



OPINION 6

THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN TUMULOUS TIMES

WORLD 8

KAMALA HARRIS MORE POPULAR THAN TRUMP AMONG VOTERS: SURVEY

MONEY 10

PRESIDENT MURMU CALLS FOR TIMELY AUDIT OF PUBLIC FINANCE

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APPROACHED OLYMPIAD AS AN INDIVIDUAL EVENT: GUKESH 11 SPORTS

Trouble for Karnataka CM as HC okays graft probe



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) SAFE Annual Convention 2024, in Bengaluru, Tuesday PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

In a setback to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed his petition challenging Governor's approval for investigation against him in a site allotment case. Reacting to the verdict, the Chief Minister accused Narendra Modi-led NDA Government of indulging in vendetta politics, rejecting BJP

and JD(S) demand for his resignation. Talking to media, the Chief Minister said he will address the issue politically and consult legal experts. "I still say I have done no wrong," he said. The Chief Minister had challenged the approval given by the Governor Thawarchand Gehlot for an investigation against him in the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban

Development Authority (MUDA) in a prime locality. After completing the hearings on the petition in six sittings from August 19, the single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna on September 12 reserved its verdict. It had also extended its August 19 interim order directing the special court for people's representatives that was slated to hear complaints against him in the case, to defer its proceedings till the disposal of the petition. "The facts narrated in the petition would undoubtedly require investigation, in the teeth of the fact that the beneficiary of all these acts is not anybody outside but the family of the petitioner. The petition stands dismissed," Justice Nagaprasanna ruled, adding that "interim order of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved."

The Governor on August 16 accorded sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 for the commission of the alleged offences as mentioned in the petitions submitted to him by complainants Pradeep Kumar SP, TJ Abraham and Snehamayi Krishna.

Continued on page 2



NIA conducts raids at multiple locations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA conducted searches at multiple locations across Tamil Nadu on Tuesday as part of its probe into an "anti-election campaign" promoted by the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a pan-Islamist organisation seeking to establish Islamic rule in the country, an official statement said. It said officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided the houses of 11 suspects in Chennai, Tambaram and Kanyakumari districts, and seized incriminating materials, including digital devices, unaccounted cash and literature belonging to the Hizb-ut-Tahrir. The NIA said the searches were conducted as part of a case related to causing and creating disaffection through various social media handles and campaigning against the exercise of the electoral franchise, which is deemed by the Hizb-ut-Tahrir as un-Islamic or 'Haram'. The Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a fundamentalist organisation engaged in instigating its followers to overthrow the lawfully established democratic Government through divisive actions, according to the anti-terror agency. Hameed Hussain, a key conspirator in the case, had collaborated with five other accused to hold secret meetings to promote the anti-India ideology of the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, it said.

Continued on page 2

Israel-Hezbollah fight escalates, might lead to full fledged war

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israel and Hezbollah traded strikes again on Tuesday as death toll from massive Israeli bombardment crossed 560 and thousands fled from south Lebanon and increasing risk of full-fledged war. Displaced families slept in shelters set up in schools in Beirut and coastal city of Sidon. With hotels booked to capacity or rooms priced beyond the means of many families, those who did not find shelter slept in their cars, in parks or along the seaside. Well-wishers offered up empty apartments or rooms in their houses in social media posts, while volunteers set up a kitchen at an empty gas station in Beirut to cook meals for the displaced. In the eastern city of Baalbek, the state-run National News Agency reported that lines formed at bakeries and gas stations as residents rushed to stock up on essential supplies in anticipation of another round of strikes on Tuesday. Syria saw massive traffic jams as people escaped from Lebanon Border. The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said it launched missiles overnight at eight sites in Israel, including an explosives factory in Zichron, 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the border. The Israeli military said Tuesday morning that 55 rockets were fired from Lebanon into northern Israel, setting fires and damaging buildings. Military officials said they carried out dozens of airstrikes on Hezbollah targets, including on a cell that fired rockets overnight, and that tanks and



