

OPINION 6
REGIME CHANGE ON
CARDS IN NEPAL

WORLD 8
ISRAELI STRIKE IN CENTRAL
GAZA KILLS 20 PALESTINIANS

MONEY 10
MARKETS SINK BELOW
RECORD LEVELS

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 34 Issue 191
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JULY 11, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

Established 1864

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

SURYAKUMAR RETAINS
SECOND SPOT IN T20I
BATTING RANKINGS
12 SPORTS



Soaring Power Bills consume Delhiites



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Under the wraps, consumers of the BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have experienced an additional 6.15 per cent hike, while BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), Tata Powers Delhi Distribution Limited, and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) consumers saw an 8.75 per cent increase each in their electricity tariff for the month of July. While the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) is yet to revise the basic electricity tariff which traditionally undergoes an

annual review, Delhi BJP leaders lambasted the Arvind Kejriwal Government for hike in power bills. Delhi Power Minister Atishi, however, slammed BJP for spreading false rumours about rising electricity prices in the national Capital, asserting that BJP-ruled States suffer from the highest electricity costs and frequent power cuts. For BSES, BRPL consumers which serves South and West Delhi, the Power Purchase Agreement Cost (PPAC) has gone up to 35.83 per cent. This translates into a base price adjustment from ₹3.00 to ₹4.07 per unit for 0-200 units of consumption.

Similarly, for higher consumption brackets, rates have surged. For example, users consuming 201-400 units will now pay ₹6.11 per unit, compared to ₹4.50 in the 2021-22 tariff order, and those consuming above 1,200 units will pay ₹10.87 per unit, up from ₹8. The PPAC is power purchasing agreement cost which is between the power generation companies and power distribution companies. BSES BYPL, which is catering to East and Central Delhi, consumers face an even steeper PPAC of 37.75 per cent. The new rate for the 0-200-unit bracket is ₹4.12 per unit, with higher consumption brackets also seeing marked increases. The rate for 201-400 units now stands at ₹6.18 per unit, and for those exceeding 1,200 units, it has soared to ₹11.00 per unit. Similarly, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) has seen its PPAC rise to 37.88 percent. The cost for 0-200 units is now ₹4.14 per unit, escalating significantly in higher brackets. For 201-400 units, the rate is ₹6.20 per unit and ₹11.03 per unit for over 1,200 units consumption.

Continued on Page 2



SC says divorced Muslim woman can seek maintenance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, adding that the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, will not prevail over the secular law. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih pronounced separate but concurring judgments upholding Muslim woman's right after a Muslim man (petitioner) challenged a Telangana High Court direction to pay ₹10,000 interim maintenance to his former wife. "We are hereby dismissing the criminal appeal with the major conclusion that Section 125 CrPC would be applicable to all woman and not just married woman," Justice

Nagarathna said pronouncing the verdict. The bench made it clear that the law for seeking maintenance applies to all married women, irrespective of their religion. Maintenance is not a matter of charity but a fundamental right of married women, the court said. "This right transcends religious boundaries, reinforcing the principle of gender equality and financial security for all married women," it added. "Section 125 of the erstwhile CrPC, which deals with a wife's legal right to maintenance, covers Muslim women. Section 125 of the CrPC applies to all non-Muslim divorced women. Insofar as divorced Muslim women are concerned; Section 125 of the CrPC applies to all such Muslim women, married and divorced under the Special Marriage Act in addition to remedies available under the Special Marriage Act," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

Bus and Tanker collision on UP highway: 18 dead

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ UNNAO

Eighteen people were killed and 19 injured when a double-decker sleeper bus headed for Delhi hit a milk tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway here on Wednesday. The accident occurred around 5 am near Jojikot village in Behta Mujhawar police station area. District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said it appears that the bus, which was coming from Motihari in Bihar, was speeding and hit the milk tanker from behind. A probe has been launched into the matter, he said. Rathi said 20 passengers who sustained minor injuries were sent to Delhi in another bus, which was carrying 60 people. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other leaders condoled the loss of lives in the accident. Modi announced an ex gratia of ₹2



Police personnel interact with an injured man at a hospital, in Unnao district, on Wednesday. At least 18 people died and 19 were injured when a double-decker sleeper bus hit a milk tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway here on Wednesday, officials said

lakh for the families of the deceased. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said officials have been instructed to ensure the best treatment for the injured. "The loss of lives in a road accident in Unnao district is extremely sad and heartbreaking. My condolences are with the

bereaved families," he said. Additional Director General of Police, Lucknow, S B Shiradkar said 14 men, three women and a child were killed in the accident. Bangarmanu Circle Officer (CO) Arvind Kumar said due to the collision, both the bus and milk tanker overturned. Drivers of the two vehicles were among the dead.

Continued on Page 2

Bihar bridges are falling down

AGENCIES ■ PATNA/NEW DELHI

In Bihar, there seems to be no let up in the bridge collapse, with the latest incident occurring in Mahishi village, Saharsa district. This marks the 13th collapse in a short span of

three weeks, occurring days after the Nitish Government unveiled its long-awaited bridge maintenance policy, which was pending for the past decade. Shockingly, this recent collapse adds to a total of 19 bridge failures in the past two years, with 13 of them

occurring within the last three weeks alone across various districts including Siwan, Saran, Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran, and Kishanganj. Though fortunately, no injuries or fatalities have been reported at Wednesday collapse.

Continued on Page 2

VIENNA SAYS VANDE MATARAM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is accompanied by Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, while being given a ceremonial Guard of Honour, in Vienna, Austria, on Wednesday. Modi on Wednesday held talks with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer to discuss ways to tap the full potential of the bilateral partnership. Modi arrived here from Moscow on Tuesday evening on a two-day visit, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over 40 years PTI (Detailed report on Page 4)

Mumbai pub bulldozed for hit and run drunkard



An illegal portion of Global Tapas Bar that served Worli hit-and-run accused alcohol being demolished by BMC authorities, at Juhu in Mumbai on Wednesday

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a day of multiple developments relating to the sensational BMW hit-and-run case, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Wednesday sacked the key accused Mihir Shah's father Rajesh Shah as the deputy leader of the Palghar district party unit, even as a city court remanded him in police custody till July 16. Simultaneously, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) demolished the unauthorised portion of "Vice Global Tapas Bar where Mihir Shah

consumed liquor along with his friends shortly before the shocking mishap. The BMC pulled down the structure as the hotel management had carried out some alterations without taking permission from the civic body. On Tuesday, the Maharashtra Excise Department had sealed the Juhu bar. A day after his arrest, Mihir was on Wednesday produced before the court of chief Sewri metropolitan magistrate S P Bhosale who sent him to police custody for seven days. Sr Shah, who had earlier been arrested for ensuring the escape of his son but was released on bail, faced the wrath of the party leadership which sacked him from his party post. Within days after a BMW driven by his son Mihir Shah fatally knocked down a fisherwoman and injured her husband, the Shinde Sena removed Rajesh Shah as the deputy leader of the Palghar district party unit. In a one-line statement issued here, the Shinde Sena announced that it was relieving Rajesh from his post as party's deputy leader of Palghar as the direction of party president and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. It did not assign any reason for the removal of Sr Shah from the party post.

Continued on Page 2

Bypolls held in 13 segments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moderate to brisk polling was recorded in 13 Assembly constituencies across seven States where bypolls were held on Wednesday amid sporadic incidents of violence in Uttarakhnd and West Bengal. The electoral exercise, the first since the Lok Sabha polls, will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutantes, including Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur. The bypolls are being held against vacancies created either due to deaths or resignation of incumbent members. Barring Uttarakhnd and West Bengal, polling was peaceful in the rest of the States so far. In Punjab, the bypoll to the Jalandhar West assembly segment saw a voter turnout of 51.30 per cent till 5 pm.

DU graduate buries twin daughters alive

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

In a heart-wrenching incident, a 32-year-old Delhi University (DU) graduate allegedly killed his three-day-old twin daughters because he wanted a son and buried the infants' bodies at a cremation ground near his house in outer Delhi's Sultanpuri area. Answering queries about the horrific crime, the police on Wednesday said the perpetrator of the blood-curdling crime, Neeraj Solanki, was jobless and was living off the money he received as rent from his tenants. He had killed his daughters on June 3 and buried the bodies of the infants in the premises of a makeshift crematorium near his house in Pooth Kalan village. The case was registered by the mother of the daughters, the police said. A senior police official said Solanki, who had got married in 2022, used to harass his wife and her family for dowry. Unable to bear her husband's daily torture, Solanki's pregnant wife went to her parents' home in Rohtak where she delivered the twin daughters in a private hospital. However, when Solanki got to know that his wife had given birth to twin daughters, he



Representative image

visited the hospital and brought the infants to Delhi by lying to his wife that they had died from an illness, the police officer said, adding that he then killed and buried them near his house with the help of some people. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Amit Goel said, "Soon after the horrifying crime came to light, police personnel were deployed at the crematorium where the children were buried and permission was taken from the concerned Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) to exhume the bodies of the twins. On June 5, the corpses of the infants were exhumed and preserved at the mortuary in Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Mangolpuri. On June 6, post mortem of the corpses were performed and the bodies were handed over to slain kids' maternal uncle."

Continued on Page 2

Gambhir Coach for Team India

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI



India is my identity and serving my country has been the greatest privilege of my life. I'm honoured to be back, albeit wearing a different hat. But my goal is the same as it has always been, to make every Indian proud

Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir has been named the new head coach for India by Board of Control for Cricket in India. The move was decided by the Board after Dravid's tenure end on a winning note with India's T20 World Cup win, with Gambhir taking over as a two-time World Cup winner T20 World Cup (2007), ODI World Cup (2011) and veteran of about 200 matches in international cricket. The move is a continuation of BCCI's effort to bring new energy and perspective in the support staff. Arrival of Gautam Gambhir confirmed by BCCI Secretary Jay Shah on X platform, "It is with immense

pleasure that I welcome @GautamGambhir as the new Head Coach of the Indian Cricket Team. Modern-day cricket has evolved rapidly, and Gautam has witnessed this changing landscape up close. Having endured the grind and excelled in various roles throughout his career, I am confident that Gautam is the ideal person to steer Indian Cricket forward." Gambhir known for his no-nonsense approach and for speaking his mind whenever possible, he ventured in cricket commentary after the retirement from professional cricket later joined politics as member of the Lok Sabha. In March, Gambhir resigned from the politics officially over the questions raised for his

political duties and commitments. He has many feathers in his cap like two IPL titles during his captaincy for KKR (Kolkata Knight Riders). KKR roped him again in 2024 IPL edition as a mentor which provides the team a handful support behind the youngsters and knows how to bring out the best from the players in their significant role in the team which resulted in third title win for the team (KKR) in this year's IPL. Gambhir's cricketering career includes vital roles in India's 2011 Cricket World Cup and 2007 T20 World Cup victories. He was named ICC's Test player of the year in 2009 and retired from international cricket in 2016 with over 10,000 runs across all formats.

Continued on Page 2

Rahul Dravid: The Selfless Wall

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India head coach Rahul Dravid has refused to take the additional bonus amount of ₹2.5 crore offered to him by the BCCI following the recent T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas. Dravid was offered the bonus amount following the national team's success but he was happy to settle for the due amount — ₹2.5 crore — similar to other coaching staff. The BCCI wanted to repay Dravid for guiding India to the trophy in Barbados by hiking his reward to ₹5 crore, which is at par with the players, PTI has learnt that the 51-year-old was happy

with an equal pay check as other coaching staff. It was more of a goodwill gesture than any official call as Dravid's tenure as India coach had originally ended after last year's 50-over World Cup at home. However, skipper Rohit Sharma and the governing body were successful in convincing Dravid to stay till the T20 World Cup as they then had felt that time was too short for a new coach to take up the high-pressure job. Dravid went on to

end his India coaching stint as a World Cup winner, and talks have been swirling around him joining an IPL franchise as mentor. But at this point, the Bengaluru man seems to be keen to take a step back and relax after a hectic over two years tenure as the India head coach, before taking the next career move. Meanwhile, the BCCI on Tuesday appointed former India opener Gautam Gambhir as Dravid's successor for the next three years.



Bengal bypolls: Brisk polling amid stray violence

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There were sporadic incidents of violence and brisk polling in the Wednesday's by-elections to four Assembly seats in Bengal which recorded about 66 percent polling when reports last came in at 5 pm. The polling rate was likely to go up by a few notches as there were long queues outside the polling station even after 6 pm, Election Commission of India sources said.

Violence was reported at several booths in Raiganj in North Bengal where a scuffle broke out between BJP candidate Manas Kumar Ghosh and Trinamool Congress workers. Ghosh is contesting against TMC's Krishna Kalyani. Raiganj witnessed about 67 per cent polling, sources said. There were several incidents of violence reported at Ranaghat South in Nadia district where alleged TMC workers pelted stones at BJP polling agent's house. There were alleged incidents of firing also, sources said



adding incidents of violence mostly took place at Payradanga area of the constituency. Ranaghat recorded little more than 65 percent polling.

At Bagda in North 24 Parganas district as the BJP accused TMC activists of assaulting its booth agents and stopping its candidates from visiting some polling stations. The camp offices of the saffron outfit were ransacked by the TMC goons, sources said. BJP candidate said he was attacked by the TMC men and had to flee the area. About 65.10 percent voters exercised their franchise at Bagda.

There was high drama at Maniktala constituency in North Kolkata where BJP candidate Kalyan Chaubey was attacked and his car chased by local TMC goons when he went to the Kankurgachi area to inspect reports of false voting. "My vehicle was kicked and chased and I had to leave the area ... there was literally no voting in Maniktala as there was rigging in many booths ... it is farce in the name of polling," Chaubey said demanding re-polling in Maniktala.

Some other BJP leaders too said that the party would move the Calcutta High Court against electoral violence. Ranaghat recorded a little more than 59 per cent polling till 5 pm. The police had to chase away the crowd at one point of time as both sides proceeded to engage with each other with brickbats. In the melee, a number of media personnel received injuries. Your correspondent too tripped, fell and got a fractured finger. Rejecting the BJP's claim TMC spokesperson Kunal

Ghosh said that "the BJP leadership is making excuses because they know that they will be defeated in all the seats ... there was not violence recorded ... only in a few areas there were some heated discussions which is normal." He said that the TMC was set to win the by-polls as it was tradition that "where a stable government is in power it is normal for its candidates to win the by-elections." The by-polls are taking place against the backdrop of a massive win by the TMC in the recently concluded parliamentary elections which saw the TMC win 29 out of 42 seats whereas the BJP which had won 18 in 2019 managed to win only 12. The Congress won only one seat. The Congress and the Left too contested in the by-elections. In the present context out of the four seats the BJP had won three in 2021 Assembly elections and the TMC had won one. All the BJP candidates had however changed sides and joined the TMC in subsequent days.

Sarus crane population surges in UP, 19,918 counted State-wide

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under the special initiative of the state government, the population of the state bird, the Sarus crane, is on the rise in Uttar Pradesh. According to the latest summer census conducted on June 20-21, 2024, this year's count revealed the presence of a total of 19,918 sarus cranes, marking an increase of 396 from the previous year. The state-wide census highlighted that the Etawah forest division recorded the highest number of sarus cranes with 3,289 being counted. Additionally, 10 forest divisions reported sarus populations exceeding 500. Notably, the Mau forest division spotted six sarus cranes for the first time in a decade. This year's summer census saw the participation of 10,000 citizens across the state.



An official spokesman claimed that CM Yogi's commitment to wildlife and environmental conservation has always been evident. Under his leadership, special emphasis has been placed on the protection of animals and birds after he assumed office in 2017. The sarus crane count has shown a consistent upward trend over the years: from 17,329 in 2021 to 19,188 in 2022, 19,522 in 2023, and reaching 19,918 in 2024. This year alone, the sarus population increased by 396 compared to last year, totaling an increase of 2,589 cranes from 2021 to 2024. The 2024 summer census

revealed the presence of more than 500 sarus cranes in 10 divisions. The highest number was recorded in the Etawah forest division with 3,289 cranes. Other divisions with notable counts include Mainpuri (2,945), Shahjahanpur (1,212), Auraiya (1,202), Kannauj (786), HarDOI (735), Sant Kabir Nagar (717), Kanpur Dehat (709), Gorakhpur (675), and Siddharth Nagar (673). In 27 forest divisions, the number of sarus cranes was between 100 and 500. These included Rae Bareilly (428), Firozabad (239), South Kheri (209), Aligarh and Amethi (194 each), Basti (186), Gautam Buddha Nagar (171), Mathura (166), Bijnor Social Forestry (143), Gonda (142), Etah (138), Sultanpur (137), Bahraich (135), Farrukhabad (134), Kanpur Nagar (133),

National Chambal Sanctuary (119), Budaun (116), Fatehpur (103), and Chitrakoot and Awadh forest divisions (102 each). Six cranes were seen in Mau for the first time in the last 10 years. Besides, there were 31 forest divisions where less than 100 cranes were found, including 99 in Shrivasti, 95 in Kasganj, 94 in Pilibhit Social Forestry, 86 in Hamirpur, 81 in Sohela, 80 in Ambedkar Nagar, 78 in Ayodhya, 75 in Hathras, 55 in Agra, 54 in Kaushambi and North Kheri, 53 in Pratnagar, 51 in Meerut, 50 in Kushinagar, 44 in Bulandshahr, 42 in Moradabad, 36 in Katarniaghat, 34 in Deoria, 31 in Lalitpur, 20 in Muzaffarnagar, 18 each in Mahoba, Prayagraj and Najibabad, 12 in Sambhal, 11 each in Azamgarh and Jaunpur, six each in Mau and Rampur, four in Orai and two each in Hapur and Palia-Kheri.

Hunt for foreign terrorists continues in Kashmir

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Maintaining a tight vigil in the upper reaches of Kathua, Udhampur Reasi, and Doda districts a joint team of security forces continued to hunt down the suspected foreign terrorists behind the ambush in which five soldiers of the Indian army sacrificed their lives on July 8. A team of the National Investigation Agency has visited the scene of the ambush and it is assisting police in the probe. The search and combing operations were also carried out in the Ghadi Bhagwah forest area, which is around 35 km east of Doda town and borders Kishtwar district. After reporting an initial exchange of fire late Tuesday evening no fresh firing was reported till late Wednesday evening. Fresh searches were also launched in the Lala Chack area of Samba, Manjakote

area of Rajouri, and Surankote of Poonch on Wednesday morning to rule out the presence of the fresh group of terrorists. Meanwhile, to track down the whereabouts of the perpetrators of the terror attack the security forces have detained around two dozen people for questioning in the Kathua district. Local reports suggested some of the villagers in the area had spotted the suspicious movement of gunmen but failed to tip off the security forces. All possible routes of escape have been covered by the security forces with additional deployment of troops in the area. The Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir police has also joined search operations with the teams of the Indian army. Compared to similar strikes on the security forces this time the terrorists faced tough resistance from the

injured soldiers. Despite losing some of their colleagues in the heavy exchange of initial gunfire and grenade attack the soldiers from the Garhwal regiment of the Indian Army repulsed the attack forcing them to flee the scene before reinforcements arrived to evacuate them to a nearby hospital. In the backdrop of the ambush in Badnora in Kathua, residents of Badnora village and its adjoining villages said they were concerned about their safety. They have demanded that village defence groups be sanctioned for their self-defence and to effectively tackle threats posed by terrorists. The government should provide weapons and training to us, we are ready to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with our forces against the terrorists," Jagdish Raj, a local, said.

GMDA approves ₹2,887.32 cr budget for 2024-25

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) approved a budget proposal of Rs 2,887.32 crore was approved for the financial year 2024-25. A meeting in this regard was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nayab Singh in Chandigarh on Wednesday. Detailed discussions on various issues were held, including increasing CCTV cameras for surveillance and adaptive traffic management, constructing new water treatment plants, enhancing the capacity of existing ones, and strengthening the network of water drainage and sewer treatment plants, among others. The GMDA Authority approved the implementation of CCTV project phase 3 for city surveillance and adaptive traffic management at an estimated cost of Rs 422 crore. With this, high-quality CCTV cameras will be installed at



different locations, increasing the number from approximately 4000 to about 14000. The meeting also approved the construction of a flyover at the junction of Sector 45-46-51-52, with Rs 52 crore allocated for this project to decongest traffic. Similarly, to alleviate congestion at the intersection of Sector 85-86-89-90, another flyover will be constructed to facilitate commuters and enhance mobility. To provide ultramodern sports infrastructure for sports persons, the GMDA authority has approved the upgradation of Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Gurugram, at an estimated cost of Rs 634.30 crore. This comprehensive renovation project aims to enhance the facilities and amenities available to athletes, including the construction of

new training centres, state-of-the-art sports facilities etc. Additionally, modern systems and infrastructure will be provided to meet international standards, ensuring that the stadium is equipped to support a wide range of sporting events and activities. The approval for the construction of a 100 MLD Water Treatment Plant Unit No VI at Chandu Budhera for Rs 78 crore has been given. Additionally, the authority approved the construction of 100 MLD WTP Unit No IV at Basai with an estimated cost of Rs 247 crore. The augmentation of the existing Main Pumping Station to 650 MLD capacity at Dhanpur for Rs 119 crore has also been approved. The meeting also approved the procurement of 200 electric buses under the Gross Cost Contracting Model for operation in the GMDA area of Rs 69.66 crore. Officials said this initiative aims to provide safe, reliable, clean, and affordable city bus services to the residents of Gurugram. The introduction of these

electric buses is a significant step towards reducing the city's carbon footprint and promoting sustainable urban transportation. For providing and laying the Master Storm Water Drainage System in Sector 76-80 along National Highway-48, the GMDA authority has approved a sum of Rs 215 crore for the implementation of this project. Moreover, the project for the upgradation of the 120 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant at Behrampur and the 100 MLD STP at Dhanpur, Gurugram, has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 50.58 crore and Rs 75.46 crore respectively. During the meeting, approval of Rs 500 crore was also given for the construction of two STPs of 100 MLD each in Sector 107 in two phases. Other topics discussed during the meeting included the drainage improvement plan, door-to-door garbage collection, construction of a civil hospital, and a new bus stand, among other initiatives.

