shift in Western strategy, focusing more on leadership than on traditional destabilisation tactics. With the US elections approaching, it is clear that a broader alliance is working to secure Vice President Kamala Harris's victory against her main contender, Donald Trump. In his book, The Back Channel, Burns comments on Trump, stating, "In the age of Trump, America is diminished, the president's worldview smaller and meaner, the world full of difficult currents." The entire discussion highlights how the absence of decisive political leadership is not only eroding the system but also accelerating the West's decline. This decline follows decades of destabilising nations in the Global South and Europe to maintain hegemony, which is now cracking. This situation goes beyond the simplistic notion of new adversaries emerging against the West. It signifies a profound awakening from the deep-seated colonial legacies that have long influenced many Asian, African, and Latin American countries. Consequently, the old mantra of manipulation, isolation, and elimination may no longer work.

(The writer is a journalist and author; Views are personal)

Crime against women: A call for swift justice and comprehensive reform

Safety of women remains a fundamental concern worldwide, with millions of women falling victim to the horrific crimes of rape and abuse each day

Safety is a fundamental concern worldwide, with the pervasive issues of rape and abuse affecting millions of women and girls daily. These heinous crimes have a profound impact, extending beyond the individual victims to disrupt families, communities, and societies at large. The consequences are not just physical or emotional but are also societal, leaving lasting scars that undermine trust and cohesion.

At the core of rape and abuse lies a complex web of societal attitudes and deeply ingrained power imbalances. Often, perpetrators use these crimes as tools of control, asserting dominance over their victims. The devastating consequences of rape range from physical injury to emotional trauma,



VIKAS TIWARI

social isolation, and even death. The psychological damage endured by survivors is difficult to quantify, and the ripple effects on society are immense.

A recent case that shook the conscience of the nation was the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital, Kolkata. This brutal crime recalled the infamous

Nirbhaya case, igniting nationwide outrage. Yet again, it posed a critical question to both the central and state governments: Is the judicial system adequately addressing crimes against women? Are victims truly receiving the justice they seek?

Another notorious example is the 1992 Ajmer gang rape and blackmail scandal, where over 100 girls were blackmailed with obscene photographs, many subjected to gang rape. Justice, in this case, was only served 32 years later, with six accused sentenced to life imprisonment and fined 25 lakh each. This shocking delay once again raises concerns about whether the Indian legal system is equipped to tackle cases of sexual violence effectively.

India, with its population of 1.5 billion, has over 750 fast-track courts designed to expedite justice. Yet, cases like the Ajmer gang rape, Nirbhaya, Unnao, and Balrampur drag on for decades. The slow pace of justice signifies a collective failure of the government and law enforcement agencies in a country that claims to be the world's largest democracy. This begs the question: Do we need a judicial overhaul to ensure timely justice for victims of sexual violence?

The global landscape shows a diverse range of approaches to preventing violence against women. The UK, for instance, has recently passed a bill recognizing violence against women as a 'national security threat,' equating it with Islamist terrorism. Several European



countries, such as Denmark, Iceland, and Switzerland, have adopted stringent laws under the umbrella of 'Zero Tolerance' policies, which even include the death penalty for those convicted of sexual violence. These examples offer potential models for India to consider as it grapples with its own crisis of gender-based violence. Preventing rape and abuse

requires a multifaceted approach, one that addresses the root causes of these crimes. Education and awareness programs about consent, healthy relationships, and respect are essential starting points. Engaging communities, especially involving men and boys in discussions around women's safety, can help shift societal attitudes and reduce the prevalence of such crimes.

Equally important is providing accessible support services for survivors, such as counseling and legal aid. These services are vital for helping victims heal and pursue justice. Policy reforms aimed at strengthening laws to protect women and ensure swift accountability for perpetrators are also crucial. Empowering women and girls plays a critical role in prevent-

ing rape and abuse. This can be done by promoting economic independence, which helps reduce vulnerability to violence, and fostering safe spaces where women can report incidents without fear. Encouraging survivors to speak out against violence can help break the silence that often surrounds these crimes, lifting the stigma and encouraging others to come forward. In today's digital age, technology can also play a pivotal role in enhancing women's safety. Innovative tools such as safety apps, which allow women to alert family or friends in emergencies, and online support platforms for survivors offer new avenues for protection and support.

Data analytics can help identify patterns and hotspots of

violence, enabling authorities to target prevention efforts more effectively.

Ultimately, women's safety is a collective responsibility. It demands the involvement of individuals, communities, organizations, and governments. By addressing the root causes of rape and abuse and implementing solutions at various levels, we can create a society where women and girls live free from the fear of violence. It is time for decisive action. The protection of women should not be seen as an afterthought but as a fundamental pillar of societal well-being. Only by working together can we create a safer, more equitable world for all.

(The writer is a social worker and a RTI Activist; views expressed are personal)

UK slams 'baseless' Russian claim of diplomat-spies

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Friday attacked Russia for "completely baseless" claims that its diplomats were engaged in spying after Moscow revoked the accreditation of six British officials said to have left the country some weeks ago. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the UK remains "unapologetic" about protecting its national interests as it dismissed allegations made by Russia's FSB security service. The news comes as British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer arrived in Washington for talks with US President Joe Biden about the war in Ukraine and whether to give President Volodymyr Zelenskyy the nod to fire Western missiles at targets inside Russia. "The accusations made today by the FSB against our staff are completely baseless," the FCDO said in a statement on Friday. "The Russian authorities revoked the diplomatic accreditation of six UK diplomats in Russia last month following an action taken by the UK government in response to Russian state-directed activity across Europe and in the UK. We are unapologetic about protecting our national interests," it added.

The FSB said the six British diplomats had shown signs of conducting intelligence and were tasked with inflicting a "strategic defeat on our country". In a Telegram post, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Moscow "fully share[s] the assessments" made by the FSB on the activities of the diplomats. "The British embassy has gone far beyond the limits outlined by the Vienna Conventions [UN treaty on diplomatic relations]," she said. An FSB officer told Russian media that "hints" to "stop this practice [of gathering intelligence]" were not heeded. The security service added that it would revoke accreditation from more British diplomats if they

were found to be involved in similar activity. The diplomats involved were named and pictured on Russian state TV earlier on Friday. The expulsion of diplomats on all sides has become common practice since the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out in February 2022. According to rules set up by the United Nations (UN), diplomatic accreditation is given by a host nation to recognise the status of another country's staff. Diplomatic accreditation is essential for an official based as a diplomat in any country. Earlier this week, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a first-ever joint visit to Kyiv as a precursor to the Starmer-Biden talks. "The UK's support to Ukraine is unwavering. Our commitment of over GBP 600 million worth of support is the latest instalment in our enduring support to Ukraine. This will provide vital support to Ukrainians as they continue to

endure relentless Russian attacks," said Lammy. "Alongside the United States, we are committed to giving Ukraine what it needs to resist Russia's illegal invasion. Their fight for freedom, liberty and democracy is also a fight for British, European, and global security. With the US, we stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as it takes," he said. Since February 2022, the UK claims to have provided GBP 695 million in bilateral non-military support alongside USD 2.5 billion in fiscal support (loan guarantees), which will rise to USD 5 billion by 2027. Ukraine is hoping to get the go-ahead to use British-made Storm Shadow missiles against targets in Russia. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin has told the country's state television that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries would be "at war" with Russia if the West allowed Ukraine to use long-range missiles against its territory.

Islamic extremist plotted to attack German soldiers

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Berlin (AP): An alleged Islamic extremist has been arrested in connection with plotting an attack on German soldiers during their lunch break in Munich, killing as many of them as possible and causing a feeling of insecurity among the larger population, authorities said on Friday. The 27-year-old Syrian is a suspected supporter of radical Islamic ideology, according to the Munich public prosecutor's office. The suspect procured two machetes, each about 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) long, earlier this month, and allegedly planned to attack the soldiers with them. The suspect was brought before a judge on Friday following his arrest a day earlier, the prosecutor's office said in a statement. His name was not released in line with German privacy rules. The arrest comes after an August 23 attack in Solingen that left three people dead and eight wounded. A 26-year-old Syrian suspect was arrested. He was an asylum-seeker who was supposed to be deported to Bulgaria last year but reportedly disappeared for a time and avoided deportation.

US approves \$165 million in weapons sales to Israel

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The U.S. has approved \$165 million in weapons sales to Israel to fund heavy-duty tank trailers, the State Department announced Thursday. The systems include spare and repair parts, tool kits and technical and logistics support. They are not expected to be delivered until 2027. Earlier this year, the U.S. announced a mammoth \$20 billion weapons support package for Israel to include F-15 fighter jets. Like the tank trailers, those systems will not be delivered for several years and will not affect current Israeli military operations amid its 11-month-old war against Hamas militants in Gaza. The Biden administration has had to balance its continued support for Israel with a growing number of calls from lawmakers and the public to curb military support there due to the high number of civilian deaths in Gaza. It has curbed one delivery of 2,000-pound bombs amid continued airstrikes by Israel in densely populated civilian areas in Gaza.