A man reacts as he stands on the rubble of a building hit in an Israeli airstrike in the southern village of Akbieh, Lebanon, Tuesday AP/PTI

artillery struck targets near the border. Data showed significant fires breaking out across southern Lebanon and in Bekaa Valley. Several areas showed intense, multiple fires, including near the southern coastal town of Naqoura, which is a base for UNIFIL, the UN peacekeeping mission. Others were in mountainous rural areas or villages. Hezbollah has been firing rockets, missiles and drones into north Israel in solidarity with Palestinians and Hamas, backed by Iran. Israel responded with heavy airstrikes and targeted Hezbollah commanders and threatened bigger operation. Thousands of Lebanese fled after Israeli military ordered people to evacuate areas where it accuses Hezbollah of positioning rocket launchers and weapons, in the biggest exodus since the 2006 war. The Lebanese Health Ministry said the strikes since Monday killed at

least 558 people, including 50 children and 94 women, and wounded over 1,800 people. Tens of thousands people on both sides have been displaced. Israel has vowed to ensure its citizens can return to their homes in the north, while Hezbollah said it will continue rocket attacks until there is cease-fire in Gaza. The Israeli military says Hezbollah has launched 9,000 rockets and drones into Israel since last October, including 250 on Monday alone. The military said Israeli warplanes struck 1,600 Hezbollah targets on Monday, destroying cruise missiles, long- and short-range rockets, attack drones and weapons in homes. Lebanese officials have said many victims were civilians, including more than 90 women and children. Israel estimates Hezbollah has 150,000 rockets and missiles, including guided missiles and long-range projectiles capable of striking anywhere in Israel.



SC dismisses Punjab Government appeal on NRI quota

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed the Punjab Government's appeal against a High Court verdict quashing its decision to expand the definition of 'NRI quota' for admissions in undergraduate medical and dental courses in the State. "This fraud must come to an end now," the Supreme Court said. On September 10, the Punjab and Haryana High Court trashed the AAP-led State Government's August 20 move extending the ambit of the NRI quota to include distant relatives "such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins" of NRIs for admissions under 15 per cent quota for this group in admissions in medical colleges.

Eateries to display name of operator, install CCTV: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

In a move to ensure cleanliness and public health safety measurement in the wake of cases regarding spitting on edible item in various parts of the State, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday directed eateries across the State to prominently display the name and address of their operator, proprietor and manager, install CCTV cameras and ensure that its chefs and waiters wear masks and gloves to ensure cleanliness. "Now whether it is a chef or a waiter, they will have to wear masks and gloves and it will be mandatory to install CCTV in hotels/restaurants," the Chief Minister said. According to a statement issued by the State Government, the names and addresses of the operator, proprietor, manager, and other relevant personnel should be prominently displayed at food establishments. In this context, necessary amendments have to be made to the Food Safety and Standards Act to ensure compliance. The Chief Minister also ordered a thorough investigation and verification of all hotels, dhabas, restaurants, and eateries in the State to verify



FILE PHOTO

the purity of their food. The directives come against the backdrop of recent controversies in the State around a teenager spitting on flatbread at a Saharanpur eatery which led to the arrest of its owner. In Ghaziabad, a juice vendor was arrested on charges of mixing urine in the juices he served. The UP Chief Minister, during the meeting, said that the presence of human waste in food items is not only disgusting but poses a serious health risk and highlighted the need for strict punitive action against those found guilty of adulterating food with harmful substances. "In recent times, incidents of adulterating food items like juice, dal, and roti with human waste, inedible, or dirty substances have been reported from various parts of

the country. These acts are atrocious, posing a serious threat to public health. Such malicious practices are completely unacceptable. To prevent such occurrences in Uttar Pradesh, concrete measures must be put in place to ensure food safety and protect the health of the common man," read the statement. "It is essential to thoroughly investigate food establishments such as dhabas and restaurants. A state-wide intensive campaign should be conducted to verify all employees, including the operators of these establishments. This verification process must be completed swiftly by a joint team comprising the Food Safety and Drug Administration, Police, and Local Administration," it added.

Continued on page 2

Teen killed for denying samosa party

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A 16-year-old boy was stabbed to death allegedly by three of his schoolmates in East Delhi's Shakarpur when he refused to give them a samosa party after buying a new phone. According to the police on Tuesday, the accused have been identified as three juveniles, all aged 16 years. While one is a student of Class 11, the other two are students of Class nine, who have been apprehended in connection with the murder. Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Apoorva Gupta said that they found about the crime after the police saw blood on the street. "On Monday around 7:15 pm during patrolling, beat staff noticed blood on the street near Ramji Samosa shop and conducted an enquiry," she said. While the argument was escalating, there were people present on the spot who alerted the police. She said local people informed the team that a group of boys had stabbed one boy, who was taken to the Loknayaak Jai Prakash (LNJP) hospital. "Approx an hour later, Shakarpur police station received information from LNJP Hospital about the admission of a 16-year-old boy named Sachin, resident of Shakarpur, who was declared brought dead," Gupta stated, adding that the incident occurred in full public view.