Bus and Tanker...

From Page 1
Glass shards and people's belongings lay scattered on the highway next to the overturned bus and milk tanker. Cranes were used to put the two vehicles back on their wheels and they were later towed away. The impact of the collision left the front portion of the bus badly mangled with one side ripped open. "We were sleeping. I don't know what happened," Mohd Shamim, a passenger who sustained head injuries in the accident, told reporters at the hospital. Another passenger, Dilshad, lost six of the eight family members he was travelling with. He said the bus driver was speeding all night. Later, Dilshad identified six members of his family -- Ashfaq (45), Ruby (40), Gulnaz (12), Suhail (4), Sonu (32) and Soni (28) -- in the post-mortem house. Four other deceased were identified as bus driver Ekhlakh (49), milk tanker driver Sunil Kumar (35), Deepak Kumar (27) and Shivdayal (28).

New Road Over Bridge commissioned at Tetelia station yard

PNS ■ MALIGAON

The new Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Tetelia station yard constructed by Northeast Frontier Railway was opened for the use of common public. This ROB (No 59A) was constructed by Northeast Frontier Railway at a total cost of Rs. 72 crores. The existing road on Level crossing gate no ST-22 passes through the station yard and it is situated on state PWD road connecting Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. There is high detention of road traffic on account of either shunting operations or movement of trains in both directions.

Bihar bridges are falling down

From Page 1

However, the incident has prompted reactions ranging from serious concern to dark humor on social media with some of them calling it a waste of taxpayer's hard money. On the action being taken in the matter, Additional Collector (Saharsa), Jyoti Kumar, said that officials are currently assessing the situation, even as he noted that the collapsed structure might have been a small bridge or causeway. Authorities have been mobilized to gather more information about the incident. It was only last week, the Bihar

government had woken up from its slumber to take decisive action by suspending 15 engineers following an investigation into these incidents. The probe, conducted by a panel for the Water Resources Department (WRD), prompted these measures aimed at addressing the recurring infrastructure failures in the state. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had last week instructed officials to conduct a survey of all old bridges in the state and identify those that require immediate repair. A total of 10 bridges collapsed in Siwan, Saran, Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran and Kishanganj districts in the past 20 days. The report found that the engineers were "negligent" and monitoring was "ineffective", which is the main reason behind the collapse of small bridges and causeways in the state,

Additional Chief Secretary of WRD, Chaitanya Prasad, told reporters in the State. Those suspended include four executive engineers. "The Rural Works Department has also initiated the process of blacklisting the contractor who was involved in the construction of the bridge in Araria district. The department has also stopped payment of the contractor/firm for its previous work till the completion of the probe," said Dipak Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, WRD. Besides, the department has sought explanation from officials concerned for the collapse of bridges in East Champaran on June 23 and in Madhubani on June 26. After the rollout Monday, road construction department additional chief secretary Pratyaya Amrit told reporters: "With state having a big

number of bridges, the bridge maintenance policy would guide engineers to maintain, construct and repair bridges". Meanwhile, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has questioned the BJP leaders' silence in the matter. He told reporters in the State: "Why are leaders of the NDA-led Bihar government, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, maintaining a stoic silence... These incidents prove how corruption is rampant in the ruling dispensation." "The portfolio of the RWD, which constructs most of the small bridges in the state, is always with JD(U) leaders. Who should be held responsible for this mess?" the former deputy CM said. The spate of bridge collapses has sparked a range of reactions on social media platforms like X (earlier twitter), reflecting both frustration and concern among the public.

Gambhir...

From Page 1

In 2009 Gambhir received Arjuna Award followed by Padma Shri by the Government Of India in 2019. Gambhir's significantly contributed to the society from the education of children of martyrs and war widows to give them a dignified life. Community kitchens across several places in delhi to make sure no one slept hungry in the city. Gambhir, a largely unheralded exemplary demonstrate of an aggressive style and strategic acumen is expected to change the very dynamics of this side as they ready themselves for immediate nation duties and the 2025 ICC Cricket World Cup. Gambhir will commence his coaching duties in upcoming Sri Lanka tour later this month, with upcoming series around the corner all eyes will be on him on how he shapes up the fresh T20 side of the team and Indian Cricket in the future.

DU graduate buries twin daughters alive

From Page 1

Initially, Solanki's father was detained, as the accused was evading arrest. His father told the police that Solanki was upset over the birth of daughters, the DCP said. The accused was changing his mobile handset, SIMs and hideouts frequently to dodge police and to evade his arrest. At long last, police succeeded in catching up with Neeraj Solanki hiding in Haryana's Rohtak. During interrogation, he confessed to his crime, and subsequently, he was arrested under sections 302 (commission of murder) of the IPC, 304 (for culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 315 (Act done with the intent to prevent child being born alive or to cause it to die after birth), 201 (Causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention).

Soaring Power Bills...

From Page 1

NDCM consumers are hardest hit, with a PPAC of 38.75 per cent. The new rate for 0-200 units is Rs 4.16 per unit. For higher usage categories, the rates now stand at Rs 6.24 for 201-400 units and Rs 11.10 per unit for consumption exceeding 1,200 units. The increase in electricity rates has been made under Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC). This adjustment is made to cover the costs that power distribution companies incur while purchasing electricity from power generation companies. The higher costs are then passed on to consumers through their electricity bills. Sources said PPAC is a surcharge provided by the Electricity Regulatory Commission to meet the variation in the Power

Purchase Costs incurred by the Discoms. "The Power Purchase cost is dependent upon the coal / fuel prices. Recently, there has been significant increase in coal prices due to higher imports and transport costs. PPAC is recovered to ensure the timely pass-through of costs to the consumer, as any delay would further burden them with interest costs, which is detrimental to their interests. PPAC is a statutory mandate, and the process is highly transparent and validated by the regulator. Without PPAC, discoms would face liquidity stress and lack the funds necessary to pay the generators. It is important to note that PPAC represents the recovery of money already paid to the generators for power purchases," sources said. According to sources, across the country, more than 25

States/UTs have implemented fuel surcharge adjustment formula/mechanism pursuant to the APTEL directions dated 11.11.2011, which has reached up to 50 per cent. Gujarat, including Surat and Ahmedabad, have PPAC surcharge of up to 50 per cent. "In case PPAC does not exceed 5 per cent for any quarter, the Distribution Licensee may levy PPAC at 90 per cent of computed PPAC with prior intimation to the Commission without going through the regulatory proceedings. In case PPAC exceeds 5 per cent but does not exceed 10 per cent for any quarter, the distribution licensee may levy PPAC of 5 per cent and 75 per cent of balance PPAC (actual PPAC - 5 per cent) with prior intimation to the commission without going through the regulatory proceedings," sources said.

SC says divorced Muslim woman...

From Page 1

"If Muslim women are married and divorced under Muslim law then Section 125 of the CrPC as well as the provisions of the 1986 Act are applicable. Option lies with the Muslim divorced women to seek remedy under either of the two laws or both laws. This is because the 1986 Act is not in derogation of Section 125 of the CrPC but in addition to the said provision. If Section 125 of the CrPC is also resorted to by a divorced Muslim woman, as per the definition under the 1986 Act, then any order passed under the provisions of 1986 Act shall be taken into consideration under Section 127(3)(b) of the CrPC," the bench said. "In case of an illegal divorce as per the provisions of the 2019 Act then, i) relief under Section 5 of the said Act could be availed for seeking subsistence allowance or, at the option of such a Muslim woman, remedy under Section 125 of

the CrPC could also be availed. ii) If during the pendency of a petition filed under Section 125 of the CrPC, a Muslim woman is 'divorced' then she can take recourse under Section 125 of the CrPC or file a petition under the 2019 Act. iii) The provisions of the 2019 Act provide remedy in addition to and not in derogation of Section 125 of the CrPC," read the order. "The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 will not prevail over the secular and religion neutral provision of Section 125 of CrPC," the bench said while stressing that maintenance is not charity but the right of all married women. The Supreme Court's judgement pertains to the case 'Mohd Abdul Samad vs State of Telangana and Anr', in which the petitioner (the husband) raised grievances over the filing of claims seeking maintenance from his former wife, whom he got a divorce in 2017.

The Supreme Court had in a landmark judgment in the Shah Bano case held that Section 125 CrPC is a secular provision applicable to Muslim women too. The same was however nullified by the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 and the validity of the law was upheld in 2001. Initially, a family court had directed Abdul Samad to pay an interim maintenance of Rs 20,000 per month to his ex-wife. However, he challenged this decision before the Telangana high court on the grounds that the couple was divorced as per the Muslim personal law. According to the petitioner, a divorced Muslim woman is not entitled to claim any alimony under Section 125 CrPC in view of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, reported Bar and Bench. Following this, the high court reduced the maintenance to Rs 10,000 per month.

Mumbai pub bulldozed for hit and run drunkard

From Page 1

Right from day one, Shinde has made no bones about his strong disapproval about Mihir Shah's involvement in the hit-and-run case and the manner in which his father tried to protect his 24-year-old son. On Sunday when Mihir Shah fled the scene rammed into a couple borne-scooter that was returning from the Sassoon Dock at Colaba in south Mumbai after purchasing fish stock at an auction, chief minister Shinde said: "What has happened is unfortunate, very sad...Law will take its own course, everyone is equal before law. I have spoken to the police and strict action will be taken against those found guilty". On the following day when the police issued a 'Look Out Circular' (LOC) against

Rajesh Shah's absconding son Mihir Shah, Shinde said that the State government stood firmly with the victim families in hit-and-run cases. Talking to media persons here on Monday, Shinde had said: "I am deeply concerned by the rise in hit-and-run incidents in Maharashtra. It is intolerable that the powerful and influential misuse their status to manipulate the system. Such miscarriages of justice will not be tolerated by my government". "The lives of ordinary citizens are precious to us. I have directed the State Police department to handle these cases with the utmost seriousness and ensure justice is served. In addition, we are implementing stricter laws and harsher penalties for hit-and-run offenders," the chief minister said.

Woman's family booked for attacking doctors after post-delivery death



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An FIR was registered against a woman's family members for allegedly creating a ruckus and attacking doctors and staff members of a Delhi government hospital following her death during post-delivery surgery. The incident took place at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (GTBH) in east Delhi's Shahdara area on Tuesday morning.

A woman, who was admitted at the hospital, died during a surgery after she gave birth to a child on Monday night. This angered her attendants and they attacked doctors on Tuesday morning, the statement said. A case under section 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) and 132/3 (5) (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) of BNS was registered after a complaint was filed by the hospital late Tuesday night, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary said. DCP Chaudhary said that on Tuesday morning, a call was received at GTB Enclave

police station from the hospital that attendants of a patient, who died post her delivery, were creating a ruckus at the hospital. The police reached the spot and took the situation under control, he added. The accused have been identified as Zubair (20), the woman's husband, Mohammad Shoib (24), Zubair's brother, and Mohammad Naushad (57), the woman's father, the DCP said.

Teams have been formed to nab the accused, he added. Meanwhile, senior and junior residents at the University College of Medical Science (UCMS) and GTB Hospital went on an indefinite strike following the incident on Tuesday. The doctors demanded strict action against the attackers and robust security management in the hospital. During the strike, they will attend only emergency services, the protesting doctors said.

"The strike by junior and senior residents at UCMS and GTBH will continue indefinitely until their demands are met, including the issuance of an institutional FIR copy with legal charges, arrest of all accused, strengthened security with bouncer deployment, restricted attendance at hospital gates, regular police patrolling every 4-5 hours, and installation of panic call buttons in emergency areas," RDA president Dr Nitish Kumar said in a statement.

Atishi raps BJP for spreading rumours about power rate hike



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Power Minister Atishi on Wednesday slammed the BJP for spreading false rumours about rising electricity prices in the national capital, asserting that BJP-ruled states suffer from the highest electricity costs and frequent power cuts. She claimed that Delhi, under Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's leadership, provides 24/7 electricity at the lowest rates and said that the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission's (DERC) order, states that the current Power Purchase Adjustment Charge (PPAC) will remain unchanged. "BJP is misleading the people of Delhi by spreading rumours that electricity prices have been increased in Delhi through the

PPAC. Wherever BJP is in power, those states provide the most expensive electricity in the country. Not only this but even after paying expensive electricity bills, people had to face power cuts of 8-8 hours in peak summers," Atishi claimed. Further, attacking the BJP, she said, "Gurgaon, Faridabad in Haryana and Noida and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh have been facing 8-hour-long power cuts this summer. At present, these states are being ruled by the BJP governments. On the other hand, there is Arvind Kejriwal's government in Delhi which provides 24-hour electricity to the people of Delhi and the cheapest electricity in the country. Lakhs of people get free electricity in Delhi"

She shared that the DERC order regarding PPAC states that the current PPAC will remain the same and no more charges will be made. "But, the DISCOMs have provision in Electricity Act 2003 that allows them to increase PPAC by up to 10 per cent from that prescribed by the DERC in case of high cost of power purchase. This provision is in place from 2003, when the Electricity Act was passed in the Parliament," the Delhi Minister asserted. Atishi stated that the Power is purchased from Electricity Exchange during summers to meet increased demand to provide 24x7 power, and therefore PPAC might be greater in summers, especially due to heat waves. "So, the BJP is requested not to spread lies," she said.



Technology should drive defence production: Expert

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amity University Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with Bharat Forge Ltd., Pune, organised "Bhartiya Raksha Vimarsha" (Indian Defence Dialogue) on the theme "Defence Technology & Integrated Joint Warfighting Perspective". On this historic occasion an MoU was also signed between Bharat Forge Ltd. and Amity University to strengthen the industry-academia partnership in the defence sector. Sharing his enriching experiences, enlightening ideas, and empowering epitomes of transformative leadership in an entrepreneurial 'student centric' perspective, Chief Guest, Padma Bhushan, Baba Kalyani, Chairman and Managing Director Bharat Forge Ltd, said Amity University has established itself as a world-renowned institution known for its academic excellence and research initiatives. "Defence should not be driven by policy and procedures and should always be driven by technology. Atm Nirbharta

or self-reliance means designing and developing your own products and India needs to develop its own product, in order to become self-reliant. India has many advantages over other countries since the average population of India is around twenty-nine years old, which is very young as compared to western countries. Therefore, the opportunities are huge and unlimited for the younger generation provided they use it to the fullest," Kalyani said. Delivering his powerful and inspirational address, Dr B.K. Das, Distinguished Scientist and Director General (ECS), DRDO, opined India has emerged as a fast-developing country in the world and has achieved many milestones in the recent years. Dr. Atul Chauhan, Chancellor Amity University, Prof (Dr) Balvinder Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Dr. W. Selvamurthy, President Amity Science Technology and Innovation Foundation and Lt Gen (Dr) SK Gadeock, AVSM (Retd), Director General Amity Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies were present on the occasion.



Man arrested for smuggling 100 turtles

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 38-year-old man for allegedly smuggling 100 turtles, 50 of them from endangered species, in the Shahdara area. Police said they recovered 50 Indian Roofed turtles, 45 Black Spotted Pond turtles, three Indian Eye turtles, and two Indian Softshell turtles from the possession of Ghaziabad resident Bheem. Black Spotted Pond turtle, Indian Eye turtle and Indian Softshell turtle are from endangered species which are covered under Schedule-I of the Wild Life Protection Act. These species need rigorous protection. "On Tuesday, Geeta Colony police station got information regarding the arrival of a smuggler with endangered species of turtles in the area," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Surendra Chaudhary said. The officer said that a team was formed along with the informer to nab the accused. Traps were laid near Sai Memorial Public School, Raja Ram Kohli Marg and under the flyover of Pushta road near Geeta colony, police said. "At about 1.15 pm, the team spotted a person on a scooter carrying a big bag. The informer identified the vehicle and its dri-

ver and the suspect was apprehended," the DCP said. When the police team opened the bag, they found several live turtles inside. On enquiry the accused could not give any satisfactory answer regarding the possession of the turtles, the police said. Upon a thorough checking, 100 live turtles were recovered from the bag and they were seized, the DCP said. "An FIR under the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act and Section 11(A) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act has been registered at Geeta Colony police station," DCP Choudhary said, adding that the wildlife department has also been informed. The officer further said during interrogation the accused disclosed that he along with his associate, Ravi Bhatnagar, are involved in smuggling turtles and other extinct species. "As per his disclosure he used to catch the species of turtle from the Ganga river stretched in Garhmukteshwar area called Garh Ganga and from the subsidiary rivers," he said. "The accused further disclosed that recently a case regarding the smuggling of turtles was registered against Ravi Bhatnagar in Ghaziabad. Search for Ravi is also going on," DCP Choudhary said.

AAP looting Delhiites by hiking power tariff: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Wednesday accused the AAP led city government of looting the people of the national Capital by hiking electricity bills and alleged that with the support of government, power companies are collecting a huge amount from the people of Delhi in the form of Power Purchase Adjustment Charge (PPAC). Sachdeva blamed the AAP government of not making any summer plan and said, "The Delhi Government did not make any arrangement to buy additional electricity in summer and did not even make a summer action plan for

power management and when the heat reached its peak in April 2024, power cuts started after which Power Discom and Delhi Government started their game." He claimed that on the instructions of the Kejriwal government, BSES Rajdhani wrote a letter to the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) Secretary on April 25. Sachdeva alleged, "On the basis of the old circular, BSES Rajdhani stated that they are increasing the PPAC by 8.75 per cent from May 2024 to July 2024. Instead of taking permission from DERC for this, the power company implemented the new increase by giving a notice." Sachdeva claimed that the



government and the discom have colluded and have expressed their desire to increase the PPAC by 8.75 to 43.79 per cent, due to which the bills of electricity consumers are increasing. Demanding an answer, he said, "Power Minister Atishi should tell whether the Power Discom has the right to increase the PPAC without the prior approval of DERC. If the government had made an agreement with Power Grid for

May to July and bought electricity from Power Grid or surplus states, the prices would not have increased, but when it was time to make a power summer plan, the entire Kejriwal government was busy doing politics." South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said "This is the same Delhi government which was talking about giving 200 units of free electricity. The Kejriwal government allows a disaster to come in Delhi and

then turns that disaster into an opportunity to loot. The Kejriwal government will loot even from jail." Senior BJP leader Arvinder Singh Lovely said, "Despite the promises of the Kejriwal government, the audit of electricity companies has not been done even after the last 10 years. Not only this, today due to the Delhi Chief Minister being in jail, the appointment of DERC members is not being done and the electricity companies are looting as per their will." Lovely showed the electricity bill of his house and said, "In my own bill, PPAC of more than 4,000 rupees has been imposed which will increase further from this month."



Delhi Police seizes fake spare parts worth lakhs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has seized fake spare parts worth lakhs of rupees at the complaint of officials from Uno Minda India from a shop named Shree Hari Enterprises in Delhi's Karol Bagh. The director of the shop was arrested after Uno Minda's officials declared the seized spare parts as fake. An FIR has been registered against the accused and is being interrogated at Karol Bagh police station. Further, on the complaint of Honda company and authorisation company, four shops in Karol Bagh were raided and fake spare parts were recovered. The accused were arrested in the matter.