One person shot during scuffle at pro-Israel rally in Boston suburb

Newton (US) (AP): A pro-Israel rally in a Boston suburb turned violent on Thursday evening when a passerby was shot during a scuffle after confronting a group of demonstrators, authorities said. Police were called at 6:40 p.m. to the scene of what they described as a small rally in Newton. Words were exchanged before a passerby rapidly crossed the street and tackled one of the demonstrators, Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan said. "A scuffle ensued. During that scuffle, the individual who had come across the street was shot by a member of the demonstrating group," Ryan said during a news conference late Thursday. Scott Hayes, 47, of Framingham, was arrested on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and violation of a constitutional right causing injury. He is scheduled to be arraigned in district court Friday, Ryan said. The shooting victim, who was not identified, was being treated at a hospital for life-threatening injuries, Ryan said. Acting Newton Police Chief George McMains asked witnesses to provide investigators with photos or videos of the confrontation. He said police would provide extra patrols at "houses of worship" over the next several days. Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller called the shooting a "frightening incident" and asked for everyone to remain calm as police investigate. "I know people will have a lot of questions, and we will share information with Newtonians and the press when we are able," Fuller said. "It's really early stages of an active investigation."

Justice Department, FBI ready criminal charges in Iran hack of Trump campaign

Washington (AP): The Justice Department is preparing criminal charges in connection with an Iranian hack that targeted Donald Trump's presidential campaign, two people familiar with the matter said Thursday. It was not immediately clear when the

charges might be announced or whom precisely they will target, but they would be the result of an FBI investigation into an intrusion that investigators across multiple agencies quickly linked to an Iranian effort to influence this year's U.S. presidential election. The prospect of

criminal charges comes as the Justice Department has warned about countries including Russia and China seeking to meddle in the presidential election between Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, including by hacking and using covert social media campaigns designed to shape

public opinion. Iran "is making a greater effort to influence this year's election than it has in prior election cycles and that Iranian activity is growing increasingly aggressive as this election nears," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, said in a speech Thursday in New York.

Boeing workers on strike

AP ■ SEATTLE

Aircraft assembly workers Awalked off the job early Friday at Boeing factories near Seattle and elsewhere after union members voted overwhelmingly to go on strike and reject a tentative contract that would have increased wages by 25 per cent over four years. The strike started at 12:01 a.m. PDT, less than three hours after the local branch of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers announced 94.6 per cent of voting workers rejected the proposed contract and 96 per cent approved the work stoppage, easily surpassing a two-thirds requirement. The labour action involves 33,000 Boeing machinists, most of them in Washington state, and is expected to shut down production of the company's best-selling airline planes. The strike will not affect

commercial flights but represents another setback for the aerospace giant, whose reputation and finances have been battered by manufacturing problems and multiple federal investigations this year. The striking machinists assemble the 737 Max, Boeing's best-selling airliner, along with the 777, or "triple-seven" jet, and the 767 cargo plane at factories in Renton and Everett, Washington. The walkout likely will not stop production of Boeing 787 Dreamliners, which are built by nonunion workers in South Carolina. Outside the Renton factory, people stood with signs reading, "Historic contract my ass" and "Have you seen the damn housing prices?" Car horns honked and a boom box played songs such as Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It" and Taylor Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do."

The machinists make USD 75,608 per year on average, not counting overtime, and that would rise to USD 106,350 at the end of the four-year contract, according to Boeing. However, the deal fell short of the union's initial demand for pay raises of 40 per cent over three years. The union also wanted to restore traditional pensions that were axed a decade ago but settled for an increase in new Boeing contributions of up to USD 4,160 per worker to employee 401(k) retirement accounts. Under the rejected contract, workers would have received USD 3,000 lump sum payments and a reduced share of health care costs. Boeing also had met a key union demand by agreeing to build its next new plane in Washington state. Several workers said they considered the wage offer inadequate and were upset by a recent company decision to change the criteria on which annual bonuses are paid. Toolmaker John Olson, 45, said he has received a 2 per cent per cent raise during his six years at Boeing. "The last contract we negotiated was 16 years ago and the company is basing the wage increases off of wages from 16 years ago," Olson said. "They don't even keep up with the cost of inflation that is currently happening right now." Boeing responded to the strike announcement by saying it was "ready to get back to the table to reach a new agreement." "The message was clear that the tentative agreement we reached with IAM leadership was not acceptable to the members. We remain committed to resetting our relationship with our employees and the union," the company said in a statement.

Canara Bank REGIONAL OFFICE, WEST DELHI, PHONE: 011-2845099, 9821711328

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

Ref: CB 2593/SARFAESI/PARMANAND/2024/2 Date: 04.09.2024

1. Mr. PARMANAND (BORROWER) ADD- 64-C, DDA EWS FLATS PITAMPURA DELHI-110034
2. Mrs. NEENA W/O Mr. PARMANAND (CO BORROWER) ADD- 64-C, DDA EWS FLATS PITAMPURA DELHI-110034 Also at
1. Mr. PARMANAND (BORROWER) ADD- PLOT NO 67, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK H-3, VIKASPURI, DELHI-110018
2. Mrs. NEENA W/O Mr. PARMANAND (CO BORROWER) ADD- PLOT NO 67, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK H-3, VIKASPURI, DELHI-110018

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, JANKAPURI Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That Mr. PARMANAND (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") AND Mrs. NEENA (hereinafter referred to as "the CO BORROWER") have availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from MARCH 2024 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs 10,43,434.27 (Rupees: Ten Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Four and Paise Twenty Seven Only), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facilities having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 01.09.2024 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of interest as mentioned in Schedule C per annum together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs 10,43,434.27 (Rupees: Ten Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Four and Paise Twenty Seven Only), together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset.

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt;

and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization/income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

SCHEDULE - A
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Sl No	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1.	2593619011403	HOUSING LOAN	16.11.2013	21,00,000.00
Total:				1,80,25,000.00

SCHEDULE - B
[Details of security assets]

IMMOVABLES

Sl No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	Name of Title holder	CERSAI DETAILS
1	All the part & parcel of the Residential property at ENTIRE THIRD FLOOR WITH ROOF/TERRACE RIGHTS OF BUILT UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 67 IN BLOCK H-3, AREA MEASURING 70 SQ. MTRS., VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI-110018, Measuring- 70 sq. mts. Boundaries- East- PARK, West- PLOT NO. 68, North- 10 FT. WIDE ROAD, South- 20 FT. WIDE ROAD AND PLOT NO.66	Mr. Parmanand S/o Shri Niranjan Dass And Mrs. Neena W/o Mr. Parmanand	Assel Id- 200007295095 Security Interest Id-400007305036

SCHEDULE - C
[Details of liability as on date]

Sl No	Loan No	Nature Of Loan/limit	Liability With Interest As On Date 03.09.2024	Rate Of Interest
1.	2593619011403	HOUSING LOAN	10,43,434.27	9.30% (RLLR) + (PENAL INTEREST)
TOTAL			10,43,434.27	

Date : 13-09-2024, Place : New Delhi Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerned that Veer Pal Yadav S/o Late Sh. Incha Ram, R/o F-36, Sector-20, Noida, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. G.P.A. No. Ram Pal Singh S/o Sh. Hori Lal Singh (Original Allottee) intend to sell residential Shramik Kuni Flat No. 256A, Block SK-II, Sector-93, Noida, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. having its super area 19.70 Sq. Mtrs. duly allotted by Noida Authority, vide allotment letter No. Noida/Building/2001-2002-119 (01/17/25) dated 25.02.2002, to Mr. Yashpal Awana S/o Sh. Rajiv Singh Awana, R/o Village-hajipur, Noida, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. An Agreement to Sell was executed between Mr. Ram Pal Singh S/o Sh. Hori Lal Singh (Original Allottee) in favour of Mr. Yashpal Awana S/o Sh. Rajiv Singh Awana in respect of above said property which was notified on 09.12.2002. No Agreement to Sell is registered in respect of above mentioned property. Now aforesaid flat is going to transfer, if anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public that M/s Stellar Parks (P) Ltd. through its Director is the lessee/owner and in possession of Plot No R-1, Knowledge Park II, Greater Noida, Dist. Gautam Buddha Nagar, addressing 45,663-50 sq. mtrs. Original Lease Deed executed by GNDA in favour of Stellar Parks (P) Ltd. vide entry in Bahi No. 1 2nd 363 pages 191-224 Serial No.6931 dated 17.10.2001 has been re-registered by Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) has lodged a complaint with PS Sector 20 Noida. Anybody (Banking/ Financial Institutions/ individuals) having any kind of interest/ claim/ title/ objection on the basis of said Original Lease Deed executed by GNDA in favour of Stellar Parks (P) Ltd. vide entry in Bahi No. 1 2nd 363 pages 191-224 Serial No.6931 dated 17.10.2001 may submit the same to the undersigned within 07 days of the publication. Please note carefully that if any objection is not received within the notice period, the said property will be treated as un-encumbered, marketable and no claim will be accepted on the basis of the Original Lease Deed executed by GNDA in favour of Stellar Parks (P) Ltd. vide entry in Bahi No. 1 2nd 363 pages 191-224 Serial No.6931 dated 17.10.2001.

VIVEK SEHGAL, (ADVOCATE) H-04, NEHRU NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, Mo. 9811144654

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-52-T-2024-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with installation of waste water treatment & recycling plant/ effluent treatment plant on 13 stations (SNP, PNP, GAUR, Karnal, KKE, BGZ, VH, ROK, FDB, GGN, PWL, PTRRD, FDN, BVH) in Haryana Over Delhi Division.

Approx Cost of the works Rs. 48,95 lacs

Address of the office Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Earnest Money Rs. 97,900.00

Date & Time of Submission of Tender 17.10.2024, 12:00 Hrs.

Opening of Tender 17.10.2024, 12:00 Hrs.