Sleazy landlord arrested for filming tenant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a shocking case of voyeurism in the national Capital, a 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly installing spy cameras in the bedroom and washroom of his female tenant's home in east Delhi's Shakarpur area. According to the police on Tuesday, the victim, who is a civil service aspirant, was staying alone in the house for the past few months and would hand over the keys to her landlord's son Karan before going out of town. However, suspicion arose in her mind when she noticed some unusual activity on her WhatsApp. Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Apoorva Gupta said that the victim discovered that her

WhatsApp account was logged into an unknown laptop and promptly logged out which raised her suspicion which made her check her apartment. A police team conducted a thorough search and found more cameras in her apartment. During interrogation, Karan admitted that three months ago, when she left for her hometown in Uttar Pradesh, she had handed over her keys to him. Since these cameras could not be operated online and used a memory card to store videos, Karan persistently requested the woman to give the keys of her house under the pretext of repairing electrical fixtures and fans as he wanted to transfer the recorded videos from the memory card to his laptop.

Gupta said Sachin succumbed to injuries in the hospital about an hour later. "During the inspection of the body, two stab wounds were found on the back. Further

investigation revealed that deceased Sachin and his minor friend were returning after buying a new mobile phone when they encountered a group of three other boys near Ramji Samosa shop," she stated. Further, the DCP added that the fight ensued after the deceased refused to give a party to his schoolmates. "The group demanded a party or a treat to celebrate the purchase but Sachin refused. An argument ensued, leading to the stabbing," Gupta said. A person passing through the area around 9 pm stated that the crime scene was heavily guarded by police and blood marks of the victim were seen on the road. "All shops around the crime scene were closed. I was very shocked to see that such a gruesome murder happened on the streets of Delhi. Everyone was terrified listening to the details," said a bystander. Everyone was disgusted by the gruesome crime committed in front of them. Police patrolled the area whole night looking for the culprits. She said a case under sections 103(1), (Punishment for murder) and 3(5), (When a criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone) of the BNS has been registered at the Shakarpur police station and the trio was apprehended from the locality on Tuesday.

DRUNK ON THE HIGHWAY TO HELL

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

There was yet another tragic incident recently when a car carrying college students crashed near Rajghat in Delhi killing one of the occupants. Unfortunately in a country where over 1,50,000 people die on the roads every year, this will become just another statistic, even though Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has mentioned time and again that he wants to bring down this terrifying number. But wanting to bring down this number and actually doing it are two separate things altogether. And to achieve this, the involvement of local police force is

essential. For example, the alacrity with which the Gurugram police recently allowed a wrong-side driver to get bail even though he was primarily responsible for an accident that took the life of a motorcyclist was shocking. We might never have known of the incident had it not been for the availability of footage from a friend of the deceased. There is a litany of such incidents in 2024 alone, including the shocking Pune crash that took the life of two young software engineers. There are many solutions to reduce the number of road fatalities but one thing that police forces must do fast is to crack down on drunken driving. In fact,



before COVID, several police forces including in Gurugram and Mumbai had done just that and their actions were yielding results. A night in the lockdown or the suspension of a Driving Licence for few months, had created the necessary fear factor. If we are to save lives, a crackdown on drunk driving has to take place all over India urgently. In countries like Indonesia, the police have resorted to spot Urine tests to not just deal with drunk driving but also measure the presence of drugs. Thanks to the emergence of app-based taxis and even Driver rentals, there are no excuses left for going back home behind the wheel of a car while drunk. Sure,

new emerging technologies on a car which can measure blood alcohol can prevent a car from starting but these are still many years away from becoming a widespread reality. Until then, a nationwide crackdown is essential. There have to be many other fixes to poor driving habits, including the shocking prevalence of wrong-side driving across India. In fact, this has been normalised to such an extent that vehicles do this on Mathura Road right next to the Supreme Court, where the Honorable Judges have often lamented about the traffic situation. But everyone needs to start somewhere. And this is where things should start.