I am victim of witch-hunt by ED: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP convener and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has contended before the Delhi High Court that he is a victim of "witch-hunt" by the ED and that cancellation of his bail granted by a trial court in the excise policy-linked money laundering case would tantamount to "grave miscarriage of justice". Opposing the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging his bail in the case, Kejriwal said discretionary orders of bail cannot be set aside merely on "perceptions and fanciful imagination" of the prosecution. In a 130-page reply, Kejriwal said that the ED's insinuations against Special Judge (PC Act) Niyay Bindu, who granted him bail, must be frowned upon. "The order passed by the special judge granting bail was

not only well reasoned but prima facie showed a due application of mind in considering as well as faithfully recording and dealing with 'relevant arguments and contentions raised on behalf of both the parties.' "Therefore, to cancel the order would tantamount to grave miscarriage of justice," Kejriwal said in his reply filed to the ED's petition. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener urged the high court to dismiss ED's petition and to vacate the June 25 interim order by which the trial court's June 20 decision granting him bail was stayed. On Wednesday, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, who was scheduled to hear the ED's plea, was informed by the counsel for the probe agency that they were served with Kejriwal's reply to their petition only late Tuesday



night and the agency required some time to file a rejoinder. While the probe agency's lawyer submitted that the copy of the reply was served to them at 11 pm on Tuesday, Kejriwal's counsel maintained that it was served to the investigating officer (IO) of the case at 1 pm. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, representing Kejriwal, mentioned the matter before the court, saying a specific time be fixed for the hearing as there

is extreme urgency in the case. However, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the ED, submitted that the agency was served with the reply copy of Kejriwal only on Tuesday night and they need some time to go through the response and file their rejoinder to it. He contended that the documents are supposed to be served to the advocate appearing in the case and not the IO. The court said it is not disputed that the ED was served with the reply copy on Tuesday and the agency was entitled to file a rejoinder to it. The court granted time to the ED to file its rejoinder and listed the matter for hearing on July 15. Kejriwal, in his reply, contended that the arrest was "illegally made to harass and humiliate" a political opponent and there was no material in possession of ED on the basis of which further incarceration can be justified. It further said, "The respondent is victim of witch-hunt and standard modus operandi adopted by ED to implicate its given targets wherein the ED uses illegal measures of pressuring the other co-accused and inducing them to make incriminating statement in lieu of 'no objection' by ED to the grant of bail of such co-accused."

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP leaders including Chhatrapur MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar, former Delhi minister and former Patel Nagar MLA Raj Kumar Anand and former Patel Nagar MLA Veena Anand joined the BJP on Wednesday months ahead of Delhi Legislative Assembly in the presence of senior leaders at the party headquarters in Delhi. Anand had joined BSP after quitting AAP earlier and fought on its ticket unsuccessfully in the Lok Sabha elections 2024 from the New Delhi seat. His deposit was seized as he secured less than 10 per cent of votes. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva stated that the AAP Municipal Councilor from

Several AAP leaders join BJP

Said-Ul-Ajaib ward in South Delhi Umed Singh Phogat, Former state in-charge of AAP Ratnesh Gupta and co-in-charge Shri Sachin Rai joined BJP. Sachdeva stated how Rajkumar Anand not only accused the Kejriwal government of being anti-Dalit but also proved it. "Rajkumar Anand was not able to do the work of his society and his people in the Kejriwal government despite wanting to and due to this pain he decided to leave the AAP and join the BJP, so we welcome his decision," he said. Anand alleged, "When I



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar and the party's former MLA Raj Kumar Anand with BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh, party's Delhi President Virendra Sachdeva and others, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

became the minister of Delhi, at that time I felt that people are running around for their work but the government is not concerned about it. I could not tolerate this and I resigned from my ministerial post. Thousands of crores of rupees that came for the development of Dalit children have vanished. The Kejriwal government completely wasted the money of Dalit children in its politics." Further, while introducing Tanwar who was earlier in the BJP before 2014, the Delhi BJP chief said, "Tanwar is a leader with an honest image who has done a lot of work in the

interest of the public. With the arrival of such comrades, not only will the BJP become stronger in Delhi, but we will get more support in the campaign we have started against the corruption of the Kejriwal government." The Chhatrapur MLA said, "In the last 20 to 25 years I have been working in social interests. The people of Delhi supported me but in the last two years Delhi has become miserable and is completely involved in corruption." He claimed that the biggest corruption in the country has taken place in Delhi. "Today the condition of Delhi is very bad and we are not able to do anything as per the government's policy. Instead

of work, the game of allegations has been going on for the last three months," he said. BJP National General Secretary Arjun Singh was also present among other leaders to welcome them. Attacking the AAP and Congress alliance in Lok Sabha, Arun Singh stated, "If we add up the seats of Congress in the last three elections, even that does not equal the 240 seats of BJP this time. In Delhi, the people of Delhi rejected both Congress and AAP because AAP is a party that supports liquor mafias." He stated that Delhi has such a Chief Minister in whose residence a woman parliamentarian is molested, so what will the people of Delhi expect from him.

Fruitful talks with Austrian leader: Modi

India to host 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' retreat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
India and Austria on Wednesday reviewed their long standing ties and Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he

held a "fruitful discussion" with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer. They discussed in detail the ongoing disputes in the world, including the Ukraine conflict

and situation in West Asia, reaffirming that "this is not the time for war". Modi arrived in Vienna from Moscow after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday night on a two-day visit, the first by an Indian prime minister in over 40 years. Modi also said India and Austria identified

new possibilities to further strengthen mutual cooperation and prepared a blueprint for cooperation for the coming decade. "Today, Chancellor Nehammer and I had a very fruitful discussion. We have identified new possibilities to further strengthen our mutual cooperation. We have decided to give a strategic direction to our relationship."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer walking together during their meeting in Vienna.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will host his counterparts for the 2nd Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Foreign Ministers' Retreat in New Delhi on Thursday and Friday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Wednesday. The Retreat will present an opportunity for the Foreign

Ministers of the BIMSTEC countries to discuss, in an informal setting, avenues to broaden and deepen cooperation across various sectors including in the fields of security, connectivity, trade and investment, people to people contacts etc, in the Bay of Bengal region and littoral. The first edition of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held in Bangkok, Thailand on July 17, 2023. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for



Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) brings together seven countries of South and South East Asia for multifaceted cooperation.

Punjab & Sind Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
ZONAL OFFICE GURUGRAM
Institutional Plot No.-151, Sector-44, Gurugram-122003 Ph: 0124-646538-37

E-Tender for Solar Plant
Bank invites e-tenders, under two bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Commercial Bid, from eligible Contractor for the Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 80 Kwp Roof Top Solar PV System at Punjab & Sind Bank, Zonal Office Gurugram. Tender documents and further information are available on the Bank's website <https://psb.eproc.in> ZONAL MANAGER

Punjab & Sind Bank
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
ZONAL OFFICE GURUGRAM
Institutional Plot No.-151, Sector-44, Gurugram-122003 Ph: 0124-646538-37

E-Tender for renovation works
Bank invites e-tenders, under two bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Commercial Bid, from eligible Contractor for the repair & renovation works of bank's building at Gurugram. Tender documents and further information are available on the Bank's website <https://psb.eproc.in> ZONAL MANAGER

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 30.07.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 29,79,820/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLND00308787, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.07.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.07.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **DHARMENDER KUMAR and PRIYANKA DHAMA**. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 11,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,10,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
FLAT NO. GF - 03, GROUND FLOOR, ADMEASURING AREA 65.03 SQ MTR, REAR RIGHT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. B - 59, BLOCK - B, SLF VED VIHAR, KHASRA NO-409, LONI GHAZIABAD - 250601, UTTAR PRADESH.
BOUNDED AS:
NORTH : PLOT NO. B-60 EAST : ROAD
SOUTH : PLOT NO. B-58 WEST : PLOT NO. B-51

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 INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 08.07.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank. Across India.
K23-24, Sector-18, Noida-201301

NOTICE REGARDING LOCKER OPERATION

Notice is hereby published hereby for break open of lockers for which annual rent has not been paid by the lockers holders for three years or more in a row. Notice(s) sent to the respective locker hirer(s) has/have been returned unopened. The locker hirer(s)/other interested parties are hereby informed that in case they fail to regularize the locker arrangement by visiting the Branch, within 7 days from the date of this notice, Bank will be constrained to force open the locker(s) and take necessary further actions, as the Bank may deem fit, at the cost and expenses of the lockerhirer(s). List of such lockers are mentioned below:-

Sl.No	Locker No	Customer Name
1	176	Tulika Sharma
2	214	Pushpa Gupta
3	229	Neha Kalyal
4	268	Tarun Kumar Jain
5	259	Jamal Anono Khan
6	439	Jaspreet Singh Arora
7	34	Prerana Kumari
8	158	Saroj Bala and Aja Kumar Bhatia
9	212	Uthara Ravi Mohan
10	293	Madhulika Handa
11	420	Vipin

Place: Noida Branch Head
Date: 11.07.2024 Karnataka Bank Ltd. Noida Branch

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 30.07.2024 from 04.00 P.M. to 05.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 15,31,185/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLK000172740, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.07.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.07.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **SATISH SHINGAR AND SONI**.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 70,000/- (Rupees Seventy 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 INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.)
Date : 08.07.2024
Place : GHAZIABAD

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that my client, SMT. RUKMANI GUPTA, wife of the late Satya Narayan Gupta, residing at H-2 Yamuna Apartment, Delhi Village, Doki, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, has terminated all relations with her son ANUJ GUPTA, his wife and their children due to misconduct and chaos in his life. My client has also disowned and debarred her said son, his wife, and their children from all her movable and immovable properties, both current and future. Anybody dealing with Anuj Gupta and his legal heirs will do so at their own risk and responsibility. My client will not be responsible for any act, deed, or dealing involving Anuj Gupta. Place: New Delhi, Dated: 01.07.2024.
ADEEB ARSHAD (Advocate)
Enrollment No. UP1235/22

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Samay Singh S/o Late Sh. Iwar Singh and Smt. Shakuntla Devi W/o Sh. Samay Singh both R/o Village, Nagla Parohi, Post, Ranhera, Jwar Gauram Budh Nagar, U.P. have severed all their relation with their son Sh. Komal Kumar And debarred them from their all movable & immovable property forthwith. Anybody dealing with them shall [himself be responsible for the dealing and not my clients. He is left my home two year back.
Ravi Kumar (ADVOCATE) Ch.No.F-311, 3rd Floor
F-Block Kardvoocourt court Shahdara Delhi-32

HDB Financial Services Limited
Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400034
Tel No.: +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) [such documents, collectively "loan agreement"] and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owed by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on/after 16-07-2024 at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount ₹	Branch Name
41800857	Rahul SO Rattan	18/11/2023	8726	Delhi-Adarsh Nagar
34042737	Neelima DO Sunadastoppo	02/05/2023	8594	Delhi-Badapur
36993125	Vijay Kumar Gupta	20/07/2023	19642	Delhi-Badapur
38226661	Siddharth Singh	23/08/2023	11185	Delhi-Badapur
38264761	Shahnaab Mohdqiab	23/08/2023	7087	Delhi-Bhajanpur
19526111	Mehboob Ali	16/11/2021	25332	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
21314506	Satender Ram	24/01/2022	28953	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
26087975	Mohd Zakir Idrishi	25/07/2022	15366	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
29784843	Sonu Singh	07/12/2022	9827	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
31467164	Madhvi Do Magan	09/02/2023	25094	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
40335440	Mohd Suhail	19/10/2023	8336	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
42786240	Virendro SO Rampal	11/12/2023	19167	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
43954577	Suniti Kumar	11/01/2024	8104	Delhi-Dilshad Garden
17890401	Mohammad Jamal	22/09/2021	8195	Delhi-Gandhi Nagar
24494261	Vijay Kumar	29/05/2022	13841	Delhi-Jagatpuri
44144526	Rahela WO Gufran	20/01/2024	26196	Delhi-Jagatpuri
44224619	Shamsad SO Asiq	24/01/2024	45134	Delhi-Jagatpuri
25377656	Hari Shanker	29/06/2022	14021	Delhi-Kailash Nagar
24171028	Firjo Alam	17/05/2022	5905	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
34112871	Mohammad Ubaid	05/05/2023	8595	Delhi-Kashmiri Gate
29438491	Soni Virendrasingh	24/11/2022	8569	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
42039000	Jai Singh Meena	23/11/2023	4362	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
43186890	Suleman SO Khaleelahamad	21/12/2023	19821	Delhi-Malviya Nagar
31713000	Sachin Verma	17/02/2023	47356	Delhi-Narela
78421213	Raghadendra Kumar Singh	24/09/2022	16145	Delhi-Rohini
31863739	Mohd Mansoor Alam	22/02/2023	10854	Delhi-Sadar
39747597	Seema Gautam	04/10/2023	20683	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
43234003	Satish Kumar	22/12/2023	5072	Delhi-Uttam Nagar
44750914	Neeraj Singh	15/02/2024	18755	Delhi-Uttam Nagar

The auction shall be conducted on a "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any and all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place : DELHI
Date : 11-07-2024

Authorized Officer
(HDB Financial Services Ltd)

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
Rohini Branch (1506), 101-110, 1st floor
RG complex, Sector 08, New Delhi 110085

ANNEXURE - I
Demand notice to Borrowers / Mortgagees/Guarantors Under Sub-section (2) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002
Date: 03.07.2024

TO
SI Borrower (Name & full address)
NO (Indicate in bracket if borrower is also mortgagor)

1 VANITA BHATIA W/O-RANJIT BHATIA
WZ-47, T.F.GALI NO. 14, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi - 110018

Dear Sirs,
Re: Your Credit facilities with Indian Overseas Bank, Rohini Branch

1.You, the above named borrowers of our bank have availed the following credit facilities from our Rohini Branch:
The details of credit facilities with outstanding dues are as under:

Sl. No	Nature of facility	Limit	Rates of Interest (including overdue interest) & rests	Total dues* as on 30.06.2024 (in Rs.)
1	TL-Pushpaka (Car Loan)	Rs. 6,25,000/-	9.20%	Rs. 4,63,405.38/-

* With further interest at contractual rates/rests will become payable from the date mentioned above till date of payment.

The above named guarantors referred under SI. Nos. Nil have executed guarantee dated Nil and thereby guaranteed payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities then or at any time thereafter owing or incurred to Indian Overseas Bank by the borrowers for the aggregate credit limits of Rs. 4,63,405.38/- together with agreed interest, charges etc.

The credit facilities were secured by the assets mentioned below by way of mortgage/hypothecation/hire purchase/lease (as applicable) standing in the name of the borrowers Nos 1 They were also secured by mortgage of property in the name of borrower/mortgagor mentioned in SI.No. Nil They were also secured by mortgage of properties in the name of mortgagor/guarantor Nos. Nil herein above.

The guarantors mentioned under SI. Nos. Nil of you have given personal guarantee for the credit facilities as given above.

You have acknowledged from time to time the liabilities mentioned herein above through various documents executed by you.

2. The details of securities in favor of the Bank for the aforesaid credit facilities are:

Nature of security (Hypothecation / Mortgage etc.)	Particulars of securities (Full description with location, four boundaries, measurement on four sides total extent and name of owner to be given)
1. Hypothecation	MARUTI SWIFT LDI BS IV CAR Reg. No. DL8CA58759 Chassis No. MA3FHEB1500D92032 Engine No. D13A-0723599 Color: ARCTIC WHITE Vehicle registered in the name of VANITA BHATIA W/O. RANJEET BHATIA

** The Bank reserves its right to proceed under SARFAESI Act against the eligible securities and as regards the agricultural land security Nos. 6 above through other available legal course of action.

3. Consequently upon defaults committed by the above named borrowers in payment of the principal debt / interest as per agreed terms, your loan account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on 29.06.2024 as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines and directives. Despite our reminders for regularization of your account, you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.

4. Since you the above named borrowers referred under SI. Nos 1 have failed to meet the liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned above and upon classification of your account as a Non-Performing Asset, we hereby recall our advances to SI Nos 1 of you and give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the bank aggregating to Rs. 4,63,405.38/- as detailed in para 1 above, with further interest @9.20 % compounded with monthly rests as agreed, from the date mentioned above, within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.

5. The above named mortgagor / guarantor Nos..... Nil have given undertaking for repayment / guarantee for the credit facilities taken by the borrowers and have also given the properties herein mentioned to secure the above said credit facilities. Since the borrowers have committed defaults in repayment, the mortgagors/guarantors have become liable to pay to us in terms of the guarantee, the amounts due to the Bank as per the loan / credit facilities aggregating to Rs. 4,63,405.38/- Together with further interest @ 9.20% compounded with monthly rests as agreed and we hereby invoke the guarantee against the mortgagors/guarantors who have given non-agri securities enforceable under the SARFAESI Act namely of you and call upon you to pay the said amount within sixty days from the date of receipt of this notice. Please be advised that the guarantors liability is co-extensive with the liability of borrowers.

We further give notice to the borrowers namely VANITA BHATIA and Sangita Devi and mortgagors/guarantors who have given non-agri securities enforceable under the SARFAESI Act namely..... Nil that failing payment of the above amount in full with interest and charges till the date of payment, we shall be exercising all or any of the rights vested on us, under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act.

6. Please note that in law the borrowers and guarantors are jointly and severally liable to repay the dues with further interest and charges etc.

7. Please note that interest will continue to accrue at the rates and rests as agreed for each credit facility until full repayment.

8. Your attention is also invited to sub-section (13) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are restrained from transferring/alienating/shifting any of the secured assets referred to above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining our prior written consent. Please also note that non-compliance / contravention of the provisions contained in the said Act or Rules made thereunder, is an offence which is punishable with imprisonment and/or fine as provided under section 29 of the Act.

9. The guarantors referred under SI. Nos. Nil have given personal guarantee to secure the loans of the said borrowers and as such we advise you to prevail upon the borrowers to repay the dues as per our demand since we have the right to separately recall the advance from you, initiate action against you simultaneously in accordance with law, for recovery of our dues based on your personal guarantee.

10. We also put all of you on notice that if the account is not regularized/ repaid within the stipulated time and in case of the Bank classifying you as a willful defaulter as per RBI Guidelines, the Bank reserves its rights to publish your photograph in newspaper(s) with your name, address, details of default, dues etc., in accordance with RBI Guidelines besides initiating all recourses available to the Bank for recovery.

11. We also advise you that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we have for recovery of the above said dues as well as our right to make further demands in respect of sums due and payable by you.

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

Yours faithfully,
Authorized Officer

Canara Bank
RECOVERY SECTION, SOUTH DELHI REGIONAL OFFICE
1st Floor, DDA Building, Vardhaman Tower (Near Paras Cinema), Nehru Place, Delhi-110019 Ph- 8851630636; rosdelrec@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
Ref. No. 2743/SARFAESI/07/2024-25 Date: 04.07.2024

1. SMT NEETU GUPTA (BORROWER), W/O SHRI PRADEEP A-50, DEOLI EXTENSION, PUSHPA BHAWAN, DELHI- 110062 ALSO AT: M/S MARUTI AGENCY, A 21 22 BARA MOHALLA, DUGAL COLONY, DEVLI ROAD DELHI- 110062

2. SHRI NITIN KUMAR (GUARANTOR), A-50, DEOLI EXTENSION, DELHI- 110062

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, Delhi Saket Branch (DP Code- 2743) (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 Smt Neetu Gupta (hereinafter referred to as "the borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and have 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 amounts in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That you Shri Nitin Kumar has also guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor bank by the Borrowers for the credit facilities as detailed in Schedule-A hereunder with interest, cost, charges and expenses. As such, you are jointly and severally liable to pay the outstanding dues/loan amount of our secured creditor bank.

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

However, since March 2024, the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured creditor shows that the liability of the Borrower/s towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs. 5,57,396.96 (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Six and Ninety Six Paise), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/s (Guarantor/s) 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 28.06.2024 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/s 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 rates as mentioned in Schedule C 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. 5,57,396.96 (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Six and Ninety Six Paise) 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 releasable 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/s (Guarantor/s) (Mortgagor/s) 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 consequences.