Website & Notice Board www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

2879/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS - 2024

In continuation to already announced Festival Special Trains-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

Train No. 05047	05048 Banaras - Ghaziabad - Banaras Express Special Train (Weekly)	16 Trips
ARR. DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 05048 ARR. DEP.
--- 22:00	Banaras	05:35 ---
11:45 ---	Ghaziabad	--- 12:35

DAYS OF RUN: 05047 from Banaras on every Tuesday from 08.10.2024 to 26.11.2024 & 05048 from Ghaziabad on every Wednesday from 09.10.2024 to 27.11.2024.

STOPPAGE: Bahadri, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh Jn., Amethi, Rae Bareilly Jn., Lucknow, Bareilly and Moradabad Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy

Train No. 06071	06072 Kochuvelli - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Kochuvelli Express Special Train (Weekly)	22 Trips
ARR. DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 06072 ARR. DEP.
--- 14:15	Kochuvelli	14:15 ---
20:40 ---	Hazrat Nizamuddin	--- 04:10

DAYS OF RUN: 06071 from Kochuvelli on every Friday from 20.09.2024 to 29.11.2024 & 06072 from Hazrat Nizamuddin on every Monday from 23.09.2024 to 02.12.2024.

STOPPAGE: Kollam Jn., Kayankulam, Chengannur, Tiruvalla, Kottayam, Ernakulam Town, Aluva, Thrissur, Palakkad Jn., Podanur Jn., Tiruppur, Erode Jn., Salem Jn., Jolarpettai, Katpadi Jn., Chittoor, Tirupathi, Renigunta Jn., Gudur Jn., Nellore, Vijayawada Jn., Warangal, Balharshah, Nagpur, Betul, Itarsi Jn., Bhopal Jn., Bina, Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra Cantt. and Mathura Jn. Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy,

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Visit RailMadad Website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app

NORTHERN RAILWAY Always at your service Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Smt. Aarti W/o Sh. Sonu Owner of Residential House, area measuring 355 sq. yards i.e. 664.03 sq. mtrs., & total Covered area 359 sq yards i.e. 300.15 sq. mtrs., out of Khirsa no-39, situated in the area of old Abadi at Village Paurani Pargana, Tehsil And District Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P through Registered Sale Deed Dated 24.08.2024 executed by Sh. Sonu S/o Sh. Rajender Singh in favour of Smt. Aarti W/o Sh. Sonu Vide Reg. no.25475 at SR-6 Noida U.P. the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/ right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under Address through Registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Intek Chand Jain S/o Late Sh. Sattan Lal Jain owner of built-up entire property bearing no. A-11, land area measuring 133 sq. yds., i.e. 111.2 sq. mtrs., comprising of Ground floor, First floor and Second floor with roof/terrace rights, out of Khirsa no. 47 situated in the area of Village Bindpur in the abadi known as Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 through Registered Release Deed Dated 28.09.2022 executed by Mr. Rajesh Jain S/o Mr. Sohan Lal Jain & Mrs. Machu Bai Jain D/o Mr. Sohan Lal Jain in favour of Mr. Intek Chand Jain Vide Reg. no.24221 at SR-18 Delhi the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/ right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile No. 9811215181

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. - 128-W/280/Tender Notice/24-25/W/1 (NIT-43) Dated: 13.09.2024

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest Money Construction of a permanent relay hut building for existing relay hut no. 07 and 10 to enhance single reliability and safety in the section of SSE/W/SNP under ADEEN/PNP. Approx. Cost : Rs. 5632898.85/- Earnest Money : Rs. 112700/-, Completion Period : 06 Months

Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 08.10.2024 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 08.10.2024.

Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded Above tender available on IREPS site i.e www.ireps.gov.in

Similar nature of work Supply and erection of prefabricated structure (Building, Cabin, Toilet, etc.)

NOTE : All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXII is compulsory. 2881/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To clear the extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of run of following Festival Special Trains. Details are given below:-

Train No.	From	To	Days of Run	Notified up to	Period of Extension
09061	Udhna Jn.	Ghazipur City	Wednesday	28.08.24	18.09.24 to 06.11.24
09062	Ghazipur City.	Udhna Jn.	Friday	30.08.24	20.09.24 to 08.11.24
04829	Jodhpur Jn.	Gorakhpur Jn.	Thursday	26.09.24	03.10.24 to 28.11.24
04830	Gorakhpur Jn.	Jodhpur Jn.	Friday	27.09.24	04.10.24 to 29.11.24

Note: Timings of Train No. 04830 Gorakhpur Jn.-Jodhpur Jn. Special will be revised as under-

STATIONS	Existing		Revised	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
Gorakhpur Jn.	----	23:25	----	23:25
No timings change between Gorakhpur Jn.-Rewari Jn.				
Rewari Jn.	16:30	16:35	16:40	16:45
Mahender Garh	17:16	17:18	17:21	17:23
No timings change between Mahender Garh-Jodhpur Jn.				
Jodhpur Jn.	04:00	----	04:00	----

Rest of the information will hold good.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of other stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Please join us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp

RailMadad Helpline No. 139 Visit RailMadad Website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app

NORTHERN RAILWAY Your Convenience - Our Concern Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Faked video targeting France-UAE ties likely came from Russia post-Telegram CEO arrest

AP ■ DUBAI

A fake video that ricocheted across the internet claiming tensions between France and the United Arab Emirates after Telegram CEO Pavel Durov's detention in Paris likely came from Russia, an analysis by The Associated Press shows, despite Moscow's efforts to maintain crucial ties to the UAE. It remains unclear why Russian operatives would choose to publish such a video falsely claiming the Emirates halted a French arms sale, which appears to be the first noticeable effort by Moscow to target the UAE with a disinformation campaign. The Emirates remains one of the few locations to still have direct flights to Moscow, while

Russian money has flooded into Dubai's booming real estate market since President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. France, however, remains one of the key backers of Ukraine and its President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as the war grinds on. Meanwhile, Russia likely remains highly interested in what happens to Telegram, an app believed to be used widely by its military in the war and one that's also been used by activists in the past. And the move comes amid concerns in the United States over Russia, Iran and China interfering in the upcoming US presidential election. Russia's Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

The fake video began circulating online August 27, bearing the logos of the Qatar-based satellite news network Al Jazeera and attempting to copy the channel's style. It falsely claimed the Emirati government had halted a previously announced purchase of 80 Rafale fighter jets from France worth 16 billion euros (USD 18 billion) at the time, the largest-ever French weapons contract for export. It also sought to link Dubai's ruler and his crown prince to the decision, as Durov holds an Emirati passport and has lived in Dubai. Such a decision, however, was never made. The UAE and France maintain close relations, with the French military operating a naval base in the

country. French warplanes and personnel also are stationed in a major facility outside the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi. Reached for comment, Al Jazeera told the AP that the footage was "fake and we refute this attribution to the media network". The network never aired any such claim when reporting on Durov's detention as well, according to an AP check. On the social platform X, a note later appended by the company to some posts with the video identified it as "manipulated media". The video also appeared to seek to exploit the low-level suspicion still gripping the Gulf Arab states following the years-long Qatar diplomatic crisis by falsely attributing it to the news network.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Vinendra Kumar & Mrs. Sujata Sharma are purchasing the Second Floor, having area measuring 62.21 Sq. Yds. built on Property No. A-32, out of Kharsa No. 680 & 881 I, situated in the area of GRI Marg, Mandawali Fazalpur (CP), A-Block, in the area of Village Mandawali Fazalpur, Shahdara, Delhi-110029 from 1) Mr. Chandrar Prakash, 2) Mr. Ram Prakash (Sh.) 3) Mr. Vinod Agarwal & 4) Mr. Dilshad Salmani who are owner of the entire property vide Sale Deed dated 07.10.2023 as doc no. 7384 and intend to get the financial assistance from SMFG India Home Finance Limited. If any person(s) (Institution has/ have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Khalan & Khalan
A-38 Kalash Colony, New Delhi-110048,
Ph. No. 011-48774545

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India)
NIIFT Campus, Mithapur Farms, Patna -800001
Recruitment process as taken out vide Advt. notification (10001)(01)/Rectt. of Group-c/2021-22 dated 11.02.2024 stands cancelled.
Please visit www.nift.ac.in/patna for further details.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India)
NIIFT Campus, Mithapur Farms, Patna -800001
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
National Institute of Fashion Technology invites applications to engage faculties on Short - Term contract basis for its upcoming extension center at Begusarai, Bihar. The last date of submitting the application is 04/10/2024. The details of the posts are available at the website www.nift.ac.in/patna.
Administration
NIIFT - Patna

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Ph. 01639-256232, 256236
Advt. No. BF.U/24/20
VACANCIES
Online applications are invited on or before 04/10/2024 upto 05:00 PM from eligible candidates through University website i.e. www.bfuhsc.ac.in for the recruitment to the posts of Associate Professor - (01), Assistant Professor (12) on regular basis at constituent colleges/Institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot, Advanced Cancer Institute, Bathinda and Tertiary Cancer Care Centre, Fazilka).
For updates, specially wise detail of posts, category wise distribution and other terms & conditions visit university website www.bfuhsc.ac.in
Sd/
REGISTRAR
nil/12/227/2023/37648 Dated CHD - 9/-13/2024