SCHEDULE - A
(Details of the credit facilities/ies availed by the Borrower)

SN	Acc No	Nature of Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1	2743603001370	VEHICLE LOAN	17.07.2018	9,40,000.00

SCHEDULE - B
(Details of Security Assets)

SN	Movable	Name of the title holder
1	FORD ECOSPORT 1.5 (P) TITANIUM MT REG NO. DL 12 CM 8338 COLOUR: MOONDUST SILVER CH NO. MAJAXMKRKAJ45860 E NO. JL45860	Smt Neetu Gupta
2	Nil	

SCHEDULE - C
(Details of liability as on date)

SN	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON 04.07.2024	RATE OF INTEREST
1	2743603001370	VEHICLE LOAN	Rs. 5,57,396.96	15.80% p.a. compounded monthly + 2% Penal interest at Simple Rate till the date of realisation

DATE : 11.07.2024
PLACE : DELHI
Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER
CANARA BANK

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

ANNEXURE - II POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]
(For Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 19.04.2024 calling upon the Borrower Mrs. RASHMI RAYKWAR (borrower) and Mr. ANIL SINGH S/O GHASI RAM (guarantor) pay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 25,58,222.70 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two and paise Seventy only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 4th day of July 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs. 25,58,222.70 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two and paise Seventy only) and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Residential Built-up Property No. 107, Rakhai-71.78 sq. yds. equal to 60.01 sq. mtrs., Khasra No. 34 Min. situated at Saipuram, Village Dasna, Pargana-Dasna, Tehsil & Distt- Ghaziabad, (U.P.) Boundaries of the property : East: Other's Plot, North: Plot No 108, West: Rasta 17ft wide, South: Plot No 106

Date : 04-07-2024, Place : Delhi
Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Indian Bank
B-1, Ashoka Niketan, Anand Vihar, Opp. Vojna Vihar, New Delhi-110092
Ph: 011-22161418, 22141516
e-mail : Anandvihar.delhi@indianbank.co.in

APPENDIX IV (Rule 8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 21.10.2023 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Lalita Arya and Mr. Nikhil Arya, having account with our Anand Vihar Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being "Rs. 235241/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred Forty One only) and interest thereon from 21.10.2023 till date of repayment within 60 days from the date of said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the

Opp corners Govt in Kerala House over atrocities against women

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The opinion that women in Kerala are no more safe under CPI (M) rule was underscored by KK Rema, MLA on Wednesday while moving a calling attention motion in the Legislative Assembly seeking an urgent discussion on the issue. Rema chose to introduce the motion amidst allegations that the coach of Kerala Cricket Association M Manu had sexually abused many of his trainees even as the officials of the sporting body looked the other way. He has been arrested and remanded to judicial commission even as the state Human Rights Commission has asked the KCA for more details. Rema said that though many trainees complained to the KCA about his behavior, the institution did not do anything to discipline Manu. The callousness of the authorities forced many future players to call it a day and leave the academy to save themselves from further molestation. One of the trainees had told the investigating officer that Manu had taken nude pictures of the trainees and was blackmailing them demanding sexual favors. "The situation is worse than what happened in the Wrestling Federation of



India coaching camp where it was alleged that Brij Bhushan Singh, the then president, had molested eight female wrestlers. This had led to a countrywide protest by the civil society. What Manu has done is worse than what has been alleged against Singh," said Rema. She also said that Manu had misused his position as coach and asked the girls to submit their nude pictures for physical evaluation process by the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI). The gullible girls believed him and submitted their pictures to Manu. Though there were many allegations of sexual assaults against him during the last

body fighting to ensure the academic excellence of the institutions of higher learning in the State had raised the appointment of Baby with the Government which was ignored by the officials concerned. Rema said these are not isolated incidents but daily events happening across the State. A Dalit woman was physically assaulted by two CPI (M) workers at Poochakkal in Alappuzha district in front of hundreds of people. Though the young woman approached the police station, her complaint was not registered, according to Rema. The police took the attackers into custody on Wednesday when it was known that the Legislative assembly is likely to witness exchange of words between the treasury and opposition benches. Though Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who holds the Home portfolio, was present in his office at the Legislative Complex, he chose not to attend the House and entrusted the task of replying to the opposition charges to health minister Veena George. The Speaker AN Shamsheer also asked Rema to wind up her speech in an attempt to silence the member from further raising any issues.

BJP slams Opp for boycotting all-party meet on quota as Maha House adjourned for 3 times

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Uproarious scenes were witnessed in the Maharashtra assembly on Wednesday as BJP members criticised the opposition for boycotting the all-party meeting called by the government on the Maratha reservation issue the previous day. Amid slogan-shouting by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members and noisy scenes, the House was adjourned three times. Raising the issue in the Lower House, Amet Satam (BJP) accused the opposition of playing politics over the quota issue. He asked the opposition to clarify its stand on the demand that Marathas be given reservation from the OBC (Other Backward Classes) quota. "The opposition only wants to create a rift between the two communities," he charged. Ashish Shelar (BJP) claimed the opposition backtracked at the last minute from attending the all-party meeting. Members of the treasury benches trooped into the well of the House, slamming the opposition. Leader of Opposition Vijay Wadetiwar accused the government of creating a social divide and remembering the opposition



when things spiral out of control. "Social tensions are the sin of the Mahayuti government," he alleged. BJP MLA Sanjay Kute objected, saying all-party meetings were held earlier also to discuss the quota issue and the opposition attended them. He claimed that Congress and NCP leaders have opposed reservation to Marathas. It is the BJP-led government which gave reservation to Marathas, Kute said. Shelar demanded that the opposition apologise to the Marathas and OBCs. "The opposition has no intention to resolve the issue," he claimed. Speaker Rahul Narwekar adjourned the House initially for 5 minutes and later for 10 minutes. When the House reassembled following the second adjournment, Nitesh Rane (BJP) said the opposition's "real face" has been exposed. "They should immediately clarify whether they want a separate quota for Marathas or from the OBCs (category)," he said. Shelar sought to know at whose instance the opposition backtracked at the last minute. "Whose message or phone call was it?" he asked. When Wadetiwar rose to speak, members of the treasury benches, who were in the well of House, started shouting slogans. The speaker then adjourned the House for 45 minutes.

The Maharashtra government pushed for evolving a consensus on reservation in jobs and education for Marathas at the all-party meeting here on Tuesday evening and asserted that while resolving the emotive issue, the existing quota of other communities will not be disturbed. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP (SP), boycotted the all-party meet. It was convened ahead of the assembly polls due in October and days before the end of a deadline set by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange for the state government to accept the community's demands, including quota under the OBC category. Last month, OBC quota activists Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare went on a hunger strike demanding that the draft notification that gives Kunbi certificates to Marathas to avail quota benefits under the OBC category be scrapped. Kunbi, an agrarian community, falls in the OBC category, and Jarange, spearheading the agitation over the reservation issue, has been demanding Kunbi certificates for all Marathas, making them eligible for reservation benefits in education and government jobs.

Ladakh: BRO seeks LG's intervention to resume work on border roads



PTI ■ LEH

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has sought intervention of the Ladakh Lt Governor Brigadier (Retd) B D Mishra to complete several border road projects after the work was suspended on the directions of the wildlife department in the Union territory, an official said on Wednesday. Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak, Brigadier Vinay Bahl and Chief Engineer, Project Himank, Brigadier Vishal Srivastava raised the issue of the suspended work with the Lt Governor after they called on him here, the official said. Briefing Mishra about the construction of new roads along with the widening of existing roads in the border areas of Ladakh, the delegation informed him about the clearance taken by them from the wildlife board for the construction and widening of these roads. Brig Bahl informed about the direction received from the wildlife department of Ladakh to stop the

construction and widening of the road. He apprised the Lt Governor of the issues faced by them in completing the said project within the stipulated timeframe and requested his intervention, the official said. Brig Srivastava also informed Mishra of the issue faced by them in the construction of new roads in the Changthang area, the official said. Taking note of the issues raised by the officers, the Lt Governor asked them to meet Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Brij Mohan Sharma, to find a viable solution to address their issues as these projects will not only benefit the people of Ladakh but also along with the widening of existing roads in the border areas, the official said. Meanwhile, a team from NITI Aayog led by programme director, security, Maj Gen (Retd) K Narayanan separately called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of the launch of the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' in Leh and Kargil districts.

Assam flood situation improves, 17 lakhs still affected in 26 districts

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam improved marginally on Wednesday with water levels of major rivers showing a receding trend, reducing the affected population to 1.7 million across 26 districts, according to an official bulletin. Vast tracts of land, however, remain inundated with sporadic rainfall reported from several districts. Seven deaths were reported on Tuesday with two in Cachar and one each in Dhubri, Dhemaji, South Salmara, Nagaon and Sivasagar, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). The death toll in this year's floods, landslides and storms increased to 92 with 79 people losing their lives to the deluge alone. An area of 38,870.3 hectares of cropland was still inundated as against 49,014.06 hectares on Monday. Among the worst-hit districts are Dhubri where 3,54,045 people are affected,

Cachar (1,81,545), Sivasagar (1,36,547), Barpeta (1,16,074) and Golaghat (1,09,475).



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Joginder S/o late Rajinder Kumar R/o 147/9 Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 declare that my name mentioned in my OBC Certificate No. OBC/09/91/3853/8/1/2008/38847 as Joginder Kumar instead of Joginder. Hence Joginder and Joginder Kumar both are same and one person.

PD(586)C I, Guddu S/o Sant Ram R/o House No 189, Pooth Kalam Village Delhi have both these names are of the same person. PD(587)C I, Mohammad Farhan S/o Mohd.Yunus R/o H.No.122, Kh.No.127, First Floor, Gali No. 9, Block-D, Village Wazirabad, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Mohd. Farhan. PD(588)C

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Bhagwati W/o Shri Yadram R/o C-48/2, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110092, do hereby inform that I do hereby disown my son Mr. Dharampal and his wife Mrs. Sunita and their child/legit heir from all my movable and immovable properties and have reserved all our relations with them as they are disobedient, disrespectful, and out of control and misbehaviour and other some unavoidable circumstances arises by them. Anyone dealing with them will do so at their own risk and cost, we will not be responsible for their any act deeds as we have no relation with them. Bhagwati

LOST & FOUND
Lonkeets Builders Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at A 16 DSDC Complex Jhilmil Industrial Area, Delhi-110095 Through it's Director Sh. Ghanshyam Dass S/O Sh Ram Chander Sharma do hereby inform that company is owner of Property No. 123 Shreshtha Vihar, Delhi 110092. We have lost/misplaced original previous documents i.e. G.P.A execute by Smt. Savita Kalra wife of Shri. Baldev Raj Kalra in favour of Shri Rajinder Kumar Jain son of Late Shri Roshan Lal Jain on dated 19.11.1987 and Agreement to Sell executed by Smt. Savita Kalra in favour of (1) Shri Ashok Kumar Jain and (2) Shri Rajneesh Kumar Jain both sons of Late Shri Roshan Lal on dated 19.11.1987 alongwith other transfer documents in respect of above said property. We have also filed a complaint in respect of lost/misplaced documents vide SO No. 430/2014 and LR No. 1868908/2024 dated 03.07.2024 Ghanshyam Dass

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER
For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work.

Name of Work with its Location	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Crew Management Systems at GZB, TKD, ANVT, PNP, PWL and NZM Crew Lobbies as per CRIS Specification No. 2007/CRIS/NDLS-HQ/CMS/project/Rollout-UI/0030/pt-I dt. 27.12.2018
2. Approx. Tender value (Rs)	Rs. 22,05,205.24/- (including GST).
3. E.M.D. (Rs.)	Rs. 44,200/- Note:- Online payment mode available on IREPS website.
4. Date & Time of tender opening (immediately when tender submission ends).	01.08.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.
5. Tender particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No.: NIT-02-2024-25-Elect-RSO, Dt. 10.07.2024 2101/24
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Pranavi Luthra are in process to avail the LAF (floating loan from Suryodaya Small Finance Bank) house no. 346B in bh-H measuring 204.075 sqm. at palam vihar, gurgaon, Haryana, having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 19/7/06 (Doc. No. 8645 and 8646) executed by M/s Ansal Properties & Infrastructure in favour of Pranavi Luthra and Kausal Luthra and Transfer Deed dated 19/2/24 executed by Kausal Luthra in favour of Pranavi Luthra (Doc. No. 13904) whereas she has lost the following documents pertain to the said property, an FIR has already been lodged for that on dated 13.09.2020.

E-AUCTION NOTICE
WATER AFFECTED APPROX. 22.450 KG OF NATURAL RUBBER TSNR (ISNR 20)
Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of 'Water Affected approx. 22.450 Kg of Natural Rubber TSNR (ISNR 20)' on 'Per Kg' Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on 'As is Where is', Whatever There is' and 'No Complaint' Basis and belongs to M/s. Malaya Rub Tech Industries. The subject materials can be inspected at M/s. Goodyear India Ltd., Mathura Road, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana - 121004 between 11-07-24 to 18-07-24 between 10 AM to 5 PM on working days only. Kindly contact Mr. Vinu Paul at 9846856780 for inspection.

E-AUCTION WILL BE HELD ON 19-07-24.
Kindly contact Mr. Pradiy Yadav at 8591284406 to obtain the form containing terms & conditions of e-Auction or download from website <https://www.sealthedeal.co.in/>.
Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at Shop No.148, Pocket C2, Sector 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085.
Last date of Submission of form & EMD Demand Draft is 18-07-24.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is given on behalf of Our Clients: 1. Mrs. Subhashini Ganesh Saluja, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Dr. Jagdish Kumar Saluja, aged about 77 years, holding American Passport No. 574941554, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, USA; 2. Mrs. Minilini Khunger, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 3. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 4. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 5. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 6. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 7. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 8. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 9. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 10. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 11. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 12. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 13. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 14. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 15. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 16. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 17. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 18. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 19. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 20. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 21. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 22. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 23. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 24. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 25. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 26. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 27. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 28. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 29. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 30. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 31. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 32. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 33. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 34. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 35. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 36. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 37. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 38. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 39. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 40. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 41. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 42. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 43. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 44. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 45. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 46. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 47. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 48. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 49. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 50. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 51. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 52. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 53. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 54. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 55. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 56. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 57. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 58. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 59. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 60. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 61. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 62. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 63. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 64. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 65. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 66. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 67. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 68. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 69. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar, aged about 75 years, holding American Passport No. 598012548, resident of 105 Shawoo Ridge Drive #212, Woodridge, IL 60517, USA; and 70. Mrs. Manju Bhalia Ghal, daughter of late Mr. Booda Ram Bhalia (Buda Ram Bhalia), and late Mrs. Santosh Shalja, and wife of Mr. Sohan Khattar,



FIRST COLUMN

RISE IN OFFICE PEACOCKING

This approach can help differentiate individuals and create a culture of excellence



SAKSHI SETHI

Post-COVID-19, as organisations navigate the transition back to physical workspaces, they are embracing innovative strategies to bring their employees back to the workplace. One such strategy after office badging is 'office peacocking' which involves creating an environment to bring employees back to the office, organisations are decking out their offices with stylish furniture fancy décor, comfortable furniture and stocked pantries, thereby making them excited and aspire about their work and workplace. Shifting from traditional cubicles and florescent lights to vibrant colour schemes, stylish yet comfortable furniture to interactive installations, multiple organisations across the world are investing in elements that make their working space stand out and stimulate a sense of community and belonging. Office peacocking is evident in various forms, serving as a means for individuals to signal their competence, confidence and influence.

The act of peacocking often involves communication, presentation and networking skills, which can be beneficial for personal development. In competitive workplaces, standing out from peers can be crucial for career growth. To be considered for promotions, raises or high-profile projects, employees often need to ensure their achievements and skills are recognized by their superiors. It is the peacocking that can help differentiate an individual from their colleagues. While the need for peacocking is clear, it is important to balance it with other positive workplace behaviours such as ensuring that the achievements of the employees highlighted are genuine and meaningful; recognizing and crediting the contributions of team members; maintaining respect for colleagues and avoiding arrogance or boastfulness and most importantly balancing self-promotion with humility and a willingness to learn and grow.

The world of work is changing rapidly, and businesses/organisations need to adapt to stay ahead as, in competitive workplaces, standing out from peers can be crucial for career growth. By understanding and addressing the need for peacocking in a balanced and constructive manner, individuals can enhance their career prospects while keeping positive relationships and a healthy work environment. While office peacock-



ing can sometimes lead to career advancement, on the contrary, the social demands of an engaging office can lead to burnout from constant participation expectations; lavish office spaces can create a divide and may alienate those preferring simpler environments; excessive focus on aesthetics might divert attention from critical organizational challenges. Not only this the frequent renovations or unsustainable materials might conflict with environmental goals resulting in a risk that physical presence may be valued more than actual work output. The novelty of a redesigned office can fade and diminish its long-term value if not paired with broader improvements. Overall if it comes across as inauthentic, self-serving or disruptive to team dynamics.

By creating a rich and healthy working environment, organisations hope to outshine their competitors and convince their employees that experiences gained in offices offer significant advantages over working from home. Remember, striking the right balance between perks and purpose can the organisations create an environment where employees thrive and succeed; by being aware of and addressing the negative aspects of peacocking, they can create a more balanced and healthy workplace that values both individual achievements and team success and by fostering a culture where peacocking is balanced with genuine contribution and teamwork, organisations can harness the positive aspects of this behaviour to drive success and growth. By using peacocking effectively and responsibly organisations can create a culture of achievement and excellence that drives sustained performance and success.

(The writer is an educator; the views expressed are personal)

UGC introduces biannual admissions



T V KATTIMANI

The dual-session method allows institutions to maintain the quality of education and resources, ensuring each student receives adequate attention and support

The Chairman, of UGC has announced that bi-annual admissions will happen from the session 2024-25. It has been mentioned that the admissions will occur twice once in the July-August session and the other in the January- February session. Since the announcement of the decision, diverse perspectives have been raised among different scholars, academia, and academic bodies. While some experts believe that it will align the Indian higher education system with the global educational system by enhancing international collaborations and providing greater access and more opportunities for students to enrol in their preferred programs, others are addressing the challenges that may come up with the implementation of the process.

It includes the involvement of additional teaching staff and infrastructure as the number of students will double by the process. Similarly, many universities have vacant posts which are often tackled by contractual teachers and hence the workload is already excessive among the concerned staff which can cause a problem in the execution of the bi-annual admission system. If observed acutely, the system is not new to the Indian Higher Education Institutions. The Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi which is the largest open university with one of the highest enrolled students in the country has been adopting this bi-annual approach since its inception.

The same goes with state open universities like Uttar Pradesh Rajashri Tondon Open University as well as private Universities like Christ University, Bengaluru. The above-mentioned universities that have adopted a dual-session model for admissions to their various undergraduate and postgraduate programs are already providing various benefits to the students. This strategic approach is designed to effectively manage the high volume of applications while ensuring flexibility and convenience for prospective students.

The dual-session system also introduces significant flexibility into the admissions process. It caters to students who might have missed the first session's deadlines or are awaiting the results of other examinations like late declaration of board results, financial and medical problems, or any other unavoidable circumstances. By offering a second session, now UGC will allow these students another chance to apply, facilitating better planning of their academic pursuits without a break.

A primary objective of the two-session model is to enhance the overall convenience for students. This system allows prospective students to choose the admission session that best matches their academic schedules and individual needs, making the process more accommodating and less stressful. The universities experience a substantial influx of applications each year. By conducting two distinct admission sessions, academic institutions will be able to accommodate this large number of applicants better. Seat availability in various academic programs can fluctuate significantly between different enrollment sessions due to a multitude of factors.



THE DUAL-SESSION ADMISSION STRATEGY ADOPTED BY UGC IS A THOUGHTFUL AND EFFECTIVE MEASURE TO STREAMLINE THE ADMISSION PROCESS IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

These variations are influenced by the popularity of the programs, the strategic decisions made by institutions, and the behaviour of the applicants. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for prospective students and educational institutions alike. One of the primary reasons for differences in seat availability between sessions is the popularity of the programs. Highly sought-after programs, such as those in business, engineering, computer science, and medicine, tend to fill up quickly during the first enrollment session.

These programs often attract a large number of applicants due to their perceived value in the job market, the prestige associated with them, and the quality of education they offer. As a result, students eager to secure a spot in these competitive fields are likely to apply as early as possible, leading to a swift depletion of available seats in the initial session. Conversely, programs that are less competitive or specialized might see a more gradual filling of seats. These programs might not experience the same rush of applications in the first session, leading to more availability in the subsequent session.

This can be advantageous for students who may need more time to decide on their course of study or those who missed the first session deadline. Additionally, some students might be strategically applying to less competitive pro-

grams in the first session to secure a spot and then attempt to transfer to their preferred program later. Educational institutions also play a role in managing seat availability across sessions. Universities and colleges might reserve a certain number of seats for the second session to accommodate various types of students, such as international students, migrating students, or those who are waiting for the results of prerequisite courses or exams.

This ensures a more diverse student body and provides opportunities for students who couldn't apply or commit during the first session. Furthermore, the strategic decisions of institutions regarding the distribution of seats can influence availability. For example, some institutions may decide to open additional sections of popular courses in the second session based on the demand observed in the first session.

This flexibility helps in managing over-enrollment and ensures that more students get the opportunity to enrol in their desired programs. Applicant behaviour also affects seat availability. Many students apply to multiple programs and institutions simultaneously, holding onto multiple offers until they make a final decision. As they confirm their enrollment in one program, they relinquish seats in others, leading to fluctuations in availability. This release of seats often hap-

pens closer to the second session, allowing late applicants or those on waiting lists a chance to secure a place. In addition, external factors such as economic conditions, changes in job market demands, and societal trends can impact enrollment patterns.

For instance, during economic downturns, there might be a surge in applications for programs perceived to offer better job security, thus affecting seat availability in those programs across both sessions. Hence, the staggered approach ensures that students are more likely to secure admission into their preferred programs gradually or may sometimes lose a year or more waiting for the same.

The dual-session method allows the institution to maintain the quality of education and resources, ensuring that each student receives adequate attention and support. It is a way of managing demand and capacity. In conclusion, the dual-session admission strategy adopted by UGC is a thoughtful and effective measure to streamline the admission process in Indian universities. It caters to numerous issues faced by students while providing the necessary flexibility and convenience, ultimately supporting a diverse and dynamic student-oriented approach.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor, Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh; views are personal)

Union budget 2024-25: High hopes for transformative healthcare reforms

Stakeholders seek investments and policy reforms in the budget to promote equitable access, innovation, and sustainability within the sector

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to present the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, the healthcare sector stands poised with high expectations and pressing demands. Amidst the ongoing pandemic recovery and a renewed focus on public health infrastructure, stakeholders are looking towards strategic investments and policy reforms to drive equitable access, innovation, and sustainability within the healthcare sector.

The interim budget underscored the importance of expanding medical education facilities within existing hospitals alongside efforts to promote preventive healthcare. A notable initiative targeted at reducing cervical cancer cases



P N ARORA

through vaccination for girls aged 9-14 was also announced. Moreover, plans for a comprehensive scheme integrating various mother and child care programs highlight the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services. The budgetary allocations for flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana have seen increases reflecting a strategic focus on improving

healthcare access and outcomes across the country, mission was increased from Rs2,100 crore in 2023-24 to Rs4,108 crore in 2024-25. Additionally, the introduction of digital health initiatives, such as the U-WIN platform aims to optimize vaccine distribution and strengthen immunization efforts through enhanced data management capabilities.

Now the upcoming budget holds immense significance for the healthcare sector as it navigates through a period of transformation and challenges. The expectations are high for Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to announce measures that not only address immediate healthcare needs but also pave the way for long-term sustainable growth.

From infrastructure investments to digital health integration and reforms in insurance and education, the budget is anticipated to set a course that strengthens India's healthcare ecosystem for years to come.

A critical aspect of the healthcare demands revolves around accessibility and affordability. Initiatives like Ayushman Bharat have laid the foundation for universal health coverage. The sector advocates for subsidies or free health check-ups, especially for women and children, aiming to improve preventive care and early detection of diseases. In line with the government's Digital India initiative, there is a strong opportunity to integrate advanced digital health technologies into mainstream

healthcare. Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics are seen as transformative tools that can enhance medical outcomes, streamline healthcare delivery, and reduce costs. The sector expects incentives and support for domestic manufacturing of medical devices, aligning with the 'Make in India' campaign and reducing dependency on imports. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer pose a significant health burden in India. Experts expect a need for increased budget allocation for the prevention, treatment, and management of NCDs. This includes supporting research, public awareness campaigns, and accessible treatment

options to curb the rising prevalence of these diseases. The healthcare sector also expects strategic moves to address the improvement in the healthcare system at the grassroots level. Additionally, there is a call for initiatives that support training and reskilling healthcare workers to leverage new technologies and meet evolving healthcare demands effectively. Key priorities include addressing the effort to expand recruitment efforts. These measures are crucial for improving healthcare delivery and meeting the growing demand for quality medical services across the country. In health insurance, stakeholders seek fiscal reforms that promote a more inclusive and sustainable health coverage model.

This includes revisiting GST tariffs on healthcare services and products ensuring affordability and accessibility across all socioeconomic segments. Moreover, encourages insurance coverage for preventive healthcare measures rather than solely focusing on reactive medical treatments. Healthcare in India has witnessed a significant surge in medical tourism, marked by a notable rise in foreign visitors. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry states "The Medical Value Travel in India is expected to grow at CAGR of 21.1% from 2020-2027. The MVT market in India was estimated at around \$ 6 billion in 2022 and is projected to increase to \$13 billion by 2026". This growth underscores

India's increasing prominence in the world as a preferred destination for medical treatments, driven by competitive costs, advanced healthcare facilities, and renowned medical expertise. Hence to continue to maintain the prominence of India's capability in healthcare services and excellence in innovation, it is of utmost importance that the government introduce key policy reforms to further elevate India's stature in medical tourism. We expect that the upcoming budget underlines the clear goal to enhance our healthcare system that ensures every citizen has access to affordable and quality healthcare.

(The writer is chairman Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals; views are personal)

Israeli strike in central Gaza kills 20 Palestinians

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip) (AP) Israeli airstrikes early Wednesday killed 20 Palestinians in central Gaza, including six children and three women, some of them inside a purported "safe zone" declared by the Israeli military, hospital authorities said.

This second straight night of deadly strikes in the central town of Deir al-Balah and nearby by refugee camps came as U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators as well as Israeli officials came together in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks trying to push through a long-elusive deal for a cease-fire and hostage release. Israel and Hamas had appeared to narrow the gaps in recent days, but obstacles remain.

Strikes early Wednesday hit three houses in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 12 people including five children, said authorities at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the casualties were taken. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies. The camp, like others around

Israeli military orders evacuation of Gaza City

Deir al-Balah (AP): The Israeli military urged all Palestinians to leave Gaza City and head south on Wednesday, pressing ahead with a fresh offensive across the north, south and centre of the embattled territory that has killed dozens of people over the past 48 hours.

The stepped up military activity came as US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators were meeting with Israeli officials in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks trying to push through a long-elusive cease-fire deal with Gaza's Hamas militant group. Israel says it is pursuing Hamas fighters regrouping in various parts of Gaza nine months into the military's devastating offensive. But heavy strikes in recent days along the length of the terri-

tory also could be aimed at hiking up pressure on Hamas in the cease-fire efforts.

Israel ordered residents of northern Gaza, including Gaza City, to flee south months ago as it operated in the area. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have remained in the hard-hit north, and many Palestinians say they have nowhere to go. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people are crammed into squalid tent camps in central and southern Gaza. Ground troops have pushed into parts of Gaza City in recent days, triggering the flight of thousands of Palestinians trying to escape shelling and airstrikes.

The past week, the military ordered Palestinians to evacuate from eastern and central parts of the city.

Gaza, was originally erected to house Palestinians driven from their homes during the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. It has grown into an urban neighborhood in the decades since.

A fourth strike early Wednesday killed four men, three women and a child when it hit a home in Deir al-Balah, an area that is located within the "humanitarian safe zone" where Israel has told Palestinians to seek refuge as it conducts offensives in multiple parts of the Gaza Strip. The overnight bombardment came hours after Israeli warplanes struck the entrance of a school sheltering displaced families outside the southern city of Khan Younis. The toll from the strike rose to 31 people killed, including eight children, and more than 50 wounded, officials at the nearby Nasser Hospital said Wednesday.

Footage aired by Al-Jazeera television showed kids playing soccer in the school's yard when a sudden boom shook the area,

prompting shouts of "a strike, a strike!"

The Israeli army said the airstrike near the school and reports of civilian casualties were under review, and claimed it was targeting a Hamas militant who took part in the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, though it provided no immediate evidence. The military blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militants fight in dense, urban areas. But the army rarely comments on what it is targeting in individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

In nine months of bombardment and offensives in Gaza, Israel has killed more than 38,200 people and wounded more than 88,000, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. Nearly the entire population has been driven from their homes. Many have been displaced multiple times. Hundreds of thousands are packed into sweltering tent

camp. Israel's onslaught was triggered by Hamas' cross-border raid on Oct. 7, during which militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities. The militants took roughly 250 people hostage. About 120 are still in captivity, with about a third said to be dead.

This week, Israeli troops have also been waging a new ground assault in Gaza City in the north of the territory — its latest effort to battle Hamas militants regrouping in areas the army previously said had been largely cleared. Large parts of Gaza City and urban areas around it have been flattened or left a shattered landscape by previous Israeli assaults, and much of the population fled earlier in the war. But the latest incursions and bombardment prompted a new flight of people. After Israel on Monday called for an evacuation from eastern and central parts of Gaza City, staff at two hospitals — Al-Ahli and the

Patients Friends Association Hospital — rushed to move patients and shut down, the United Nations said.

The Israeli military said Tuesday that it told hospitals and other medical facilities in Gaza City they did not need to evacuate. But hospitals in Gaza have often shut down and moved patients at any sign of possible Israeli military action, fearing raids.

In the past nine months, Israeli troops have attacked at least eight hospitals, causing the deaths of patients and medical workers along with massive destruction to facilities and equipment. Israel has claimed Hamas uses hospitals for military purposes, though it has provided only limited evidence. Only 13 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are functioning, and those only partially, according to the United Nations' humanitarian office. International mediators were making a new concerted effort to push through a proposed cease-fire deal.

China launches investigation in response to EU investigations

Beijing (AP): China announced an investigation Wednesday into whether the European Union has adopted unfair trade practices in its probes of Chinese companies bidding on projects in the 27-nation bloc. The move is the latest in a brewing trade war between the two economic giants.

The investigation will focus on wind power, photovoltaics, security equipment and electric trains, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said. The EU has used a new regulation to investigate companies bidding for projects within the European Union. These include a probe into whether Chinese subsidies give wind turbine companies an unfair advantage in the competition for projects in Spain, Greece, France, Romania and Bulgaria. China accused the European Union of protectionism and "reckless distortion" of the definition of subsidies in response to that investigation. The EU has also investigated Chinese companies bidding for a 455-megawatt solar park in Romania and for the procurement of 20 electric trains in Bulgaria. The Chinese investigation will be completed before January 10, with a possible extension of three months to April. It was requested by China's Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products.

The EU imposed provisional tariffs on China-made electric vehicles last week over subsidies that it alleges gives an unfair advantage to automakers exporting from China. In response, China has launched an investigation into European pork exports. Both the EU and the United States are worried that inexpensive Chinese automobiles could overwhelm their domestic producers and lead to factory layoffs. Chinese auto exports have risen about 30 percent in the first six months of this year.

Trump attacks Kamala Harris, questions her competence

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump, the former US president and presumptive presidential nominee of the Republican Party, has attacked Vice President Kamala Harris, raising questions on her competence and describing her as an "insurance policy" for incumbent President Joe Biden.

His attack against Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, came amid chatter in the Democratic Party about whether President Biden should remain the nominee in the November 5 presidential election. Biden, 81, has faced calls from some Democrats to step aside as the nominee following his disastrous performance during a June 27 debate with Trump in which he struggled to complete sentences or answer any significant blows against his opponent.

"Whatever else can be said about crooked Joe Biden, you



have to give him credit for one brilliant decision, probably the smartest decision he ever made. He picked Kamala Harris as his vice president. No, it was brilliant. Because it was an insurance policy. Maybe the best insurance policy I've ever seen," Trump, 78, told his supporters in Florida. "If Joe had picked

someone even halfway competent, they would have bounced him from office years ago, but they can't because she's gotta be their second choice," he said as he repeatedly mispronounced her name. Trump said as vice president, Harris was given two very important tasks - border security and to deter Russia from attacking Ukraine.

"First, she was put in charge of the U.S. border security. She never showed up. She's never gone. She never went there once. And the border is the worst border in the history of the world," he alleged.

"We have the best border in history because she has the worst border in the history of the world. Then, she was sent to Europe to deter Russia from attacking Ukraine. How did that work out? Not too good. Both times, the result was a deadly failure. Since Kamala was made border czar, the Biden-Harris administration

has lost track of an estimated 150,000 children, many of whom have undoubtedly been raped, trafficked, killed, or horribly abused," Trump said. Trump accused Harris, 59, of being a socialist.

"I don't think Kamala Harris' California socialism is going to go down well with the people of Doral, the people of Miami, or the people of Florida. Because in Florida, we don't like socialism. We want our freedom, right? We want our freedom," he said. "Joe, Kamala and the entire Democrat establishment have been caught red-handed in the thick of the biggest scandal and the biggest cover-up... it's a cover-up. It's the biggest cover-up in political history. As you know, they are all co-conspirators in the sinister plot to defraud the American public about the cognitive abilities of the man in the Oval Office," alleged Trump.

Iraqi court sentences wife of slain Islamic State leader to death

AP ■ BAGHDAD

An Iraqi court issued a death sentence Wednesday against one of the wives of the late brutal Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, alleging that she was complicit in crimes committed against Yazidi women captured by the militant group.

The ruling comes weeks before the 10-year mark since IS launched a series of attacks against the Yazidi religious minority in the northern Iraqi region of Sinjar in early August 2014, killing and capturing thousands — including women and girls who were subjected to human trafficking and sexual abuse. The United Nations said the campaign against the Yazidis amounted to genocide. A statement by Iraq's judicial council said the Karkh Criminal Court sentenced the woman for "detaining Yazidi women in her home" and facilitating their kidnapping by "the terrorist ISIS gangs in Sinjar district." It also said the



ruling was issued in accordance with Iraq's anti-terrorism law and its "Yazidi survivors law." The statement did not name the defendant, but two court officials identified her as Asma Mohammed, who was arrested in 2018 in Turkey. An Iraqi security official told The Associated Press Wednesday she was handed over to Iraqi authorities last year. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the case publicly.

Survivors of the IS attacks in Iraq have complained of a lack of accountability and have criticised the decision — made at

the request of the Iraqi government — to wind down a UN probe into IS crimes, including the alleged use of chemical weapons.

At the same time, human rights groups have raised concerns about the lack of due process in trials of alleged IS members in Iraq and have particularly criticised mass executions of those convicted on terrorism charges. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have said the convictions are often extracted under torture and urged Iraq to abolish the death penalty.

On June 29, 2014, al-Baghdadi, known as one of the most ruthlessly effective jihadist leaders of modern times, declared the militant group's caliphate in large swaths of Iraq and Syria. In 2019, he was killed in a US raid in Syria, dealing a major blow to the militant group which has now lost its hold on all the areas it previously controlled though some of its cells continue to carry out attacks.

Trump challenges Biden to another debate, golf match

Washington (PTI): Donald Trump, the Republican presumptive presidential nominee, has offered his rival and incumbent President Joe Biden the opportunity to "redeem himself in front of the entire world" via a debate this week while also challenging him to a round of golf. Trump's challenges to Biden, 81, came as he was feeling quite confident after his maiden debate performance against the president late last month.

"I'm officially offering Joe the chance to redeem himself in front of the entire world," Trump, 78, said at a campaign rally in Florida.

"Let's do another debate this week so that sleepy Joe Biden can prove to everyone all over the world that he has what it takes to be president," he said.

"But this time it will be man-to-man, no moderators, no holds barred. Just name the place, anytime, anywhere," Trump added. Biden, the Democratic nominee, performed poorly at the June 27 presidential debate in Atlanta, after which even his own party colleagues are asking him to drop from the race. Biden has rejected such calls.

At the same rally, Trump then challenged Biden to an 18-hole golf match.

"I'm also officially challenging Joe to an 18-hole golf match right here," he said.

"If he wins, I will give the charity of his choice, any charity that he wants, USD 1 million. And I'll bet you he doesn't take the offer... What that match will do is prove that Joe is, in fact, all talk and no action," Trump said. The Biden Campaign has rejected both the challenges.

"Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics — he's busy leading America and defending the free world. Donald Trump is a liar, a convict, and a fraud only out for himself — par for the course," Biden-Harris 2024 Spokesperson James Singer said. "Donald Trump hasn't been seen in public for 12 days; now he's inviting fictional serial killers to dinner, teasing lil' Marco Rubio, praising Project 2025 architect Tom Homan, and challenging the President of the United States to golf.

New US envoy to Taiwan pledges to help island with self-defense

AP ■ TAIPEI

The United States' new top envoy to Taiwan promised Wednesday that Washington will help the self-ruled island defend itself as China ramps up its military threats.

Raymond Greene, who assumed his new role as director of the American Institute in Taiwan on Monday, met with Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te. "First of all, and the most important thing, the U.S. will strongly support Taiwan's self-defense capabilities," Greene said. "We both have common and long-term interests in peace and stability over the Taiwan Strait." Lai said Taiwan will strive to maintain the status quo with Beijing, which claims the island democracy of its 23 million people as its own territory, to be reclaimed by force

if necessary. Taiwan's Defense Ministry also said Wednesday it detected 36 Chinese military jets, including J-16 fighters and H-6 bombers, flying south and southeast of the island and headed into the Western Pacific to carry out drills with China's Shandong aircraft carrier.

The U.S., like most countries, does not recognize Taiwan as a country. But it's the island's main partner and is bound by U.S. laws to provide it with the means to defend itself. Less than a month ago, the U.S. State Department approved the sale to Taiwan of missiles and drones for an estimated \$360 million.

In April, the House of Representatives approved an \$8 billion military aid package for Taiwan.

Taiwan and the U.S. are solid partners to each other who strive to maintain regional

peace and stability," Lai said Wednesday.

The Chinese government didn't immediately comment on the meeting.

The American Institute in Taiwan functions as a de facto embassy. Taipei also operates an Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the U.S. and similar de facto embassies in other countries.

China has ramped up its military pressure against the island since Lai took office in May. Beijing sees Lai as a separatist and refuses to speak with him.

In late June, Beijing threatened to hunt down and execute "hardcore" Taiwan independence supporters. In response, Taipei urged its citizens to avoid traveling to China and the semi-autonomous Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macao.

Search on for man armed with crossbow after 3 women killed

London (AP): British police were hunting for a man believed to be armed with a crossbow on Wednesday after three women were killed in a house near London.

Hertfordshire Police said Kyle Clifford, 26, was being sought over the suspected triple murder. Chief Superintendent Jon Simpson of Hertfordshire Police said Clifford is believed to have targeted the women, who were related. "The manhunt also involves armed police officers and specialist search teams responding at pace in the wake of what has been an horrific incident, involving what is currently believed to be a crossbow and other weapons may also have been used," Simpson said. Police said the three women — ages 25, 28 and 61 — were found seriously injured in a house in Bushey, northwest of



NATO leaders pose for a family photo before President Joe Biden, front row center, delivers remarks on the 75th anniversary of NATO at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Tuesday, in Washington. Pictured from front row right are Croatia's President Zoran Milanovic, Poland's President Andrzej Duda, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Finland's President Alexander Stubb, Biden, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Romania's President Klaus Iohannis, Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda. From second row right are Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama, Slovakia's President Peter Pellegrini, Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel, Latvia's Prime Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs, North Macedonia's Prime Minister Christijan Mickoski, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo. And from third row right, France's NATO Ambassador Muriel Domenach, Montenegro's Foreign Minister Filip Ivanovic, Iceland's Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, Portugal's Prime Minister Luis Montenegro, Greece's Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Slovenia's Prime Minister Robert Golob, Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden, Bulgaria's Prime Minister Dimitar Glavchev, Netherlands Prime Minister Dick Schoof, U.K. Secretary of State for Defense John Healey. AP/PTI

Microsoft quits OpenAI board seat

AP ■ LA PAZ

Microsoft has relinquished its seat on the board of OpenAI, saying its participation is no longer needed because the ChatGPT maker has improved its governance since being roiled by boardroom chaos last year.

In a Tuesday letter, Microsoft confirmed it was resigning, "effective immediately," from its role as an observer on the artificial intelligence company's board.

"We appreciate the support shown by OpenAI leadership and the OpenAI board as we made this decision," the letter said. The surprise departure comes amid intensifying scrutiny from antitrust regulators of the powerful AI partnership. Microsoft has reportedly invested USD 13 billion in OpenAI.

European Union regulators said last month that they would take a fresh look at the partnership under the 27-nation bloc's antitrust rules,



while the US Federal Trade Commission and Britain's competition watchdog have also been examining the pact. Microsoft took the board seat following a power struggle in which OpenAI CEO Sam Altman was fired, then quickly reinstated, while the board members behind the ouster were pushed out.

"Over the past eight months we have witnessed significant progress by

the newly formed board and are confident in the company's direction," Microsoft said in its letter. "Given all of this we no longer believe our limited role as an observer is necessary." With Microsoft's departure, OpenAI will no longer have observer seats on its board.

"We are grateful to Microsoft for voicing confidence in the Board and the direction of the company, and we look forward to continuing our suc-

cessful partnership," OpenAI said in a statement. It's not hard to conclude that Microsoft's decision to ditch the board seat was heavily influenced by rising scrutiny of big technology companies and their links with AI startups, said Alex Haffner, a competition partner at UK law firm Fladgate.

"It is clear that regulators are very much focused on the complex web of inter-relationships that Big Tech has created with AI providers, hence the need for Microsoft and others to carefully consider how they structure these arrangements going forward," he said. OpenAI said it would take a new approach to "informing and engaging key strategic partners" such as Microsoft and Apple and investors such as Thrive Capital and Khosla Ventures, with regular meetings to update stakeholders on progress and ensure stronger collaboration on safety and security.

Two Singaporean Indians jailed for scamming victims in US

Singapore (PTI): Two Indian origin Singaporean men were sentenced to jail for scamming victims in the United States through at least 50 companies, two of which received money through bank accounts, including transactions from China and the UAE. Ishan Sharma, 34, was sentenced to four weeks' jail. He pleaded guilty to two charges under the Companies Act after instigating his friend Kandhiban Letchumanansamy, 36, into not exercising reasonable diligence when the latter was a director at both firms, The Straits Times reported.

Kandhiban was sentenced to a week's jail. He pleaded guilty to one charge under the same Act after he failed to exercise any supervision over the companies' affairs.