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 17,28,778/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00292903, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SURENDRA KUMAR and SUOHA PAL.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,80,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,08,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Eight Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FIRST FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) IN PART OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. - R2 - D - 1A/129/B, LAND MEASURING 50 SQUARE YARDS, OUT OF KHARSA NO. 692/92, 93 AND 94 SITUATED IN VILLAGE NASIRPUR, IN COLONY KNOWN AS MAHAWR ENCLAVE, GALI NO. - 05, NEW DELHI - 110045 ALONGWITH ONE BIKE PARKING SPACE WITH UNDIVIDABLE AND PROPORTIONATE COMMON RIGHTS IN THE LAND UNDERNEATH, ALONGWITH THE FREEHOLD RIGHTS OF THE LAND THERETO AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:-
EAST : OTHER'S PROPERTY NORTH : OTHER'S PROPERTY
WEST : GALI 12 FEET WIDE SOUTH : OTHER'S PROPERTY
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
Sd/
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 10.09.2024
Place : NEW DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all through this Public Notice that my clients Mr. Kamal Kapoor S/o Late Shri Vishwajeet Kapoor. It is informed to the public that the above mentioned photographs are of Lokesh Gulati and the Chirag Gulati whoever know the residence of them and give the information to the below mentioned name will be awarded by Rs. 100000/- and the name of the informant will be kept secret.
The above mentioned Chirag Gulati is third gender and he also loves my nephew and want to marry him but, I am completely against the third gender marriage, and cant accept it. It is believed that the Chirag Gulati will try to contact so that they both could abscond.
Contact to : Mr. Kamal Kapoor. email:kamalkapoor_bjp@gmail.com. Phone 011-22800785
ASHWANI KUMAR (Advocate)
Ch. No. 512, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court Near Shiv Mandir, Mob. 9891200739

CHANGE OF NAME
I, P. Palanivel Hereby declare that my minor son's name is P. Shivarraaman. Inadvertently it appears P. Shivarraaman in documents. Both names are of same person who is my son.
PD(75)C
I, Megha Parihar wife of Sh. Shivendra Singh Parihar R/o B-1003, Grand Ajara Heritage, Sector-74, Noida, Distt. Gautam Buddh Nagar, U.P. may change my name from Megha Parihar to Megha Bhadoria. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Megha Bhadoria for all purposes.
PD(75)I

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

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(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings 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 in Demand (Rs) Name of Branch
1. Kulbhushan Grover/ Usha Grover/ Abhishek Grover/ LBDEL00001379976/ LBDEL00001756635 Plot No- 876B, Block- A Sushant Lok Phase-1 Gurgaon Haryana/ September 12, 2024 June 03, 2023 Rs. 6,35,25,497/- 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 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: September 13, 2024
Place: Delhi NCR
Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
KURUKSHETRA-136119 (HARYANA)
Advt. No. 78 /2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT Kurukshetra invites sealed tenders from the interested firms for leasing out various Shops/Canteen/Booth in the premises of the Institute for a period of two years on monthly rental basis. Interested firms are requested to submit their tender document as per the terms and conditions, which can be downloaded from the Institute website www.nitkkr.ac.in. The tender document along with terms & conditions duly signed by the interested firms in sealed envelope alongwith Tender Fee & Earnest Money deposit(EMD) addressed to the Dean(Estate & Construction), NIT, Kurukshetra may be sent on or before 10-10-2024 upto 03.00 PM.
Registrar /IC

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 36,94,538/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00363125, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Vikas Dhaka and Sunita Devi.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 21,60,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Sixty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,16,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Sixteen Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. S-5 HAVING COVERED AREA OF 74.32 SQ. METRES ON 2ND FLOOR (WITHOUT TERRACE RIGHTS) ON THREE FLOOR BUILDING, SITUATED ON PLOT NO. B - 226, KHARSA NO. 1342/12 IN RAM PARK, LONI - 201001, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH. THE PROPERTY IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-
EAST : 30 FEET WIDE ROAD NORTH : PLOT NO. B-225 WEST : FLAT OF OTHER SOUTH : PLOT NO. B-227
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
Sd/
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 10.09.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that Beeta Devi W/o Sunil Kumar is the owner of House having area measuring 27.03 Sq. Yards, i.e. 21.12 Sq. Mtrs. Kharsa No. 482 M, Situated in Indraprastha, Modinagar, Maukuba, Village Seokri Khurdh Pargana Jalainabad, Tehsil Modinagar, Distt. Ghazabad by virtue of Gift Deed dated 18.12.2023 (Doc. No. 21627) registered in SR-Modinagar. Original Deed called in SR-Modinagar (No. 11485) in favour of Beeta Devi W/o Sunil Kumar in respect of above mentioned property have my client intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Susham Housing Development Finance Co. Ltd. To comply the requirements of BAKNBSFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address
MCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocates & Consultants A-96, Sector-8, New Vijay Nagar, Ghazabad, (U.P.)-201009.

PUBLICATION OF FORM NO. 1 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow
(Area of Jurisdiction, Part of Uttar Pradesh)
DRC NO. 25 OF 2024
Notice under Rule-2 of the IInd Schedule of Income Tax Act, 1961, read with Section 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS
MALLIKA RAWAL & ORS.
To,
(1) Mallika Rawal W/o- Sri Jayant Sarjeet Rawal, R/o 195, SF Indraprastha Colony Sector-33-30, Faridabad-121003
(2) Jayant Sarjeet Rawal S/o- Sri Sarjeet Chander Rawal, R/o- 195, SF Indraprastha Colony Sector-33-30, Faridabad-121003
(3) M/s Aadi Best Consortium Pvt. Ltd., Office: Cloud 9, Sector 1, Vasihali, Ghaziabad (U.P.)
Through its director
A. This is to notify a sum of Rs. 1,04,74,813 (Rupees one crore four lakhs seventy-four thousand eight hundred thirteen only) along with interest @ 12% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing of the original application i.e. 17-02-2022 till loan fully liquidated jointly and severally with its costs succeeds in its realization from the certificate debtor nos. 1, 2 and 3 as mentioned in the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993.
B. You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993.
C. You are hereby ordered that declare on affidavit the particulars of assets on or before 11/12/2024.
D. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 11/12/2024 at 11 A.M.
E. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay the following:-
Application fees Rs. 1,10,000/-
Advocate fees Rs. NIL
Publication charges Rs. NIL
Miscellaneous expenses Rs. NIL
Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow on this 03rd September, 2024
Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 36,94,538/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00363125, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Vikas Dhaka and Sunita Devi.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 21,60,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Sixty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,16,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Sixteen Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. S-5 HAVING COVERED AREA OF 74.32 SQ. METRES ON 2ND FLOOR (WITHOUT TERRACE RIGHTS) ON THREE FLOOR BUILDING, SITUATED ON PLOT NO. B - 226, KHARSA NO. 1342/12 IN RAM PARK, LONI - 201001, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH. THE PROPERTY IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-
EAST : 30 FEET WIDE ROAD NORTH : PLOT NO. B-225 WEST : FLAT OF OTHER SOUTH : PLOT NO. B-227
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
Sd/
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 10.09.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 17,28,778/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00368041, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from JYOTI, MITTLESH, MADAN KUMAR and BEANT SINGH.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,00,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF - 04, PLOT NO. C - 198, FIRST FLOOR, REAR RHS, VILLAGE SADULLABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201102.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
Sd/
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 10.09.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Om Prakash Bhola and Mrs. Kailash Bhola (Husband-Wife) R/o-H.No. 189, Sharad City, P.S.Loni, Ghaziabad-201102 has severed/diwornd their son Arun Bhola his wife Aashna Rathore and his children Aarush Bhola from his moveable-immovable properties. My client shall not be responsible for any acts done by them.
Prakash Chand Kapoor
Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that Beeta Devi W/o Sunil Kumar is the owner of House having area measuring 27.03 Sq. Yards, i.e. 21.12 Sq. Mtrs. Kharsa No. 482 M, Situated in Indraprastha, Modinagar, Maukuba, Village Seokri Khurdh Pargana Jalainabad, Tehsil Modinagar, Distt. Ghazabad by virtue of Gift Deed dated 18.12.2023 (Doc. No. 21627) registered in SR-Modinagar. Original Deed called in SR-Modinagar (No. 11485) in favour of Beeta Devi W/o Sunil Kumar in respect of above mentioned property have my client intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Susham Housing Development Finance Co. Ltd. To comply the requirements of BAKNBSFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address
MCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocates & Consultants A-96, Sector-8, New Vijay Nagar, Ghazabad, (U.P.)-201009.