Court documents did not state how the offences came to light, according to the daily report. Stressing that Sharma was the

"directing mind" behind these arrangements, Deputy Public Prosecutor Matthew Choo told the court that the offender earned SGD 12,000 in total for his offences linked to the two companies that received more than USD 1 million from scam victims.

At the time of the offences between 2019 and 2020, Sharma was a chartered accountant.

In 2017, he found out that Kandhiban was unemployed and offered the older man a job at a firm called Karmic Circle, with a monthly salary of SGD 500.

As part of the arrangement, Kandhiban had to be listed as a director of incorporated companies. He agreed to the deal.

DPP Choo said: "Kandhiban knew that he was meant to be a 'silent director' and would have nothing to do with the operations or activities of the

companies. Due to his arrangement with Sharma, Kandhiban became the listed director of more than 50 companies between 2019 and 2020.

Sometime before June 2019, a man known as Aashish Nanda introduced Sharma to Indian national Rahul Batra, the court heard.

Aashish also told Sharma that Rahul wanted to incorporate a company in Singapore. Sharma then corresponded with Rahul twice over the phone before he proceeded with the incorporation of Quartz Resources.

"Ishan (Sharma) and Kandhiban only met Rahul in person in June 2019 after the incorporation of Quartz Resources, where Rahul paid (Sharma) SGD6,000 in cash for the services rendered and for the opening of Quartz Resources' corporate accounts," said the prosecutor.

Zelenskyy urges action against Putin before US election

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says the world must not wait for November to drive back Russia's offensive against his country. Zelenskyy made the remarks while attending this week's summit of NATO leaders in Washington. He said the world was waiting to see what would happen in November, when voters are expected to decide between incumbent President Joe Biden and Republican opponent Donald Trump. But he said there needed to be action before then to defeat Russian President Vladimir Putin in his war against Ukraine. Zelenskyy has proven to be an adept navigator of international relations in defence of his war-ravaged country, publicly cajoling and sometimes loudly complaining to get the military assistance it needs to defend itself against Russia's



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks at the Ronald Reagan Institute on the sidelines of NATO Summit in Washington, Tuesday. AP/PTI

invasion. But, as he attends the NATO summit, his most coveted prize — membership in the military alliance — remains elusive. The European and North

American countries making up NATO are in no hurry to admit Ukraine, especially while it is engaged in active hostilities with Russia that could drag them into a broader war.

Zelenskyy, who was feted as a champion of democracy in Washington in the aftermath of Russia's 2022 invasion but was forced to plead his case for aid to US lawmakers just last year, will find himself once again in the American capital as bridesmaid. At the NATO summit, he'll be trying to navigate a tumultuous American political landscape as President Joe Biden tries to show his strength on the world stage and ability to keep leading the alliance's most important member following a shaky debate performance against former President Donald Trump. A NATO sceptic, Trump has criticised allies for not hitting defence-spending goals and raised concerns in Europe about continued US support for NATO and Ukraine. His Republican supporters in Congress were responsible for a monthlong delay in US military assistance, which allowed

Russia to gain ground against Ukraine's depleted forces. The stakes for Zelenskyy have never been higher as he prepared to address a Reagan Institute audience that was to include some of the most senior congressional Republicans. He got to Washington on Tuesday, a day after Russia unleashed its heaviest bombardment of Kyiv in almost four months and one of the deadliest of the war, which levelled a wing of Ukraine's biggest children's hospital. Against that backdrop, Zelenskyy, who will have a separate meeting with Biden on Thursday, again made an urgent appeal for additional air defences shortly after arriving in Washington, writing on the social media platform X that "We are fighting for more air defence systems for Ukraine, and I'm confident we will succeed." Hours before Zelenskyy's Tuesday night address, Biden

announced to great fanfare that the US and other NATO members will send dozens of air-defence systems to Ukraine in the coming months, including at least four of the powerful Patriot systems it has been desperately seeking to help fight off Russian advances in the war. Speaking at an event celebrating the alliance's 75th anniversary, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urged the West to keep sending weapons and ammunition to Ukraine whatever the costs, saying the outcome of the war with Russia "will shape global security for decades to come." But an invitation to join the alliance is not in the cards even as Russia's latest strikes have galvanised support for his country. "We would like to see greater resolve in our partners and hear resolute responses to these attacks," Zelenskyy said on Monday in Poland before fly-

ing to the US. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, meeting with Ukraine's foreign minister on Tuesday, said the summit would further strengthen Ukraine's ties to NATO and "its path to membership." He noted the "despicable" Russian attack on the children's hospital. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the hospital strike "pretty much sets the agenda for today's meeting." In the coming days, Zelenskyy will hear a chorus of support from countries that have poured weapons into his country, despite the recent damaging US and European lags in greenlighting more aid. "It is critical that the world continues to stand with Ukraine at this important moment and that we not ignore Russian aggression," Biden said in a statement late on Monday, saying that US support for Ukraine is "unshakable." Together with our allies, we will be announc-

ing new measures to strengthen Ukraine's air defences to help protect their cities and civilians from Russian strikes," Biden said. "The United States stands with the people of Ukraine." Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, whose country is the second-richest in NATO, also expressed solidarity with Ukraine. "Germany stands unwaveringly by the side of the Ukrainians, especially in these difficult times," he said. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said last week that the US would be announcing an additional USD 2.3 billion in security assistance for Ukraine, to include anti-tank weapons, interceptors and munitions for Patriot and other air-defence systems. In a small first step as the summit kicked off on Tuesday, Blinken said NATO allies would provide more than USD 7 million in personal protective gear, uniforms and boots specifically for female Ukrainian soldiers.

Imran Khan calls for free, transparent elections in Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Wednesday yet again asked the powerful establishment to take a step back to let free and transparent elections take place in the country. "If we want to save the country, the establishment must step back to move towards transparent elections," Khan said. In Pakistan, the word 'establishment' alludes to the powerful army. Khan, the 71-year-old founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was informally talking to the journalists after the hearing of the Al-Qadir Trust case of alleged corruption against him at the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi. He had made a similar demand and levelled almost similar allegations on July 5 in a detailed post from his official X handle. Khan, who has been lodged at this jail since September last year, also accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

Court dismisses bail petitions of former PM in May 9 riot cases

Lahore (PTI): A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has dismissed pre-arrest bail petitions of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in three cases of riots on May 9 last year, prompting his party to reject the ruling as a ploy to prolong his detention. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was booked on the charges of abetment in attacks on Lahore Corps Commander House known as Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and Shadman police station on May 9, 2023. Supporters of Khan attacked several important government

buildings and army installations following his arrest in an alleged corruption case in May last year. ATC Lahore Judge Khalid Arshad refused pre-arrest bail to Khan and dismissed his petitions in the three cases, after the prosecution equated the May 9 violence to the United States Capitol Hill attacks by supporters of former US president Donald Trump in 2021. The prosecution said the police required custody of the former premier to complete the investigation in the three cases.

of "historic" rigging in the February 8 general elections. "Everyone knows the ECP conducted fraudulent elections," he claimed. Taking a shot at Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Khan said the top judge of the country was sending his Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf party to the ECP for justice despite knowing that the elections were rigged. "(US) Congress is saying that fraudulent elections took place in Pakistan," he said and asked why his party's petitions on human rights and the

February 8 case were not being heard in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Khan, who faces over 200 cases and has been convicted in a few of them, has already claimed the February 8 general elections to have witnessed the 'Mother of All Rigging' and called his rivals the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) as "mandate thieves." In the election, both PML-N and PPP individually won fewer seats than 92 won by independent candidates backed by Khan's PTI. The two parties entered into a post-poll alliance under which the PML-N got the prime minister's post and the chief ministership of Punjab province while the PPP got the presidential post and the chief ministership in Sindh province. Khan has also said that the poll rigging and the PML-N-PPP alliance were possible because of the blessings of the powerful military establishment. On Wednesday, in response to a journalist's question about the establishment's role, Khan said,

"The establishment is running the country; the SIFC is running the country." The Special Investment Facilitation Centre (SIFC) was set up last year as a high level body of top military and civilian officials to take decisions on economic issues to facilitate investment in the country. Talking about the economy he said that debt increased from Rs 2.8 trillion to Rs 8 to 9 trillion in the last four years. "The current government has destroyed Pakistan's hope; no one trusts this government anymore," he said and blamed the elite for stashing their wealth abroad. Khan also criticised the trial of civilians in the military courts as he questioned, "In which democracy do civilians get tried in military courts?" When asked about his threat to go on a hunger strike, he said, "I will definitely go on a hunger strike; I am waiting for some decisions." Meanwhile, Khan has informed the Supreme Court that the issue of amendments in the

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) ordinance is not about himself but in fact, relates to the whole of the country. "This was not about personal gain but the greater good of our country and millions of Pakistanis who place their faith in a system that should serve them," Khan said in his written submission to the apex court. Khan said this while referring to a previous apex court order, Geo News reported on Wednesday. The PTI founder's submission comes as the Supreme Court, last month, reserved its verdict on the federal and provincial governments' pleas challenging the apex court's September 15 majority 2-1 judgement, which was announced by a bench led by former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial. In 2022, the Pakistan Democratic Movement government led by the PML-N made amendments to the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance which were challenged by Khan in the top court.

'Kremlin critic Kara-Murza's health relatively stable'

Tallinn (Estonia) (AP): A lawyer for imprisoned Russian opposition politician Vladimir Kara-Murza found his health "relatively stable" after visiting him in a prison hospital where he had been held incommunicado for several days, the dissident's legal team said Wednesday. Kara-Murza, a 42-year-old dual Russian-UK citizen, is serving a 25-year prison sentence on treason charges that he has rejected as politically motivated. The charges against him stemmed from public remarks that were harshly critical of the Kremlin. His arrest in April 2022, weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine, came as authorities ratcheted up their crackdown on dissent to levels unseen since Soviet times. His lawyers, tried to visit him last Thursday in Penal Colony No. 6 in the Siberian city of Omsk, where he was serving time, but they were told that he had been transferred to a prison hospital for an unspecified "examination," according to his wife Evgenia and lawyer Vadim Prokhorov. For several days after that, they were denied access to the politician over "bogus excuses" from hospital staff since then, Prokhorov said in an online statement Tuesday. On Wednesday, one of Kara-Murza's lawyers was finally able to visit him, Prokhorov

said in a new statement. His health is currently relatively stable, the attorney said, adding that the exact reasons for the examination at the hospital are being clarified. Prokhorov didn't offer any other details. Kara-Murza's wife and lawyers have repeatedly sounded the alarm about his health deteriorating in prison. In 2015 and 2017, Kara-Murza suffered two near-fatal poisonings and developed polyneuropathy, a condition that deadens the feeling in his limbs. Prokhorov stressed in his statement Wednesday that polyneuropathy is a serious chronic disease that prevents Kara-Murza from serving time in a correctional facility. British and US officials on Wednesday reiterated calls for Kara-Murza's immediate release, and expressed concern that his lawyers were denied access to him.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. EM/IOHP/GW-18/18(P-1)/226 Dated 03/07/2024
e-TCN No. EM/IOHP-16/2024
Name of the work "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3200TPH Capacity Ship Loader at IOB".
Estimated cost: Rs. 39,36,61,733/-. Last date & time of submission of bid: up to 18:00 Hrs. On 02.08.2024. Refer our Website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for details.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Mech) Iron Ore Handling Plant Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/2024-25 Dtd.09.07.2024

Sri Lanka to end constitutional ambiguity on presidential term

Colombo (PTI): The Sri Lankan Cabinet has approved a move to amend the Constitution giving clarity to terms of both the president and Parliament, restricting it to five years only, the government announced on Wednesday. The dispute about the president's term arose as the independent election commission was preparing to announce the poll date for the next presidential election. The terms for both posts are already five years as per the 19th Amendment since 2015. However, the problem was over Article 83, which said the term could be extended to six from five with a referendum. A petitioner approached the Supreme Court asking it to define if the terms were five or six years. Earlier this week, the Supreme Court rejected the petition which sought a ruling on the seeming ambiguity between 30(2) and 83 in the Constitution, which means, it will be five years only.

Search intensifies for dozens buried in Indonesian landslide

AP ■ INDONESIA

Search efforts for those trapped in a deadly landslide intensified Wednesday, with more rescuers deployed to search an unauthorized gold mine on Indonesia's Sulawesi island that saw 23 deaths over the weekend. More than 100 villagers were digging for grains of gold Sunday in the remote and hilly village of Bone Bolango in Gorontalo province when tons of mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried their makeshift camps. The provincial Search and Rescue Office said Wednesday that 81 villagers managed to escape from the landslide, several of them pulled out by rescuers, including 18 with injuries. It said 23 bodies were recovered, including a 4-year-old boy, while 33 others were missing. More than 1,000 personnel, including army troops, were deployed to increase the strength of search efforts, said Edy Prakoso, the National Search and Rescue Agency's operation director. He said the Indonesian Air



Force would send a helicopter as it was the only way to speed up the rescue operation that has been hampered by heavy rains, unstable soil, and rugged terrain. Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands laboring in conditions that pose a high risk of serious injury or death. Landslides, flooding and collapses of tunnels are just some

of the hazards facing miners. Much of gold ore processing involves highly toxic mercury and cyanide with workers frequently using little or no protection. The country's last major mining-related accident occurred in April 2022, when a landslide crashed onto an illegal gold mine in North Sumatra's Mandailing Natal district, killing 12 women who were looking for gold.

Environmental activists have campaigned for years to shut down such operation across the country, especially on Sulawesi, where the practice has grown in recent years. Sunday's landslide reignited their outcries. "The local government which has allowed illegal gold mining activities in this area to continue has contributed to the deadly disaster," said Muhammad Jamil, who heads legal division

of the Mining Advocacy Network, an environment watchdog known as JATAM. He said that gold mining involves many people who share blame, from those working on the ground all the way up to officials in the local council and even the police. "This mafia network appears to have helped shield the miners from law enforcement, even as they tear up protected forests," Jamil said, "When natural resources such as rivers, forests, land and the sea are damaged, it will be a complete loss to the country's economy." Ferdy Hasiman, a mining and energy researcher from Alpha Research and Datacenter, said the proliferation of the pit mines has long been blamed for environmental damage in upstream areas that has in turn exacerbated flooding and landslides downstream. Flash floods and landslides would persist if illegal mining and the deforestation in the practice continue, Hasiman said. "We call on the local and central government to expand their efforts to shut down illegal gold mining across the country."

China investigates food safety concerns in cooking oils

Bangkok (AP): China's authorities said they were investigating food safety concerns in cooking oils after an investigative report from local media revealed that tankers carrying soybean oil from a major state-owned company were also used to carry a form of coal. The report from Beijing News, a state-backed outlet known for original reporting, found that it was an "open secret" among truck drivers that the tankers did not get cleaned in between their stints carrying edible oils and the chemicals. Among the trucks the driver followed, the vehicles carried products from Sinograin, a major state-owned corporation, as well as China Energy Investment Corporation, one of the national-level companies directly overseen by the government.

China's State Council said Tuesday it was forming an investigation group with officials from the Food Safety Commission, the Public Safety Bureau and other ministries. "Enterprises in violation and relevant responsible persons will be severely punished according to law," the announcement said, according to state broadcaster CCTV. The Beijing News investigation followed one tanker from the northwestern Ningxia region, which carried a type of hydrocarbon that is converted into liquid fuel. From Ningxia, the tanker traveled to northern Tianjin and then filled up with soybean oil from Sinograin, without stopping to get clean. The hydrocarbon products contain components that may lead to poisoning, said one expert quoted in the Beijing

News story. China Grain Reserves Group, Sinograin's formal name, said in a statement Saturday that it was conducting an audit after the media allegations. The investigation also followed other trucks that emerged carrying hydrocarbons from a plant belonging to the China Energy Investment Corporation, which then went on to get edible oils from other companies after they unloaded their first cargo. The story, published last Tuesday, has since received widespread national attention as major state-owned corporations were implicated. In 2008, many families switched to buying imported infant formula after it was found that a brand called Sanlu contained melamine in its formula, a chemical that caused kidney damage and other harm.

Railway union strike in Lanka leaves thousands of commuters stranded

Colombo (AP): A railway union strike stopped most trains across Sri Lanka on Wednesday, leaving tens of thousands of passengers to brave the few dangerously overcrowded trains that kept running or be stranded at the station. The Station Masters' Union launched the strike to demand that vacancies be filled and other administrative issues be resolved. Hundreds of scheduled train journeys were canceled Wednesday due to the strike, leaving the very few trains that ran jam-packed with passengers. Local TV stations showed people risking their lives to get to school and work, barely hanging on to the sides of the train while balancing on footboards made slippery by the rain. Transport Minister Bandula Gunawardena condemned the strike, saying the union



launched the strike in an arbitrary manner when the government was taking steps to resolve the issues they raised. During a similar strike in September, two passengers were killed while traveling on packed trains: One was traveling on the roof of a compartment when his head hit an overhead railway bridge, and the other suc-

cumbed to injuries after he fell from the train's footboard. Sri Lanka's train services are substandard, with poorly maintained compartments and tracks because of years of mismanagement and a lack of proper planning. Frequent and sudden strikes have exacerbated the situation, with most trains experiencing delays.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

VACANCIES
Online applications are invited w.e.f 12/07/2024 to 05/08/2024 from eligible candidates through University website for the recruitment to posts of Registrar (UR-1), Dean (College Development)- (UR-1), Controller of Examination- (UR-1), Secretary to Vice-Chancellor (UR-1), Finance Officer-(UR-1), Audit Officer-(UR-1), Executive Engineer-(UR-1), Public Relation Officer-(UR-1), Law Officer-(UR-1) under Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. The candidates who have applied earlier to advt. no. 23/10, 23/11, 23/13, 23/14, 23/28 through proper channel need not to apply again unless qualification/ experience is to be added. In case of non availability/non suitable candidates, the conditions may be relaxed by competent authority. For details/updates/eligibility/No. of Posts/terms & conditions visit website www.bfuhhs.ac.in
NIL/12/197/2023/35498 Dated CHD :- 7/9/2024 REGISTRAR

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
(Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 315/SS(D)-367/Spares Dated: 09.07.2024
Dy. CE/ Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 1950 Nos. Heat Shrinkable Type Cable End Termination Kits of various Types suitable for Armored Single Core 11KV 300mm² Size Stranded Aluminium Conductor, XLPE Insulated, PVC Sheathed, Screened Cables.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 11.07.2024 (11:00 AM onwards).
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
76155/12/3087/2023/35519 Dated CHD :- 7/10/2024 C 417/24

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
Nishtha Parisar, Bijalee Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636
No. MD/MK/04/963 Bhopal, Dated : 10.07.2024

TENDER NOTICE
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites online bids from Manufacturers only through e-tendering for procurement of following items:-

Tender specification Number	Particulars of material for Procurement	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender fee (incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Date of Pre Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/1070	Procurement of 33/11 KV 5 MVA LV Loss (4/23 KW) Power Transformers.	2242.15	11800/-	24.07.2024 3.00 PM	07.08.2024 3.00 PM

Other details and full tender document would be available on our Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & Govt. website <https://mptenders.gov.in> very shortly.
M.P. Madhyam/115341/2024 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

Markets sink below record levels

Sensex tanks over 400 pts on widespread profit booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under heavy selling pressure to sink below record high levels on Wednesday, tracking deep losses in metal, auto and IT stocks amid widespread profit booking after recent gains.

Rising uncertainty over interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve also added to the weak trend in domestic equities, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex opened 129.72 points higher to hit a fresh all-time high of 80,481.36. However, the index soon tumbled 915.88 points or 1.13 per cent to trade at 79,435.76. It finally closed lower by 426.87 points or 0.53 per cent at 79,244.77.

The NSE Nifty also hit its record 24,461.05 in opening deals but pared all gains to decline 291.4 points or 1.19 per cent to 24,141.80 intraday. It dropped 108.75 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 24,324.45.

"The Indian market experienced profit booking ahead of the upcoming earnings season. The expectations are muted, given the moderation in sales growth due to a slowdown in the world economy and consolidation in margins driven by high inflation. "Additionally, the market is



under temporary risk towards high budget expectations, which appears well factored in the last one month's rally," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra tanked over 6 per cent after the company cut the prices of its SUV models to boost demand. Mahindra & Mahindra said its XUV700's fully-loaded AX7 range now starts at Rs 19.49 lakh, a price cut of over Rs 2 lakh.

Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, State Bank of India, JSW Steel, Tata Motors and Kotak Mahindra Bank were other losers. On the other hand, Asian Paints, NTPC, Power Grid, Adani Ports and Bharti Airtel were the winners.

"The intraday slide in the index has slightly dented sentiment, but resilience in certain pockets limited the damage," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

A total of 2,574 stocks declined, while 1,365 advanced and 82 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.69 per cent, while the midcap index dipped 0.19 per cent. Among the indices, auto declined 1.65 per cent, metal (1.60 per cent), IT (0.99 per cent), commodities (0.87 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.78 per cent), teck (0.76 per cent) and industrials (0.62 per cent).