APPENDIX IV-A
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E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 15,92,354/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00172740, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SATISH SINGH and SONI.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 5,50,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 55,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. GF - 3, GROUND FLOOR REAR RHS, PLOT NO. B - 6/14, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201001.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
Sd/
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 10.09.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 18,47,157/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00498581, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from MANISH CHOPRA, SANDEEP CHOPRA and CHANCHAL CHOPRA (GUARANTOR).
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF - 02 (MIG), ADMEASURING 540 SQUARE FEET I.E. 50.166 SQUARE METERS ON FIRST FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), (FRONT LHS), CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. - B/35, KHARSA NO. 217, SITUATED IN RAIL VIHAR, VILLAGE SADULLABAD, LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
Sd/
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
(Formerly known as INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 09.09.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 17,28,778/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00368041, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from OM PRAKASH, POOJA VERMA and RAM PRATAP.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,00,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. SF - 4, 2ND FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHTS, REAR RHS (G + UG + 2), M. I. G., PLOT NO. C - 9/4, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201001.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
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AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
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Date : 10.09.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 21,79,669/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00332058, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 29.08.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 30.08.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRADEEP KUMAR UPADHYAY, SHASHI SHUKLA, PARVEJ and PREMRAJ BANSAL.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,50,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,05,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. FF - 2, FIRST FLOOR, FRONT RIGHT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. B - 5/12, DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201014.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 0124-6910910, +91 7065451024; E-mail id: auctionhelpline@sammaancapital.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in.
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AUTHORIZED OFFICER
SAMMAAN CAPITAL LIMITED
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Date : 09.09.2024
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APPENDIX IV-A
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Sammaan Capital Limited (formerly known as Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.) [CIN : L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 30.09.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 18,47,157/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00483702, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 10.09.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 11.09.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from UMESH CHANDRA SATTI and AANANDI DEVI.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL BUILT - UP MIG FLAT NO. UGF - 04, ON THE UPPER GROUND FLOOR (BACK RHS), WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, AREA MEASURING 52.67 SQ. METRES, BUILT ON PLOT NO. D - 93, SITUATED AT S. L. F. VED VIHAR, HADBAST VILLAGE SADULLABAD, PARGANA AND TEHSIL LONI, DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201102, UTTAR PRADESH.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.sammaancapital.com; Contact No : 012

Markets breathe marginally low after record rally



PTI ■ MUMBAI
Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty took a breather on Friday after a record rally in the previous session and ended marginally lower on the emergence of profit-taking. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 71.77 points or 0.09 per cent to close at 82,890.94. During the day, it dived 309.49 points or 0.37 per cent to

82,653.22. The NSE Nifty dropped 32.40 points or 0.13 per cent to 25,356.50. A d a n i Ports was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, declining 1.37 per cent, followed by ITC, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Maruti, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever and Larsen & Toubro. I n contrast, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Axis Bank and Tech

Mahindra were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai settled lower, while Seoul and Hong Kong ended in positive territory. "The market took a breather and ended on a flat note after the previous day's sharp uptick. Despite domestic CPI inflation being within the RBI's target band, the increase in food prices may influence the central bank to remain prudent on rates.

"Higher liquidity from FIIs to the domestic market and a slide in US 10-year yield increased the prospects of the FED rate cut, which will aid domestic sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Retail inflation in August inched up to 3.65 per cent, though vegetables and pulses witnessed price rise in double digits, according to official data released on Thursday.

The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), however, remained below the Reserve Bank's median target of 4 per cent for the second month in a row. It was at a five-year low of 3.6 per cent in July. The headline inflation was 6.83 per cent in August 2023. European markets were trading higher in the mid-session deals. The US markets ended with gains on Thursday. A sharp fag-end rally on Thursday drove the BSE benchmark 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 intra-day peak of 83,116.19. The index ended 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. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,695 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. G l o b a l oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.03 per cent to 72.71 a barrel.



Rupee rises six paise against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The rupee witnessed range-bound trade and settled for the day higher by 6 paise at 83.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday supported by weakening of the American currency in the overseas market and significant foreign fund inflows. Forex traders said rupee trade was range-bound as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is maintaining a firm grip on the domestic currency. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.92 and witnessed an intraday high of 83.85 and a low of 83.98 against the American currency. The domestic unit

finally settled for the day at 83.90 (provisional), higher by 6 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the local unit settled 3 paise higher at 83.96 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.46 per cent to 100.90 points. Brent crude, the international benchmark, gained 1.03 per cent to USD 72.71 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 71.77 points, or 0.09 per cent, to close at 82,890.94 points, while the Nifty fell 32.40 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 25,356.50

points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 7,695.00 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, retail inflation in August inched up to 3.65 per cent, though vegetables and pulses witnessed price rise in double digits, according to official data released on Thursday. India's industrial production output decelerated to 4.8 per cent year-on-year in July 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing and mining sectors, as per official data released on Thursday.

Indian bioeconomy hits USD 151 billion, contributes 4.25 per cent to GDP



PTI ■ NEW DELHI
India's bioeconomy has experienced significant growth, reaching a valuation of USD 151 billion by the end of 2023, according to a new report, which said that the surge highlights the bioeconomy's critical role in national development, contributing 4.25 per cent to the country's GDP and positioning India among the top five global bioeconomies. The report, prepared by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE), outlines transformative advances across biotechnology, agricultural innovation, healthcare, and biomanufacturing, driving the sector's expansion. It was released during a session at the Global Bio-India Summit 2024. The report said that India's bioeconomy has experienced significant growth, reaching a valuation of USD 151 billion by the end of 2023. "This surge highlights the bioeconomy's critical role in national development, contributing 4.25 per cent to the country's GDP and positioning India among the top five global bioeconomies," it said. One of the major drivers of

this growth has been the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) Policy, the report said, noting that the policy focuses on bio-based chemicals, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, and advanced research in marine and space technologies. Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary DBT, Chairman BIRAC & DG-BRIC said the India bioeconomy report 2024, launched at the 4th edition of Global Bio India, marks a pivotal moment in India's journey to becoming a global leader in biotechnology. "The report underscores India's bioeconomy growth from USD 10 billion in 2014 to USD 151 billion by 2023, driven by rising demand for vaccines and biopharmaceuticals. With the new BioE3 Policy, we are poised to accelerate this momentum, aiming to reach USD 300 billion by 2030. This report sets the foundation for India's bio-revolution and highlights our path towards global leadership in biotechnology," Gokhale told PTI. The report also emphasises the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in biomanufacturing, with plans to create biomanufacturing and Bio-AI hubs. These efforts are expected to create

new employment opportunities, particularly in tier-II and tier-III cities, while supporting the integration of biotechnology across various industries, the report said. The bioindustrial sector remains the largest contributor to India's bioeconomy, accounting for USD 72.6 billion or 48.09 per cent of the total market, the report said. This sector includes biofuels, bioplastics, and enzymatic applications in industries such as textiles and detergents. Biofuels, in particular, have seen a sharp rise, with ethanol production capacity increasing to 13.8 billion litres in 2023, making India the world's third-largest producer of ethanol. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme, which promotes domestic ethanol production, has been central to reducing India's dependency on imported fuels and enhancing energy security, the report added. The biopharma sector also saw impressive growth, contributing USD 53.8 billion or 35.65 per cent to the bioeconomy. India's vaccine manufacturing capacity continues to be a global leader, with companies like Serum Institute of India (SII) producing over 3 billion doses annually. Major breakthroughs, such as the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine and India's first quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, have highlighted India's prowess in vaccine production. The diagnostics and medical devices segment, which grew to USD 19.4 billion, has also played a crucial role in addressing healthcare challenges, particularly through advancements in early disease detection and personalized medicine, the report said.

Passenger vehicle wholesales dip two per cent in August as OEMs cut dispatches

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales declined by about 2 per cent year-on-year in August as companies curtailed dispatches to reduce inventory at dealers amid a drop in demand. According to data issued by the industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the total passenger vehicle dispatches in the domestic market stood at 3,52,921 units last month compared to 3,59,228 vehicles in August 2023, a dip of 1.8 per cent.



Two-wheeler wholesales rose 9 per cent to 17,11,662 units last month against 15,66,594 units in the year-ago period, it added. Scooter dispatches

last month climbed to 6,06,250 units from 5,49,290 units in August 2023, a growth of 10 per cent. Similarly, motorcycle dispatches from companies to dealers increased by 8 per cent to 10,60,866 units last month from 9,80,809 units in August 2023. The total three-wheeler sales grew 8 per cent to 69,962 units last month against 64,944 units a year ago. "Looking ahead, as the country enters the festive season, demand for vehicles is expected to grow, which will also be duly augmented by the recent announcements of PM E-DRIVE and PM-eBus Sewa Schemes of Government of India," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said.

Food ministry inks pact with FCI to boost grain operation efficiency

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The food ministry has signed an agreement with the state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the 2024-25 fiscal year, aiming to enhance efficiency and accountability in foodgrain procurement and distribution. The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) sets specific performance benchmarks, including metrics for FCI depots, and outlines accountability measures to optimise public fund usage in food security operations. "Depot efficiency parameters like capacity utilization, operational losses, security measures, and modernisation of processes are part of the performance benchmarking," the ministry said in a statement. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to refining the Public Distribution System (PDS) and ensuring efficient management of food subsidy funds through improved FCI operations. Established in 1965, FCI handles the purchase, storage, transport, distribution, and sale of foodgrains. It relies entirely on central government food subsidies, having no independent income source. "Such large public expenditure must be evaluated for cost-effectiveness and value for money. This requires benchmarking operational parameters and establishing institutional accountability," the ministry added.

Government mandates use of fire-resistant upholstery fabrics in non-domestic furniture

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Government has introduced stringent regulations mandating the use of fire-resistant upholstery fabrics in non-domestic furniture, a move expected to improve public safety with respect to fire-related tragedies. Effective from October, the Quality Control Order (QCO) now requires all upholstery components used at public spaces to comply with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. The QCO applies to upholstered composites and fabrics used in non-domestic furniture found in public areas such as offices, malls, airports, restaurants, underground shopping



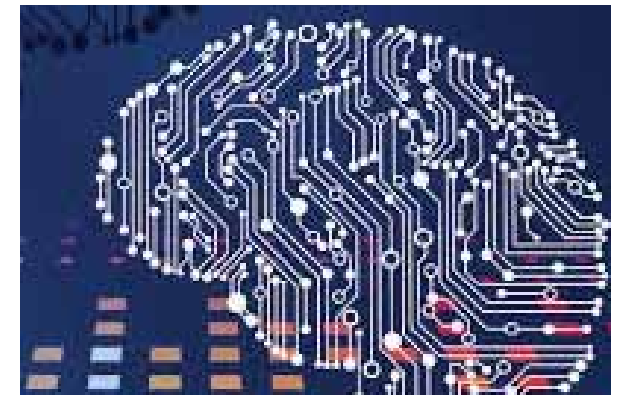
complexes, museums, hospitals, places of worship, and educational institutions. The order is also applicable on all imports of complete furniture or sub-assemblies having upholstered fabric meant for public use,

however relaxation till March 31, 2025 has been provided on the request of industry. "This decisive action underscores the government's commitment to enhancing fire safety in public spaces and ensuring that all non-

domestic furniture meets the highest standards of quality and safety, thereby safeguarding lives and property," an official statement by the Ministry of Textiles said. QCOs are part of the government's broader strategy to ensure quality and safety in critical products. "While BIS certification is voluntary for many products, compliance with these standards for strategic items like fire-retardant upholstery is now compulsory. This regulation is a significant step towards creating safer public spaces and ensuring that the furniture used in these environments meets the highest safety standards," the statement said.