In contrast, healthcare, utilities and power were the winners.

"Markets had been hitting new highs over the past few weeks, and hence, investors resorted to profit-taking because of the stretched valuations of Indian equities. "While several sectoral stocks have run up sharply ahead of their fundamentals, the upcoming earnings of many of these companies will show if the rise is justified or not. Also, investors would look to churn their portfolios ahead of the Budget and trim their exposure in risky stocks," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Seoul and Tokyo ended higher. European markets were trading higher in the mid-session deals. US markets ended on a mixed note in the overnight trade on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.24 per cent to USD 84.86 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 314.46 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark climbed 391.26 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 80,351.64 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty went up by 112.65 points or 0.46 per cent to 24,433.20 -- its record closing high.

RBI Deputy Gov flags concerns over quality of disclosures by some NBFCs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao has flagged concerns over quality of disclosures made by some NBFCs and urged the auditing community to ensure that entities provide appropriate qualitative information to depositors as well as other stakeholders.

"The statutory auditors play a significant role in maintaining stakeholder confidence in audited financial statements and this is particularly important in the case of banking industry where the entire edifice is built on 'trust' and the biggest external stakeholders, i.e., depositors, are fragmented and unorganised," he said. Rao was addressing the Conference of Statutory Auditors and Chief Financial Officers of Commercial Banks and All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) here on Tuesday.

He emphasised that the RBI has a strong interest in promoting sound and high quality accounting and disclosure standards for the banking and financial industry as well as in having transparent and comparable financial statements that strengthen market discipline. The deputy governor said the RBI, for some time now, has



been supplementing rule-based regulations with principle-based regulations to give regulated entities (REs) a degree of flexibility in their business decision making. "The principle-based approach to regulations is founded on the belief that financial reporting reflects the economic reality of a transaction. However, application of principle-based standards requires significant use of management judgement," Rao said. He said disclosures are the cornerstone of transparency as these bridge the gap between what management knows and what external users can infer from financial

standards. "We could not glean any specific insights such as discussion of the assumptions and methods applied in measuring ECL, shared credit risk characteristics to assess expected loss on a collective basis, qualitative criteria in determination of SICR (significant increase in credit risk), etc," the deputy governor said.

To address the issue, Rao said the central bank is nudging REs to enhance the quality of their disclosures.

He urged the auditor community to critically evaluate the disclosure practices and ensure that these meet the needs of accounting standards and end-users.

"Auditors also have the responsibility of ensuring that entities provide appropriate qualitative information related to governance and control mechanisms," he said.

Rao further said even as banks navigate an increasingly complex emerging landscape, a harmonised approach by the regulators and auditors can remove the blind spots in risk identification and mitigation. This, he added, will help achieve the shared goal of financial stability as well as ensure robustness of individual institutions.

India-Taiwan pact to facilitate trade of organic agri goods comes into force

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An agreement between India and Taiwan to facilitate trade in organically-produced goods, including tea and medicinal plants, has come into force from July 8, the commerce ministry said on Wednesday.

The mutual recognition agreement (MRA) will ease the export of organic products by avoiding dual certifications, thereby reducing compliance cost, simplifying compliance requirements by adhering to only one regulation and enhancing trade opportunities in the organic sector.

It said the pact will pave the way for export of major Indian organic products such as rice, processed food, green/black and herbal tea, medicinal plant products to Taiwan.

The implementing agencies for the MRA are India's Agricultural and Processed



Food Products Export Development Authority (APEEDA) and Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency. "The MRA for organic products between India and Taiwan has been implemented w.e.f. July 8," it said in a statement.

Under the pact, agricultural products produced and handled organically in conformity with the National Programme for Organic Production and accompanied by relevant documents are allowed for sale in Taiwan as organically-produced,

including display of the "India Organic" logo.

"Similarly, agricultural products produced and handled organically in conformity with the Organic Agriculture Promotion Act and accompanied by an organic demonstration document (transaction certificate etc) issued by an accredited certification body under the Taiwanese regulation are allowed for sale in India as organically-produced, including display of a Taiwan Organic logo," it said.

Indian PSUs emerging as strong customer base for industry 5.0 startups

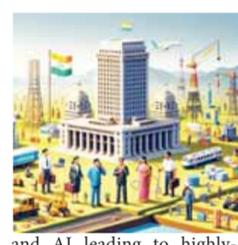
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian PSUs open to adopting digital solutions are emerging as a promising customer base for industry 5.0 startups that are at the cusp of significant opportunities, says Barath Shankar Subramanian, partner at leading venture capital firm Accel.

With India emerging as a key manufacturing hub, startups have a golden opportunity to innovate alongside large enterprises, Subramanian told PTI.

"This is a pivotal moment for Indian startups to seize their advantage on the global stage. Indian startups stand on the brink of an Industry 5.0 revolution, driven by global demand for resilient and diversified supply chains," he said.

Put simply, Industry 5.0 is the new buzzword in industrialisation and automation with a combination of humans working alongside technology



and AI leading to highly-efficient workplace outcomes. In the realm of enterprise software, particularly within manufacturing and industrial sectors, Indian startups find themselves on the cusp of "significant opportunities", according to Subramanian. Unlike their Western counterparts, these startups navigate a landscape relatively unburdened by legacy systems. This absence not only streamlines their go-to-market strategy but also fosters adaptability, allowing for innovative solutions to gain traction swiftly,

Subramanian said. "Notably, Indian public sector undertakings are emerging as a promising customer base, with their growing openness to adopting digital solutions, as evidenced by the substantial average contract values reported by established players," he added.

Leveraging domestic opportunities, Subramanian pointed out, can help Industry 5.0 startups penetrate international markets as well. The difference in average contract values (ACVs) between Indian and US/EU customers is still quite large, with Indian ACVs being one-third or one-fourth of those in the West.

Yet, by focusing on building strong relationships and demonstrating value to Indian businesses first, startups can use this success to expand into markets such as the Middle East, EU, and Southeast Asia where contract values are much higher, Subramanian said.

Rupee falls 2 paise to settle at 83.51 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee stayed range-bound and settled 2 paise lower at 83.51 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid rising crude oil prices overseas and selling in domestic equities.

A softening American currency and inflow of foreign funds capped the fall in the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened flat at 83.49 against the dollar and moved in a close range of 83.48 to 83.53 during the session. The local unit finally settled at 83.51 (provisional) against the American currency, registering a loss of 2 paise from its previous close.

The rupee had edged up 1 paise to close at 83.49 against the dollar on Tuesday.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the rupee is expected to trade with a slight negative bias on weakness in domestic market and positive tone in the dollar.

"Investors may remain cautious ahead of Fed Chair Jerome Powell's testimony to the US Congress and inflation data tomorrow. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83.20 to Rs 83.80," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, eased 0.03 per



cent to 104.77.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, the upcoming US inflation data is expected to increase volatility in the forex market, potentially influencing the rupee.

"However, RBI intervention has been helping to keep the rupee stable. Consequently, the rupee range can be seen between 83.35-83.40 as resistance and 83.60-83.70 as support," he added.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.22 per cent to USD 84.85 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 426.87 points or 0.53 per cent to close at 79,924.77. The broader NSE Nifty lost 108.75 points, or 0.45 per cent, to end the session at 24,324.45.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Tuesday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 314.46 crore, according to exchange data.

Signature Global to invest ₹2,500 cr on construction of current housing projects in FY25: CMD

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Signature Global will invest around Rs 2,500 crore this fiscal on the construction of its various housing projects, its Chairman Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal said on Wednesday. He expressed confidence that the company would meet the sales bookings guidance of Rs 10,000 crore for the current 2024-25 financial year, a

significant growth from Rs 7,270 crore in the preceding year.

"We have speeded up the construction work across all our projects. We will be investing around Rs 2,500 crore during this financial year on pure construction activities," Aggarwal said on the sidelines of the ASSOCHAM real estate conference. He said the company is expecting to collect Rs 6,000



crore from customers this fiscal.

The company would also utilise the surplus internal cash flow to acquire land and reduce debt, he added.

"We are looking for land in Noida and Delhi markets for the development of housing projects," he said, adding that the company intends to launch projects in these two new cities during 2025-26. On Sunday, Signature Global reported a 3.5 times jump in sales bookings to Rs 3,120

crore for the April-June quarter on high demand for its housing projects.

The company's sales bookings stood at Rs 820 crore in the year-ago period. According to a regulatory filing, Signature Global sold 968 units in the first quarter of this fiscal against 894 units in the corresponding period of the previous year. In terms of volume, its sales bookings more than doubled

to 2.03 million square feet from 0.91 million square feet a year earlier.

Signature Global said the company continues to ride on a high growth trajectory, achieving robust pre-sales and collection figures for the third consecutive quarter. Signature Global, which got listed on the stock exchanges, has so far delivered 10.4 million square feet of housing area.

Power of I conference held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Avtar Group, a well-known consulting firm engaged in initiatives in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) on Wednesday hosted the 5th edition of the "Power of I" conference, that brought together thought leaders, DEI advocates, and professionals across diverse sectors. The conference focused on the transformative impact of individual efforts in fostering organizational change towards greater inclusion. Themed "Be the Change," the conference featured a series of insightful sessions where the book, "Conversations with the Career Doctor," penned by Dr. Saundarya Rajesh, Founder-President of



Avtar Group was launched by prominent CXOs from various industries like Tarun Sareen of Sun Life Global Solutions, Aditi Shukla of AXA XL, Akshay Saxena of Encore Capital Group Inc., Amit Kalra of R1 India, and Sekhar Sahay of Thales. The participants emphasised

their individual contributions in driving collective change towards more inclusive and equitable workplaces. She highlighted how their efforts serve as a beacon for others, setting a high standard for fostering diverse talent and nurturing a culture of respect and fairness.

The conference also recognized exemplary leaders and DEI allies from different sectors. Noteworthy awardees included Dr. Kavitha Kommuri, honored for her leadership as the Best ERG Leader — Women (2024) at TVS, Ujjwala Singhania, recognized as the Best ERG Leader — People with Disabilities (PwD) (2024) at IBM, and Ali Khan, celebrated as the Best ERG Leader — LGBTQIA+ (2024) at ZS.

India's battery energy storage capacity grows

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's battery energy storage capacity grew more than four-fold to 219 MWh as of March 2024, Mercom Capital said. As of March 2023, the overall battery energy storage capacity in India was at 47.6 megawatt hour (MWh), the US-based research firm said in its report on Wednesday. Policy measures such as deviation settlement mechanism, grid connectivity regulations, and ancillary services regulations are being issued to ensure efficient renewable integration and grid stability, it said.

These measures are driving the demand for utility-scale energy storage, the report titled "India's Energy Storage Landscape" said.



The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) programme aims to install 4 GWh of battery energy storage system (BESS), supported by a

budget of Rs 37.6 billion (USD 452 million). The VGF, energy storage obligations (ESO), and bidding guidelines for

energy storage projects -- with or without renewable energy -- are boosting the country's pipeline of energy storage projects.

As per the report, India began adding energy storage capacity in 2013 with small pilot projects, and as of March 2024, the country's cumulative installed energy storage capacity stood at 219.1 MWh.

Of the installed capacity, 120 MWh alone was added in the January-March period this year. Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, combined with BESS, accounted for 90.6 per cent of the total installed capacity.

"India is an emerging market for energy storage, still in the early stages of development. Despite rapid growth in renewable energy, energy storage has lagged,

which could potentially lead to curtailment and a lack of grid flexibility and stability.

To meet energy transition goals and manage the exponential increase in renewable energy, the government must prioritise energy storage to avoid issues faced by other countries with growing intermittent power but insufficient storage capacity," Mercom Capital Group CEO Raj Prabhu said. The highest BESS capacity was installed in Chhattisgarh, accounting for 54.8 per cent of cumulative installed capacity, the report stated.

The country's operational pumped hydro storage capacity totalled 3.3 GW as of March 2024. Nearly 76 per cent of the country's operating capacity is in Telangana and West Bengal.

I AM RETIRED BUT WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO TAKE INDIA TO PROMISED LAND: CHHETRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri might have bid adieu to his international career but he remains deeply attached to the fortunes of the team and says he will do everything in his power to take the country to the "promised land".
Speaking at a function attended by President Droupadi Murmu, who flagged off the trophy tour of Durand Cup football tournament, Chhetri said that India will one day reach that level which the people of the country dream of.
"I have experienced a lot of ups and downs in my career, but one thing is constant, that is one day, we will reach that level which all of us have dreamt of," said Chhetri who retired from international football last month after breaking a plethora of national records. Chhetri will continue to play in the Indian Super League as his contract with Bengaluru FC runs till next year. He is yet to decide when he will quit domestic football.
"I can't do much now as I am retired but I will do everything I can to take India to that promised land. We have a lot to work for, but we will be at that place we want to be," Chhetri,



who turns 40 next month, said without elaborating. Chhetri was speaking about Indian football's future at a time when the game in the country has been in a state of turmoil for the past few weeks after the team failed to qualify for the third round of the FIFA World Cup qualifiers, leading to the sacking of coach Igor Stimac. Chhetri had spoken during his playing days that instead of thinking about when India will qualify for the World Cup, the country should first hope to be among the top-20 in Asia and then move up to top-10, before taking a final shot at the four-year showpiece. During Chhetri's 19-year-long illustrious career, India has been in the top-20 in Asia but

not in top-10. Currently, India is at 22nd place in Asia and 124th in the world, a steep drop in one year. In July 2023, India had entered the top-100 in the FIFA rankings following their Intercontinental Cup and SAFF Championship victories. Talking about the Durand Cup, which begins in Kolkata on July 27, Chhetri reminisced how he was "discovered" and came into national limelight after playing in the century-old tournament in 2002 for Delhi club City FC.
"I was discovered in this tournament when I was playing for a Delhi club. This is not just a tournament. There is a lot of tradition and history of Indian football associated with it," said Chhetri, who led Bengaluru FC to Durand Cup title win in 2022.
"Durand Cup is the springboard of many talented players in this country," said the former captain of Asia's oldest -- and world's fifth oldest -- tournament which was first held in Shimla in 1888. Chhetri was named one of the five promising players of the 2002 edition of the Durand Cup held in Delhi. He was spotted by Mohun Bagan during the tournament, who called him to Kolkata for the trials.

Donna Vekic nearly quit tennis but now she's in Wimbledon's semifinals

AP ■ LONDON



Donna Vekic had thought a couple of times about quitting tennis, like when she struggled to get back to her best after knee surgery in 2021. Now she's happy she stuck with it.
The 28-year-old Croatian reached her first Grand Slam semifinal in her 43rd appearance at a major tournament by beating qualifier Lulu Sun 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 at Wimbledon on Tuesday.
"Those couple of years were very tough. I didn't think I was ever going to come back to the level that I even had last year," she said. "So this now, reaching my best result ever at a Slam, I'm really proud of myself, of the work that I've done, of the work that my team has done. I'm very thankful to them for believing in me when I didn't." She will face French Open runner-up Jasmine Paolini for a spot in the final. Paolini, the No. 7 seed, beat No. 19 Emma Navarro 6-2, 6-1 to become the first Italian woman to reach the semifinals at the All England Club.
"If you had told me before Roland Garros that I would get to the final there and the Wimbledon semifinals," Paolini said with a hearty laugh, "I would have said you were crazy."
Until last week, Paolini was 0-3 for her career at the All

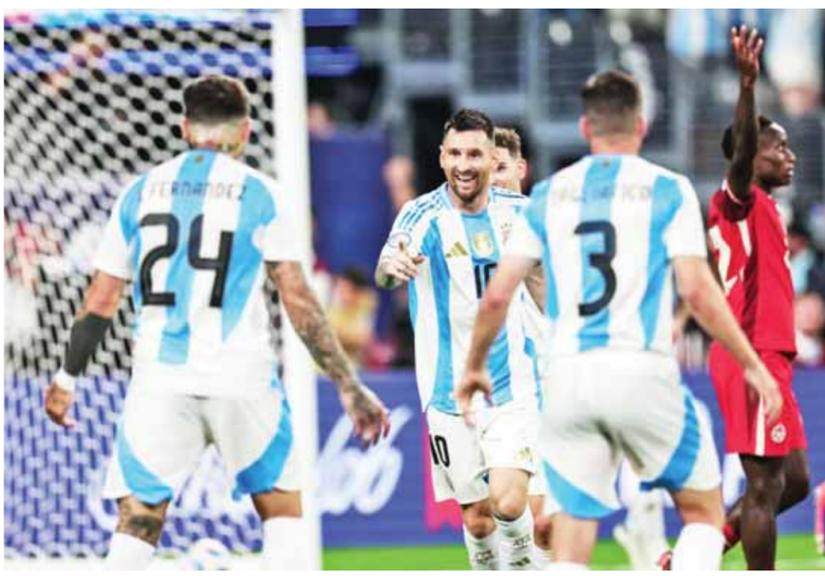
England Club. And until Tuesday, Paolini was 0-3 against Navarro - who dismissed Coco Gauff and Naomi Osaka earlier in the tournament.
"She was a totally different player today than when I played her in the past. I felt like in our previous meetings I was the aggressor, I was the one controlling points, getting ahead at the beginning of points, then controlling the rallies, too," Navarro said. "I felt just the opposite of that today. I felt like she was just on top of me from the very first point. Struggled to push back against that."
Before the French Open this year, Vekic said, she wanted to give up. She lacked energy and didn't even want to practice. "Now I'm in the semifinals. I think not just in tennis, in life things can turn pretty fast," she said. It's only the second time a woman representing Croatia has reached the Wimbledon semifinals, after Mirjana Lucic in 1999.
The 23-year-old Sun, who played college tennis at the University of Texas, was making her debut at the grass-court tournament and is the first player from New Zealand to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals in the Open era. "I've had really great matches here at Wimbledon," said Sun, who beat 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu on Centre Court in the fourth round. "I think just energy from New Zealand fans and other fans, as well, is such a surreal moment for me that I definitely won't forget." Sun said she struggled physically with cramping toward the end of the second set and in the third.

Messi's 109th goal leads defending champion Argentina over Canada 2-0 and into Copa America final

AP ■ EAST RUTHERFORD (US)

Lionel Messi and Argentina moved within one win of joining Spain as the only nations to win three straight major titles. "It's insane what this team has done, what the Argentina national team is doing," Messi said on Tuesday night after his 109th international goal sealed a 2-0 victory over Canada that earned a berth in this weekend's Copa America final.
"For those who remain from the old guard, it's beyond impressive that the national team is in another final."
Julian Alvarez put the Albiceleste ahead in the 22nd minute, controlling a long pass from Rodrigo De Paul, taking two touches to get away from Moise Bombito and slipping the ball through the legs of goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau for his ninth international goal.
Messi redirected Enzo Fernandez's shot following a poor Ismael Kone clearance in off the face of Crepeau from 4 yards in the 51st for his first goal of the tournament. Messi has 28 goals in his last 25 matches for Argentina and 14 in Copa America play, three shy of the record. He has

scored against 38 different nations. "I wasn't sure if Enzo's ball was going to get in," Messi said. "It was a reflex."
Only Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo with 130 has more international goals than Messi, who turned 37 on June 24. Iran's Ali Daei had 108 or 109 from 1993 to 2006, with a lingering dispute over whether a goal against Ecuador in 2000 occurred in a full international match.
With a victory on its independence day, Argentina extended its unbeaten streak to 10 games. The Albiceleste seek a record 16th Copa title when they play Uruguay or Colombia on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida.
"We have to enjoy every moment of what we're living," Messi said. "I'm conscious that these are the last battles."
Trying to string together Copa America titles around the 2022 World Cup championship, Argentina is trying to match Spain's feat of winning the 2008 and 2012 European Championships along with the 2010 World Cup.
"These are statistics. I'm not really interested about it," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said through a



translator. "The most important thing is to win." Making his 38th Copa America appearance, Messi had missed a leg injury and was subdued while playing 90 minutes in the quarterfinal win over Ecuador. He was much more agile and shot just wide in the 12th and 44th minutes. Messi had 45 touches and a 79%

pass success rate. "They make us pay on small details," Crepeau said. MetLife's temporary grass surface appeared heavy, with water splashing and sand popping up during dribbles.
"It's been a very difficult Copa America," Messi said, "very competitive, bad surfaces, excessive heat."
Argentina fans gathered in Times Square on the eve of the match and filled the streets on Manhattan before heading to MetLife Stadium. The crowd of 80,102 on a night with an 82-degree temperature and 82% humidity was overwhelmingly pro-Argentina, with only a few sections dominated by red-clad Canadian supporters.
It was among the biggest games for Canadian soccer, which went 0-6 in its only World Cup appearances in 1986 and 2022 and won its only major title at the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup. Argentina had beaten Canada 2-0 in the tournament opener on June 20.
"The tournament caught up with us a little bit," Canada coach Jesse Marsch said.
"There's been heat, there's been travel, there's been a lot of challenges. ... We're still at the

beginnings of our process, right? Argentina's maybe had eight years together, seven years together with this team, and so we need to develop more players that can contribute so that we can also rotate in tournament play, because eventually the physicality and the fatigue can catch up with you."
Canada star Alphonso Davies limped off in the 71st minute after his right leg was caught in a clean challenge with Gonzalo Montiel.
"He's getting an X-ray, so we're hopeful he's OK, but we're not sure," Marsch said.
Canada had two shots on target: Jonathan David was thwarted by Emiliano Martinez from close range in first-half stoppage time, and Martinez made a kick save on Tani Oluwaseyi in the 89th.
"We started getting sloppy. We started getting away from the game plan," said defender Derek Cornelius, who exchanged jerseys with Messi.
While Messi referred to "last battles," Scaloni and fans hold out hope Argentina and Messi will return to MetLife for the 2026 World Cup final.
"We will never be the ones to close the door," Scaloni said.