Competition Commission selects Management Development Institute to conduct market study on AI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Fair trade watchdog CCI has selected the Management Development Institute (MDIS) to conduct a market study on artificial intelligence and competition that will examine various aspects, including potential competition issues in the AI ecosystems. In April this year, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had issued a request for proposal to conduct the market study on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Competition. The Gurugram-based MDIS has been engaged to conduct the study that will seek to understand certain key AI ecosystems, including



stakeholders, resources, value chains, market structures and parameters of competition, CCI said in a release on Friday. It will also examine the

emerging and potential competition issues in these markets/ecosystems as well as look at the scope and nature of AI applications/use cases, and assess associated opportunities, risks and ramifications from a competition standpoint. Among other aspects, the study will focus on the existing and evolving regulatory/legal frameworks governing AI systems and applications in India and other major jurisdictions. Earlier this year, in an interview to PTI, CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur said AI and machine learning can drive efficiency and innovation but also raise concerns related to market concentration and potential anti-competitive behaviour.

AN ENCHANTING EVENING OF INDIAN CLASSICAL ART

Celebrating Lord Krishna's life through captivating storytelling, music, and dance, Dr Mansingh's masterful abhinaya and multilingual artistry left the audience in awe at Sanskriti Sannivesh, writes **GANESHWAR DAYAL**



PHOTOS: PNKAJ KUMAR

The Human Touch Foundation's cultural initiative, Sanskriti Sannivesh, brought an extraordinary evening of Indian classical art to life at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This highly anticipated event, organised by the Greater Noida-based NGO, showcased a spellbinding performance of Natya-Katha KRSHNA by Dr Sonal Mansingh, a cultural icon, former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), celebrated for her lifetime contributions to Indian classical dance.

The highlight of the evening was Dr. Sonal Mansingh's performance, Natya-Katha KRSHNA, which enthralled the audience with episodes from Lord Krishna's life. From the divine child Krishna stealing butter and teasing the gopis, to the epic moment where he lifted Mount Govardhan to protect the people of Gokul from Lord Indra's wrath, each episode was a showcase of Mansingh's unmatched abhinaya (expressive acting) and narrative brilliance. Her performance also brought to life Krishna's encounter with the Kaliya



serpent, his slaying of his uncle Kansa, and his eventual move to Dwaraka, ending with the poignant story of his reunion with his childhood friend, Sudama. The stories, steeped in lessons of duty, trust, and friendship, were presented with grace, wit, and emotional depth. Dr. Mansingh's command over multiple languages—Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi, Oriya, and English—added further layers to the performance, as she effortlessly weaved bhajans, shlokas, and poems into the narrative. Her disciples accompanied her with striking dance interludes, and the visual richness of miniature artworks projected on-screen enhanced the audience's immersion in the tales of Krishna. Vocal and instrumental support from a talented ensemble of accompanists elevated the experience further, creating a seamless blend of music, dance, and storytelling. The performance left the audience in awe, who responded with a thunderous standing ovation. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where Dr Sonal Mansingh was honored by Former President of India, Hon'ble Shri Ram Nath Kovind. Dr Upasana Singh, Founder of Human Touch Foundation, expressed her

gratitude to the distinguished guests and audience, recognising the significance of cultural events like Sanskriti Sannivesh in promoting India's cultural and artistic legacy. Reflecting on the evening and her journey of over 60 years, Mansingh shared, "Krishna has been my lifelong companion, though enigmatic and at times inscrutable." The former President commented, "Sonal ji's performance made us all proud."

The Human Touch Foundation, under the guidance of Dr Upasana Singh, has long been committed to advancing social equity and cultural awareness. Through Sanskriti Sannivesh, the foundation aims to promote Indian art and traditions while working on key societal issues such as workplace inequality, sexual harassment, and environmental sustainability. Dr. Singh's leadership has been instrumental in the foundation's two-decade journey toward social transformation and equitable growth. "We are committed to reviving the rich cultural

heritage of the country and would like to present the talented artists from across the country who haven't got the chance to showcase their talent. It is our earnest endeavour to provide support to people in need," said Upasana Singh. Dr Sonal Mansingh, an illustrious figure in the world of Indian classical dance, is a recipient of the prestigious Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award. With a career spanning over six decades, she has been a torchbearer of Bharatanatyam and Odissi, using her art as a medium to communicate stories rooted in Indian mythology, philosophy, and spirituality. Beyond her dance, Dr. Mansingh's contributions as a cultural ambassador, speaker, and educator have enriched India's artistic landscape. Her mastery over languages, music, and literature, combined with her deep understanding of iconography and philosophy, have made her a unique and revered personality in the cultural world.

JOURNEY INTO THE SOUL OF JAPAN

Lokesh Tuli's Photography exhibition "Visions of Japan: Cultural Mosaic" at the Japan Foundation in New Delhi, offered an intimate journey into Japan's soul, capturing its culture and beauty in every frame, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Photography has a unique power - it can transport individuals to places they might never visit in person. It captures moments that might otherwise go unseen, offering glimpses into worlds that, though distant, feel deeply familiar. Lokesh Tuli, a talented photographer with a keen eye for detail, has created such an experience with his latest exhibition, "Visions of Japan: Cultural Mosaic," at the Japan Foundation in New Delhi. This exhibition, a highlight of Japan Month celebrations, is not just a collection of photographs but a doorway into the heart of Japan's cultural and artistic soul.

Walking through Tuli's exhibition feels like stepping into a different world, one shaped by subtlety, grace and an eye for the beauty in the everyday. What stands out most about this collection is not only its technical brilliance but its emotional depth. Tuli's work goes beyond photography, each image represents a conversation between the viewer and Japan's spirit, a dialogue that feels both personal and profoundly universal. His monochrome photographs, with their play of light and shadow, evoke a quiet elegance that is rare in today's fast-paced, often over-saturated visual culture.

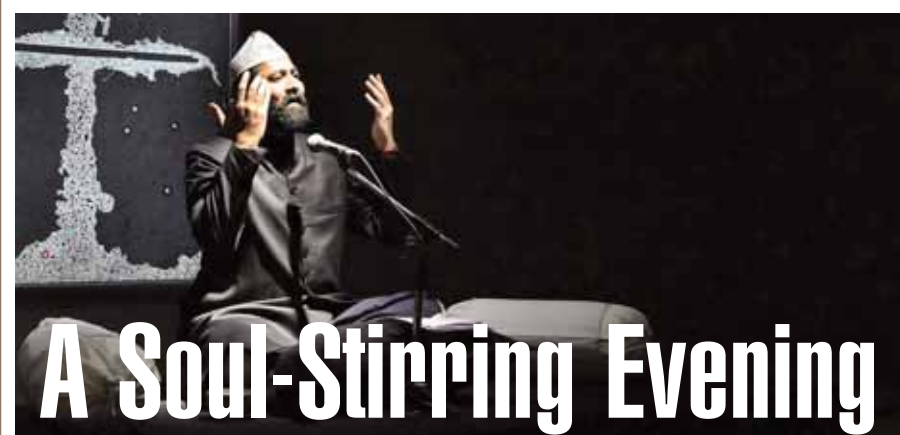


There is a profound sense of patience in Tuli's work, showcasing his dedication to waiting for the perfect moment that reveals a deep respect and understanding of his subject. His work is about more than just capturing beautiful scenes, it's about finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. In "Moments," he captures a quiet exchange between two people that feels deeply personal yet universal. "Old Timer" celebrates the grace and dignity of aging, while "Walking the Lane" invites viewers to stroll down a peaceful Japanese street. "The Silent Ride" transports viewers to a moment of stillness, and

"Smoke and Steel" uses monochrome to turn a simple plume of smoke into something almost divine. One of the highlights of the exhibition is "Whisper," a rare coloured photograph that breaks the monochrome theme, adding a burst of vibrancy and offering a fresh perspective. Each piece is more than just a photograph, it's a story waiting to be told, a moment captured in time that invites viewers to step inside and feel what it's like to be there. Visions of Japan: Cultural Mosaic serves as a reminder of the transformative power of art. It demonstrates that

photography, at its best, is not just about capturing a scene but about revealing its essence. Tuli's work invites viewers to look beyond the surface and find beauty in places they might otherwise overlook. It's a call to slow down, appreciate the small details and find meaning in moments that often pass unnoticed. In a world that frequently favours the bold and the obvious, Tuli's exhibition offers a quiet, gentle reminder of the power of subtlety and grace. It's a journey worth taking, not only for lovers of photography but for anyone who seeks to see the world a little differently. The exhibition features 40 stunning black-and-white photographs, each a limited-edition piece that will never be reproduced. Every image is carefully composed, capturing the spirit of Japan in a way that feels both timeless and immediate. Through his lens, Tuli explores the beauty of Japan's streets, the mystery of its public spaces and the vibrancy of everyday life. His work is inspired by wabi-sabi, a Japanese concept that finds beauty in imperfection and the fleeting moments of life. Walking through the exhibition feels like stepping into Japan itself. Each photograph tells its own story—stories that are intimate yet speak to something larger

about the human experience. What makes this exhibition truly special is the meticulous attention to detail that extends beyond the photographs themselves. Every aspect of the experience has been thoughtfully curated to create a deeper connection to Japanese culture. The collaboration with Panasonic Lumix reflects the precision and quality behind each image, while 100-150 beautifully produced catalogues are available for visitors to take home, allowing them to revisit the art long after they've left the gallery. To further immerse visitors, the exhibition includes a sake-tasting event for select guests, adding a sensory element to the visual journey. There's also a cultural quiz designed to engage visitors and deepen their understanding of Japan's rich traditions and modern spirit. "Visions of Japan: Cultural Mosaic" is more than just a photo exhibit; it's an invitation to pause and truly appreciate the world. It uncovers beauty in the most unexpected places, from quiet exchanges between people to the interplay of shadows on a wall. Tuli's work portrays Japan in a deeply personal yet universally accessible way, creating connections across cultures and encouraging thoughtful reflection. The exhibition allows visitors to immerse themselves in a world where every detail and moment is rich with meaning, where light and shadow tell their own stories and where even the smallest instances resonate deeply. As viewers leave, they are likely to feel a profound connection to Japan's essence, finding beauty not only in distant scenes but in their everyday lives. "Visions of Japan: Cultural Mosaic" is more than an art display, it's a moving journey into the heart of a culture and a reminder of the powerful way photography can bring us all closer together. Photos: Pankaj Kumar



Askari Naqvi's *Soz Khwani* at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art was an evening of deep reflection, blending history and emotion in a powerful tribute to MF Husain's legacy, writes **TEAM VIVA**

Some evenings stay in the mind long after they're over, moments that leave a mark on the heart. The recent *Soz Khwani* performance by Askari Naqvi at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art was one such evening. From the moment the audience settled, there was a visible sense of anticipation, a shared expectation of something extraordinary. Naqvi took the stage with a quiet, humble presence, his demeanor reflecting the deep responsibility of carrying forward a tradition so rich and meaningful. As he began to sing, it became immediately clear this was more than just a performance. *Soz Khwani*, with its melodies and poetic verses, is an ancient practice of remembering grief, a way of turning sorrow into something sacred. Naqvi's voice seemed to carry not just notes, but stories, memories and emotions, each phrase a bridge connecting the audience to the distant, tragic fields of Karbala. There was a depth in his voice, a gravity that pulled everyone into a shared experience of loss. This was not just a musical event; it was a collective meditation on the nature of grief and remembrance. The room seemed to hold its breath, each note touching something deep and universal within every listener. For those moments, the boundaries between past and present, between individuals, seemed to dissolve. This event was part of a broader collaboration with the Italian Cultural Centre, leading up to an exhibition in Venice celebrating M.F. Husain's works, including his



evocative piece "The Battle of Karbala." Husain, with his bold and expressive strokes, seemed to find a perfect companion in Naqvi's singing. Both the painter and the singer were speaking the same language of human suffering, resilience and the search for meaning - one through art, the other through voice. For those present, it wasn't just an artistic experience but a profound reminder of art's power to connect people across time and culture. In that room, the sorrow of Karbala became a shared sorrow; the ancient grief felt strikingly contemporary. Observers felt moved by Naqvi's ability to evoke such raw emotion with such simplicity. It was a powerful illustration of how, in a world so often divided, an evening like this could unite people through a shared feeling. When the final note faded, a heavy, meaningful silence filled the room. It was a stillness filled with thought, reflection and a quiet peace that comes from touching something eternal. Those present could see that others felt it too - a rare, communal moment of introspection. The subsequent discussion at the Italian Cultural Centre, led by Prof. Chiara Rostagno and Roobina Karode,

underscored how art in both Italy and India has long grappled with similar themes: pain, hope and the human condition. It was a reminder that, whether through paintings or poetry, art continues to seek understanding, connection, and meaning. Reflecting on the evening, it became clear that it was more than a cultural event - it was an experience that resonated deeply. It was a powerful reminder of how a simple song sung with sincerity can reach across barriers, make strangers feel less alone and transform a room into a place of healing. One guest captured the essence of the evening when they remarked, "There was such sadness in his voice, but also such beauty. It made me feel less alone." And perhaps that is the true purpose of art: to make the vast, complicated world feel a little smaller, a little more connected. This *Soz Khwani* left behind more than memories; it left a sense of connection and a quiet peace that continues to resonate. It was an evening to be grateful for, one that reminded everyone present of the power of shared emotion and the beauty of coming together in moments of collective reflection. Photos: Pankaj Kumar

TEAM INDIA BEGINS PRACTICE IN CHENNAI FOR FIRST TEST AGAINST BANGLADESH

PTI ■ CHENNAI
It is back to business for Rohit Sharma's side following its much-deserved month-long break, as the team began its preparations in right earnest under new coach Gautam Gambhir here on Friday, for the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh. With the first Test against Bangladesh scheduled here from September 19, the entire squad, including Rohit and batting stalwart Virat Kohli, assembled at the MA Chidambaram Stadium with new bowling coach, South African great Morne Morkel, and batting coach Vikram Rathour also in attendance. BCCI posted images of the first day of practice and wrote, "The countdown starts as Team India begin their preps for an exciting home season." The images showed the entire squad listening attentively to Gambhir, his support staff and



skipper Rohit. Earlier, India skipper Rohit arrived in Chennai on Thursday, while Virat flew in directly from London for the opening Test. Wearing a yellow jersey, Rohit was seen emerging from the airport escorted by security

personnel, in a PTI Video on Thursday night, while Kohli came from London in an early-morning flight. The likes of India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant had earlier reached the city on Thursday.

The players are returning to the field after a much-needed break of more than a month and would look to put behind the disappointment of losing the ODI series against Sri Lanka in August and get back to winning ways quickly under Gambhir.

This will be India's first Test under Gambhir and his new support staff, and it would be interesting to see how Rohit's side approaches the game against a Bangladesh side, which is riding a wave following their 2-0 Test series win over Pakistan.

Vital World Test Championship (WTC) points are at stake in the two-match series as India get ready for a gruelling 10-match Test season, which also includes a three-Test series at home against New Zealand and the five-match Border-Gavaskar series later this year in Australia. India are currently heading the table with 68.52 percentage points, while Australia are a close second with 62.50 percentage points. Bangladesh have jumped to fourth spot with 45.83 percentage points following their 10-wicket win against Pakistan in the opening Test and their amazing fight-back in the second Test where wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das scored a century to singlehandedly guide the side to a series triumph. The second Test of the India-Bangladesh series will be played in Kanpur from September 27.



ACT hockey: Favourites India look to continue supremacy over Pakistan

PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)
A semifinal berth already secured, unbeaten India will look to continue the winning run and supremacy over arch-rivals Pakistan in their last and most-awaited round-robin match of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy here on Saturday. With four wins out of as many games, defending champions India are leading the points table, followed closely by Pakistan. Starting the tournament as clear favourites, Paris Olympics bronze-medallists India haven't disappointed so far, beating hosts China 3-0, Japan 5-1, trouncing Malaysia 8-1 before registering a 3-1 victory against Korea in their last match. Pakistan, on the other hand, have been resilient in the campaign. Playing under the guidance of legendary forward Tahir Zaman, the Ammad Butt-led side has improved with every passing game. Pakistan drew 2-2 against Malaysia and Korea, before beating Japan and China 2-1 and 5-1 respectively to climb to the second spot. Going by recent results, India enjoy an upper-hand over Pakistan. In their last meeting at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, India thrashed Pakistan 10-2. A few months before that, the Indians beat Pakistan 4-0 when the ACT was held in Chennai. At the Asia Cup in Jakarta in 2022, a relatively young Indian side held Pakistan to a 1-1 draw while at the 2021 ACT in Dhaka, India beat Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal. India captain Harmanpreet

Singh, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers in the world, is continuing his good form from Paris, and is excited to resume the rivalry against Pakistan. "I have been playing with some of the players in the Pakistan team since my junior days and we share a special bond with them. They are like my brothers. Of course, on the field, we will go about the match like we would against any other opponent and make sure we keep our emotions in check," he said. "In world hockey, the rivalry the two teams share is unparalleled and I am sure fans across the globe will be waiting for an India-Pakistan match." Though India enjoys an edge over Pakistan, Harmanpreet is least bothered about past results. "Past results will not matter when we take on a team like Pakistan. They are a tough side and have the potential to bounce back at any stage in the game," he said. The Indians can also take heart from the fact that the team's young forward-line is living upto the expectations and scoring a lot of field goals, an area which was a bit of concern in Paris. Pakistan's skipper Butt is also confident about Saturday's contest and said his side has improved with each passing game. "India has undeniably played like true favourites in the tournament so far. We will take heart from the matches we have played, and I must say, we have improved in every single game, not conceded cards and have played disciplined hockey."