Spain's 16-year-old Lamine Yamal becomes youngest-ever scorer at European Championship

AP ■ MUNICH

Lamine Yamal became the youngest player ever to score at the European Championship when the 16-year-old netted a stunning goal for Spain in its European Championship semifinal 2-1 victory over France on Tuesday.
Yamal will turn 17 on Saturday, a day before the final in Berlin against either England or the Netherlands.
"I only ask to win, win and win," said Yamal, who was voted player of the match. "I will celebrate my birthday in Germany with my team."
Yamal struck in the 21st minute, curling the ball past France goalkeeper Mike Maignan from around 25 yards and into the top left corner.
"I don't know if it is the best goal of the tournament, but it is the most special goal for me because it is my first goal with the team at a European Championship," he said.
Yamal is 16 years and 362 days old. The previous youngest scorer at a European Championship was Swiss player Johan Vonlanthen (18 years, 141 days), against France at Euro 2004.
"We are very happy to reach the final. Now comes the most important part - winning the title," Yamal said. "We were in a difficult stretch after not expecting to concede so early. I just took the ball and wanted to put it right there."
"I don't try to think about it too much, just enjoy myself and help the team, and if it goes my way, then I am happy (for the goal) and for the win."



Yamal came to Euro 2024 with a bunch of "youngest" records, and has inevitably set more. He became the youngest player to feature at a men's Euro when he started in Spain's opening 3-0 win over Croatia.
The Barcelona teenager was already the youngest player to debut and score in the Spanish league at 15, the youngest player to start in the Champions League and the youngest to score for Spain.
"We saw a touch of genius by a great player who we all know and have to nurture forward," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said. "And I can only advise him to keep going forward with the same humility and work ethic and with his feet firmly on the ground. He will keep improving with the same attitude, professionalism and maturity that he shows during games, despite being so young, which makes him look older and more experienced than he really is. But above all he should enjoy playing for us. Hopefully we can enjoy him for many years."
Yamal's goal Tuesday canceled out Randal Kolo Muani's open-

England plays Netherlands aiming for back-to-back European finals

AP ■ DORTMUND

England can reach back-to-back European Championship finals when it meets the Netherlands in Dortmund in the second semifinal. The winner plays Spain in Sunday's final. Kickoff is at 9 p.m. Local time (19:00 GMT). Here's what to know about the match.
MATCH FACTS:
□ Both teams conceded the opening goal in their quarterfinals before coming back to win, with England beating Switzerland in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw and the Netherlands winning 2-1 against Turkey.
□ After a win on penalties in his 100th game in charge of England, coach Gareth Southgate defending his oft-cautious tactics as the kind of "streetwise" style successful teams use. The backlash from England fans, including some who threw plastic cups at him after a group-stage game, is "quite difficult" to deal with, he added.
□ The Netherlands will be by far the highest-ranked team England has faced after group games with Serbia, Denmark and Slovenia, followed by knockout games with Slovakia and Switzerland.
□ The referee for the game is Felix Zwayer, who once had ties to a match-fixing scandal in Germany. England midfielder Jude Bellingham was fined 40,000 euros (\$43,400) in 2021 while playing for Borussia Dortmund for criticizing Zwayer.
□ The Dutch endured some travel disruption on the way to Dortmund on Tuesday when their scheduled train journey from Wolfsburg was canceled because of what the team said was a "blockage" on the line. The squad had to fly instead, meaning the Netherlands



news conference with Ronald Koeman and defender Nathan Aké was called off.
TEAM NEWS:
□ England has relied on the right-footed Kieran Trippier at left wing back, but his tendency to cut inside has meant England has made little use of the left wing all tournament. Left-footed Luke Shaw came off the bench against Switzerland for his first minutes since February after injury. Shaw says he's fit to start against the Netherlands if Southgate picks him, and the coach said Tuesday he had a tough decision to make.
□ Southgate has to choose whether to stick with Ezri Konsa in the center of

defense after he replaced the then-suspended Marc Guéhi against Switzerland. Guéhi is eligible again.
□ There's scrutiny of Harry Kane's fitness after the England captain went off with cramp in extra time against Switzerland. Ivan Toney came off the bench and scored one of England's five successful penalties in the shootout.
□ Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman could keep his lineup unchanged for the third game in a row, with Memphis Depay starting alongside Cody Gakpo and Steven Bergwijn up front.
BY THE NUMBERS:
□ England has played a full hour more than the Netherlands in the last 10 days, after beating Slovakia in extra time and then Switzerland on penalties. The Dutch wrapped up their wins over Romania and Turkey without needing extra time.
□ The Netherlands scored the opening goal in only one of its five games so far at Euro 2024, against Romania in the last 16. England last scored the opening goal against Denmark in the group stage.
□ The Netherlands hasn't reached a European Championship final since it won the tournament in 1988 and was last a semifinalist in 2004.
□ England's first shot on target against Switzerland was Bukayo Saka's goal to level the score in the 80th minute. One round earlier, Bellingham's spectacular overhead kick was England's first shot on target. That came in the fifth minute of second-half added time.
□ Gakpo and Spain's Dani Olmo are the top-scoring players left at Euro 2024 with three goals. What was initially thought to be a fourth for Gakpo against Turkey was instead ruled to be an own-goal. Kane and Bellingham are England's top scorers with two.
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:
"I don't really understand the criticism. What he's done for the country, for us as players as well, he really took us to the next level ... I've got a lot to thank him for because he showed a lot of faith and trust in picking me when he didn't have to." - England defender Luke Shaw on manager Gareth Southgate.
"You're now into that moment of the tournament where it's what's possible, what's achievable rather than what might go wrong. That is different for a player, an athlete." - Southgate on the mentality shift in the England squad.
"Hopefully it's us that will have the ball more than England. So it's more England that's running. I expect a high intensity game."

Sunil Gavaskar turns 75: Gave Indian Cricket its Sunny Days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It is difficult to be consistently irrelevant in an ever-evolving world. Unless, of course, one happens to be Sunil Gavaskar, who is celebrating the completion of 75 eventful summers in his life on Wednesday.

It's tough for today's young cricket fans, who have grown up watching IPL big hits, to truly understand the significance of Gavaskar, as often they have a shrunken image of him -- a former cricketer-turned-commentator -- in their mind. Now, there are too many of them. Or, perhaps, it's the recency bias. However, Gavaskar, who tackled some of the meanest pace bowlers to have walked on earth, remains a colossus in the minds of his contemporaries, who fondly recall the greatness of the right-hand great.

"Gavaskar made his debut two years after my retirement. But we have already been told by (late) Ajit Wadekar about a talented Bombay boy who could make a

lot of runs for India. Didn't he make a lot of runs," said former India batter Chandu Borde.

So, how did Gavaskar tame those fearsome quicks from the West Indies, right from his first series in 1971?

"It's his concentration and a water-tight technique. I have not seen a better stance than that of him, and he watched the ball so closely. Of course, he could play most of the shots but used them wisely. He was a very practical batsman, knew what to do when," said Borde.

Gavaskar scored 774 runs in that series, helping India conquer the West Indies 1-0. 'Lord Relator' immortalised that triumph with a Calypso dedicated to the master batsman.

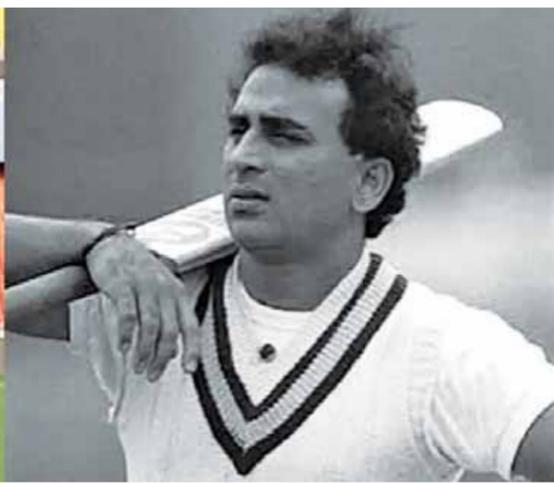
"It was Gavaskar. De real master. Just like a wall. We couldn't out Gavaskar at all, not at all," he wrote, and to this day it remains a goosebump-inducing number.

Gavaskar is often remembered for his mastery over pacers such as Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall, and



Imran Khan, but another less talked about aspect of his batting was the way he nullified spinners. Gavaskar, who once rated England's Derek Underwood as

the toughest spinner he faced, outfoxed some of the wily tweekers of his generation like Abdul Qadir, Tauseef Ahmed from Pakistan and England's



John Emburey. "Sunny had brilliant footwork, and could use soft hands (against spin). Since he used to watch the ball very closely, he could play

spinners late and he never really got into awkward positions against them," recalled former India middle-order batter Mohinder Amarnath, himself a

slayer of pacers in the 80s. But occasionally, he wore the enforcer's garb too.

He creamed Marshall for a six to equal the then world record of 29 Test hundreds held by the legendary Sir Donald Bradman.

In fact, Gavaskar's 103, his lone ODI century, against New Zealand during the 1987 World Cup, came off 88 balls.

"Perhaps, the need of that time forced Gavaskar to go defensive while playing for India.

But he could always dominate attacks and he often did that in the domestic circuit. He could pull and hook with as much ease as anyone else," says former Mumbai batter Milind Regge.

Gavaskar carried that versatility and adaptability to the commentary box as well, and added a touch of subtle humour to it. Rewind to the way he teased former England pacer Jade Dernbach, who carried the reputation of an excellent death over bowler, after he was carted around by Indian batters in a T20I.

Pooja Vastrakar will be crucial for India in T20 World Cup: Mandhana

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Pooja Vastrakar's lethal bowling in the T20I series against South Africa has given India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana the confidence that the pacer can replicate the form in the Women's T20 World Cup in October in Bangladesh.

The 24-year-old quick took eight wickets here with a best of 4/13 in the final game on Tuesday, which helped the hosts thrash the Proteas by 10 wickets to level the three-match series 1-1. The second match was washed out but South Africa played the full 20 overs and Vastrakar grabbed two wickets.

Smriti was in awe of Vastrakar's bowling, which helped India restrict South Africa Women to 84 on Tuesday.

"In the first two matches, the wickets were flat, and for her to come with such figures is amazing. We hope she keeps doing the same things and will be crucial for us in the World Cup," Mandhana told reporters on Tuesday.

"She is brilliant with the ball. It's been a long series for all of us, and being a bowler, I wonder how has she done that (carried on without getting tired)?"

Besides the T20Is, India also played a one-off Test and three ODIs against South Africa.

Mandhana also recalled Vastrakar's performance in the five-match T20I series in Bangladesh in April-May, where she took five wickets -- the joint second-highest number of scalps.

"Even during the Bangladesh T20I series, the way she bowled, especially during the death overs, I struggled to see the ball when she was running in so quickly," added Mandhana.

"We knew she had made a difference about how she has been bowling in the last few months. Coming into the series, we were confident of her."



Mandhana credited the pre-series camp at the National Cricket Academy for the success against South Africa.

"A lot of effort was put in during the batters' camp that we had at the NCA before the series. The number of hours in the camp with the bat helps you."

"Throughout the series, all the players were ready to play and bat across formats, having practiced those scenarios in the camp. I believe in working hard when no one's watching, and that helped me and the team perform well in this series."

The series has also been special for Shafali Varma, who finished among the top three run-getters for her side.

"Shafali bats the best when she doesn't think a lot. You don't give a batter like her a lot of information. The only conversation (I have) from the non-striker's end is when she wants to hurry up, and all I say is 'stay'. As a senior player, my job is to guide her about the bowler, and she adapts."

"Initially, in her career, she was aggressive, but now, she knows which bowler to target. I'm sure, doing this a lot more will help." Mandhana was not in favour of too much shuffling in the batting order in the T20 Asia Cup in Sri Lanka later this month.

"We will have a similar set of

conditions during the Asia Cup. But, I think it's a good problem to have since, for a few years, we have wanted to have a few players who can go out and win the matches for us."

"Also, the confidence that the WPL has given has got them in that space. But it's a calculated big call that we have thought about. It's a lot to do with what we feel that can win us a lot of matches rather than just one or two. I won't say that there would be a lot of shuffling."

NOT THE WAY WE WANTED TO END SERIES: LAURA WOLVAARDT: South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt felt that her batters failed to judge the pitch and adapt to the conditions.

"Not the way we wanted to end the series. The pitch felt 'stopy' when we were batting. Also, I don't think we adapted to the conditions as well as we could have."

"But, it's a tough one since we have been speaking about being a lot more positive as a batting unit, which came off in the first two (T20I) games. It was a tough toss to lose (in the third T20I), but we could have put up 140-150."

"We will take a lot of learnings from the series. We are happy with how we batted in the first two games; we made a lot of big strides. So, I don't want this (last) game to send us backwards," she added.

Suryakumar retains second spot in T20I batting rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star batter Suryakumar Yadav stayed put on second position in the latest ICC Men's T20I batting rankings, which also features Ruturaj Gaikwad, who made significant progress following his exploits in the ongoing away series against Zimbabwe. Suryakumar is placed second with 821 rating points behind Australia's Travis Head, who has 844 rating points.

Phil Salt of England is paced third with 797 points, ahead of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (755), Mohammad Rizwan (746) and Jos Buttler (716). Gaikwad has gained 13 places to climb to the seventh spot in the rankings on the back of a stellar 77 not out off 47 balls in a comprehensive 100-run win for India in the second T20I against Zimbabwe.

With most of India's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024-winning squad rested for the Zimbabwe tour, the five-game series has allowed India's back-up players to showcase their talent, and with the retirement



of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja, the upcoming players can make a good case for a regular place in the side.

Apart from Gaikwad, Rinku Singh and Abhishek Sharma also made solid gains among the India batters.

Rinku, who was among the reserves for the T20 World Cup, jumped four places to reach the 39th spot on the back

of an attacking 48 not out from 22 balls in the second T20I.

And after a duck in the first game, all-rounder Abhishek smashed a stunning 100 from just 47 balls in the second game. With this spectacular knock, he entered the rankings for the first time at 75th spot. Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett gained 25 places to finish at the 96th position courtesy of his two attacking cameos, making

22 off 15 and 26 off nine in the two matches.

In the bowlers' T20I chart, left-arm spinner Axar Patel dropped two places to be the lone Indian in top-10 at the ninth position with 644 rating points.

Fellow left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav also dropped three places to the 11th spot, while T20 World Cup's player-of-the-tournament Jasprit

Bumrah also slid two rungs to 14th position.

Besides, there were some movements in the top 10 positions of the bowling rankings, with Adam Zampa (7th), Fazalhaq Farooqi (8th), and Maheesh Theekshana (10th) gaining positions.

India's Ravi Bishnoi, with his six scalps in the first two games against Zimbabwe, jumped eight places to move to the 14th spot.

Blessing Muzarabani also gained eight positions after the first two matches, up to 55th, with his spell of 1/17 instrumental in Zimbabwe winning the first T20I.

India vice-captain Hardik Pandya, meanwhile, dropped a place to the second position in the T20I all-rounders' rankings.

Wanindu Hasaranga of Sri Lanka moved to pole position. India's Washington Sundar entered the top 50 on the back of his quickfire 27 in the first game, as well as his three wickets in two outings. Axar is placed 12th in the all-rounders' rankings.

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Young New Zealand all-rounder of Indian origin Rachin Ravindra's success in the past one year, including the ODI World Cup where he scored tons of runs, has earned him his first central contract.

The 24-year-old figures in the list of 20 cricketers offered contracts on Wednesday for the 2024-25 season following a breakthrough season where he finished as the fourth leading run-scorer with 578 runs. The ODI success had brought the spotlight on him during the IPL auction where he made his maiden appearance in the lucrative league for Chennai Super Kings this year after being bought for Rs 1.8 crore.

The top-order batter's rise was rewarded in January when he was named the ICC Emerging Player of the Year for 2023. In

Rachin Ravindra gets central contract from New Zealand Cricket

March, he became the youngest recipient of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal.

Ravindra, who has his roots in Bengaluru where his grandparents live, said receiving his first central contract was special.

"Growing up, you'd see those contract lists come out each year and think it would be cool to be on that list one day -- and for it to eventuate now is a pinch-myself moment," he told New Zealand Cricket (NZC).

"It's been a really cool past 12 months playing international cricket. I've learned a lot and the hunger is definitely there to keep improving and giving



to the Blackcaps. It's such a special group to be in, from players to support staff -- and that's been the most enjoyable part, to be honest," he added.

Besides Ravindra, three more new faces -- Ben Sears, Will O'Rourke and Jacob Duffy -- figure in the list of 20 players offered contracts by NZC.

"Playing a game you love with your mates for a living is something very special, and I hold it close to my heart," added Ravindra.

Ravindra has scored 519 runs in seven Tests, including a century, while he has three ODI tons in 25 games.

Sears, who played alongside Ravindra at the 2016 ICC Under-19 World Cup, featured in 11 T20Is for New Zealand during the 2023-24 season, claiming 13 wickets at an average of 22.

The pacer was also a travelling reserve in the New Zealand squad for the recently-concluded T20 World Cup in the West Indies and USA.

Diksha, Aditi set to tee off in Evian C'ships with busy season looming

PTI ■ EVIAN-LES-BAINS (FRANCE)

Diksha Dagar will tee off at the Amundi Evian Championships, one of the Majors in women's golf, this week as she gears up for one of her busiest stretches of her career that also includes the Olympic Games in Paris.

Diksha will play seven events in eight weeks with two Majors and the Olympics besides the Women's Scottish Open and a Ladies European Tour event, among others.

Also playing in the two Majors, including this week's Evian, is Aditi Ashok, who will also play the Olympics and the Women's Scottish Open. Aditi, who was agonisingly one spot away from a medal at the Tokyo Olympics, plays her third Games, while Diksha is

ready for her second.

The left-handed Diksha is coming off a T-14 finish at the Aramco Series London, and has been showing signs of coming back into the kind of form that saw her finish third on the LET order of Merit.

Currently 14th on the Order of Merit, she has had three top-10s, four top-20 and two top-25 finishes, a good but modest run for Diksha, who has high expectations from her ever-improving game.

Her father, Naren Dagar, who travels with her, says, "Since the time she made her debut on LET and won and then added a second win last year, she has had numerous close runs with more titles, including at her home event, the Hero Women's Indian Open. We feel that she is capable of winning



more in bigger event. She is becoming better at her game, has become stronger mentally and physically."

With low rounds becoming more frequent, Diksha shows

no fear of big events and could get a breakthrough any week to add to her twin wins on LET.

She plays the Evian Championships this week, followed by the Dutch Ladies

and has a week off before the Olympics, followed by the Women's Scottish Open and the AIG Women's Open and the KPMG Irish Women's Open.

"This is one of the most important stretches in European Women's golf," adds Dagar.

Aditi, who won the season-ending Andalucia

Championships on LET in 2023, has not had a top-10 in 2024 and her best was T-17 at the Meijer LPGA Classic this season. However, she has missed only four cuts in 14 starts, though many of her finishes have been on the lower half of the leaderboard after the cut.

The thought of another Olympics will fire her up as she knows the impact she had while finishing fourth in Tokyo.

Some of the world stars in the field include No. 1 Nelly Korda, Lilia Vu, Jin Young Ko, Amy Yang and Celin Boutier and Charley Hull.

Hull, a six-time professional tournament winner, achieved her career-best finish of tied-third in this championship two years ago and is still looking for

her first Major title.

However, despite having finished T23rd, T19th and T16th in the first three Majors of the year, the Chevron Championship, the US Women's Open and the KPMG Women's PGA Championship respectively, she is not keen to set a target for this week's Major.

Hull has three runners-up finishes in Majors, with one in each of the AIG Women's Open, the US Women's Open and the Chevron Championship.

With the Amundi Evian Championship and the AIG Women's Open still to be played in 2024, she will have two more chances to shine in the Majors this summer as well as in the Olympics at Le Golf National next month.