Agarwal, Pratam give India A edge after Devdutt makes 92 for India D in Duleep Trophy

PTI ■ ANANTAPUR
Half-centuries by skipper Mayank Agarwal and Pratam Singh helped India A reach 115 for one in their second innings and extend their hold over India D after second day's play of the Duleep Trophy here on Friday. India A, who made 290 in their first innings, earlier bowled out their opponents for 183 despite India batter Devdutt Padikkal's valiant 92 to gain a lead of 107 runs. Now, India A have an advantage of 222 runs, with Agarwal (56, 87b, 8x4) and Pratham (59 batting, 82b, 6x4) leading their run glut in the second innings. However, Agarwal, who is eager to chart his way back into selectorial reckoning, will be kicking himself for falling on the last ball of the day to part-time spinner Shreyas Iyer, spooning a simple return catch. But till that point, Agarwal and Pratam played fluently and executed some fluent drives and cuts as the run-rate never came under four. However, that's just one part of India A's story of domination on the day as earlier pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Aaqib Khan bagged three wickets apiece to rattle the India D line-up. Only one of their batters defied the constant challenge of judgement - Devdutt who stroked his way to a 124-ball

92 with 15 hits to the ropes. The Karnataka left-hander who made his Test debut earlier this year against England was particularly harsh on his offering on his pads or away from the off-stump. A century was there for his taking, but the 24-year-old fell just eight runs shy as his attempt to play a shot on the up off state-mate Prasidh Krishna ended up in a simple catch to stumper Kumar Kushagra. The 11-4-30-1 figures do not fall under the hallow-spell category, but for Prasidh it was important in his comeback journey. This was the pacer's first outing in competitive cricket since Karnataka's Ranji Trophy game against Gujarat in January this year. Since that match, the 28-year-old was recuperating from a quadriceps injury. Harshit Rana made a 31 off 29 balls, including two back-to-back sixes off left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, but his effort was not enough for India D to close the gap with their rivals. However, Rana can take a slice of comfort as he completed a four-wicket haul in the opening session of the day to bowl out India A for 290 in their first dig. India A were resuming from their overnight 288 for eight, but lost Mulani and Aaqib to Rana who ended up with 4 for 51.

Maxwell excited about Kohli vs Smith showdown in Border-Gavaskar Trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is thrilled about the prospect of watching modern-day greats Virat Kohli and Steve Smith battle for supremacy in the Border Gavaskar Trophy against India later this year. Kohli and Smith are among the "Fab Four" batters of the modern generation, alongside England's Joe Root and New Zealand's Kane Williamson. "I think the way that the two superstar batters, Steve Smith and Virat Kohli, probably head-to-head. Seeing how their dominance I suppose is asserted on the series and how much of an influence that has on who takes home the Border Gavaskar Trophy," Maxwell told Star Sports. "One of those two is going to



make a lot of runs, if not both of them, and it's going to be pretty exciting to watch the two of the finest players of our generation go head-to-head,"

he added. Both Kohli and Smith are former captains, and have indulged in fiery on field exchanges early in their careers

but their relationship has evolved in recent times. Smith recently said that Kohli was an Australian amongst the Indian players in terms of attitude. "I believe Virat Kohli is Australian in thoughts and action. The way he gets into a battle, the way he gets into the challenge and tries to get on top of the opposition. He's probably the most Australian of the Indian players, I'd say," Smith had said. India travel to Australia for the marquee five-Test series, starting in Perth on November 22. Since 2014-15, Australia have failed to lay their hands on the Border Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

Verstappen faces challenge in Baku as RedBull's F1 dominance under threat

AP ■ BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)
Lando Norris is only one of Max Verstappen's problems at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. The other is his own car. Verstappen needs to tame a car he's called a "monster" to hold off Norris and defend his Formula 1 title, all while the Red Bull team's years of dominance in Formula 1 seem to be nearing their end. Verstappen and Red Bull haven't won any of the last six races going into the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday. Norris will now be favored by McLaren over teammate Oscar Piastri but will likely need some big slip-ups from Verstappen or Red Bull to overhaul the Dutch driver's 62-point lead in the last eight races of 2024. The target is much closer in the constructor's standings, with the McLaren team just eight points behind Red Bull, so that lead could change hands in Azerbaijan on Sunday. New rivals to Red Bull are emerging, powered by Red Bull expertise.

The departure of Red Bull's car design guru Adrian Newey to Aston Martin is a sign of the long-term ambition of a team backed by billionaire Lawrence Stroll. Dubbed "the team of the future" by driver Fernando Alonso, they have an eye on designing a car to exploit the new F1 regulations in 2026 - just like Newey did for Red Bull in 2022. Aston Martin has even signaled it would be open to signing Verstappen, who has a Red Bull contract through 2028. Another key lieutenant to Red Bull team principal Christian Horner, sporting director Jonathan Wheatley, is leaving at the end of the season before heading up the ambitious new Audi works team arriving in 2026. More immediately, there simply isn't much room to improve Red Bull's once-dominant car. McLaren and Mercedes seem to have more stable, adaptable designs. The car "was basically on rails and I could do whatever I wanted," enthused Verstappen after winning the Chinese Grand Prix in April, his



fourth in five races at the start of the season. Each upgrade seems to have made the car less stable and increased tire wear. "We basically went from a very dominant car to an undriveable car in the space of, what, six to eight months?" he said in Italy. Papaya rules' confusion The confirmation that McLaren will have a "bias" toward Lando Norris over his teammate Oscar Piastri from now on should boost Norris' title challenge. But key questions remain unanswered. Racing under the team's vaguely defined "papaya rules" - named for McLaren's orange color - at the Italian Grand Prix, Norris and Piastri started first and second but neither got the win. Piastri overtook Norris early on, allowing Ferrari's Charles Leclerc to get by too, and when Norris and Piastri competed to set fast lap times, it hurt their tires and let Leclerc take a win with smart strategy. What "papaya rules" meant was never fully explained, and the team's

"bias" is almost as mysterious. Norris suggested Thursday that Piastri would be expected to hand over "lower positions" but would keep a win if he was "deserving" of it. Would there be repeat of the scenes at the Hungarian Grand Prix, when a team one-two was marred by awkward radio pleas for Norris to hand the lead back to Piastri? Unclear. Youngsters in the spotlight British teenager Oliver Bearman is back on the grid with Haas in Baku after Kevin Magnussen was suspended one race for picking up too many penalty points in a series of different incidents. Bearman - who was seventh for Ferrari at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix in March - is the Formula 2 teammate of Kimi Antonelli, who's replacing Another F2 face lighting up F1 is Franco Colapinto, who replaced Logan Sargeant at Williams last month and was an impressive 12th on his debut in Italy. If he can break into the top 10, Colapinto would be the first driver from Argentina to score points since 1982.

Rafael Nadal withdraws from Laver Cup in Berlin

AP ■ BERLIN
Rafael Nadal withdrew Thursday from next week's Laver Cup in Berlin, leaving it unclear when the Spanish great will play again. The Laver Cup - the tournament where Roger Federer retired in 2022 after teaming up with Nadal in doubles - would have been Nadal's first event since the Paris Olympics and potentially one of his last ever. "I'm really disappointed to share that I won't be able to compete at the Laver Cup in Berlin next week," the 38-year-old Nadal said. "This is a team competition and to really support Team Europe, I need to do what's best for them and at this moment there are other players who can help the team deliver the win." The 22-time Grand Slam champion didn't address his current fitness after a spate of



injuries in recent years, or when he might play again. Nadal withdrew last month from the U.S. Open, meaning he missed three of the four Grand Slam tournaments in 2024. He last played in reaching the men's doubles quarterfinals at the Olympics, where he also lost in the second round of singles to Novak Djokovic. The Laver Cup, to be held from Sept. 20-22, is an indoor hard-court men's competition pitting Team Europe against Team World in a format reminiscent of golf's Ryder Cup.

Next test for Slot is navigating Liverpool's busy schedule amid Salah contract questions

AP ■ LIVERPOOL
Liverpool has yet to allow a goal this season and Mohamed Salah has scored in each of the three games - all victories. If this is what contract distractions look like at Anfield, new manager Arne Slot is fine with it. Salah, captain Virgil van Dijk and right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold are all in the final year of their deals, and though it's still early in the Premier League season Liverpool is the only team keeping pace with defending champion Manchester City. Slot reiterated Friday at a press conference that "we don't talk about contract situations over here" - unless there's a new deal - and said the focus is on making it four wins in a row when Nottingham Forest visits Merseyside on Saturday. "I'm fully focused on the individuals and the team," he said about the trio in question, "and they are part of the team and trying to work with them in the best possible way to get the best out of them. So it's not a distraction for me at all." The transition from Jurgen Klopp has



been seamless. Slot is the first manager to win his first three Premier League games without conceding a goal since Sven-Göran Eriksson at Man City in 2007. "It's not the defense who keeps a clean sheet - it's 11 players who keep a clean sheet," Slot said. "We try to convince them constantly about this because in an ideal world we don't need (goalkeeper) Allison. It's a team performance that we don't concede and that has a lot to do

with us putting in a lot of work without the ball." The schedule gets busy now, though, with seven games in the next three weeks. Liverpool plays at Inter Milan on Tuesday in the Champions League. The international break saw lots of Liverpool players logging heavy minutes for their national teams. "Maybe in the future I sometimes would love it to be a bit different," Slot said. "It's a positive thing that we are in such a good place that we have 10 players that can play every minute for the national team. It says a lot about the quality we have." Salah marked his 100th cap for Egypt with a goal in a 4-0 victory over Botswana on Tuesday in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier. In the Premier League this season, Salah is the only player to have scored three goals and provided three assists. Harvey Elliott will be sidelined for several weeks because of a foot fracture, which Slot said is "a blow" for both the team and the midfielder. "He would have had a lot of playing time in the upcoming fixtures," the manager said.