Walls of DU campus covered with campaign posters despite CEO ultimatum

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the National Students Union of India (NSUI) and other student's organization have started reaching out to students on Tuesday. Despite a 24-hour ultimatum issued by the chief election officer a day earlier directing candidates to remove campaign posters and banners, walls of Delhi University campuses continue to be covered by them and the roads were littered with pamphlets in hues of white, red, and blue.



Poll violations are not new to DUSU polls. In 2017, the National Green Tribunal ordered DU to rusticate students found defacing walls with posters and imposed fines. Meanwhile, NSUI DUSU candidates reached out to students by distributing roses in an initiative, titled "Mohabbat ki Dukan," which they claim is aimed to counter the violence allegedly promoted by ABVP. NSUI's Presidential Candidate Ronak Khatri, said, "NSUI stands for love and inclusivity across all communities. This is our way of showing what we aim to achieve in DUSU." Namrata Jeph, NSUI's Secretary Candidate, stated, "Campus violence and unsafe conditions for women must

end. Our campaign focuses on change, ensuring women's safety and advocating for 12 menstrual leaves per semester." Candidates also carried copies of the Constitution of India, highlighting their belief in justice, equality, and freedom. Further, ABVP appealed to the students of DU to vote 100 per cent in the elections with the RSS affiliated student body's candidates visiting all the departments and colleges of the university and made them aware of issues including hostel construction, metro pass and construction of new hostels in the university. DUSU Presidential pick Rishabh Chaudhary and Secretary candidate Mitravinda Karnawal campaigned in North

Campus colleges like Shri Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, Shri Ram College of Commerce, Ramjas College, Kirori Mal College, Hansraj College and Hindu College.

Vice President candidate Bhanu Pratap Singh and Joint Secretary candidate Aman Kapasiya appealed to the students to vote by highlighting the issues raised by ABVP in South Campus colleges including Shri Venkateshwar College, Atmaram Sanatan Dharma College, Motilal Nehru College, Ram Lal Anand College, Shivaji College and Rajdhani.

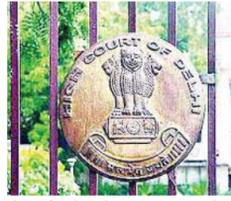
Chaudhary said, "ABVP is also prominently raising the issue of effective implementation of National Education Policy. We remain active in DU throughout the year and candidates are also talking about the positive impact of ABVP's activities on important topics like environment, sports, service work." Stating that girl students have been winning continuously from the ABVP panel since 2014, Mitravinda said, "Our manifesto prominently includes various issues related to girl students including safety of girl students in the campus, installation of sanitary vending machines. ABVP is getting good support from the women colleges of DU."

HC takes DU, authorities to task for not taking action against those defacing public property during ongoing DUSU polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday took the Delhi University and other authorities to task for not taking action against those defacing public property during the ongoing students' union elections. The high court orally asked the Delhi University to issue disqualification notices to the candidates involved in defacement of public property and also recover the damages caused.

"You issue them disqualification notice today itself and also ask for recovery of money for defacement of properties. Delhi Metro and MCD should give the names of those involved to the Delhi University. Give the names of those who are defacing public property," a bench of Chief Justice Designate Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said. The court also directed the Chief Election Officer of DU to be present in the court on Wednesday when it would con-



duct further hearing on a plea seeking action against the prospective candidates of DUSU elections and student political outfits involved in damaging, defacing, soiling or destroying the beauty of public walls. Petitioner Prashant Manchanda, a practising advocate, also sought action against those involved in damaging classrooms, thus denying the citizens of a clean and beautiful environment and surroundings free from defacement as well as depriving the students of their right to education. He also sought direction to the erring candidates and their parties to remove the defacement and refurbish the

areas and further take efforts for beautification of the destroyed portions. During the hearing, Manchanda submitted that the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections are scheduled to be held on September 27 and the erring aspiring candidates have defaced and continue to deface public property in an escalating manner. He said if it is not restricted at the earliest, it will lead to an irreparable harm to the entire national capital and the damage has been done everywhere including buses, Delhi Metro station walls, public walls, bus stands, police stations, roads and private property. The bench, which perused the photographs placed by the petitioner, asked the DU, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Police and Delhi Metro as to why they have not initiated any action against those responsible for damaging public property. "Delhi Police has to enforce the law and not us. If you don't

want to enforce the law, what can we do. If the university does not want to do anything, what can we do about this," the bench said and added, "How can they put posters and graffiti on the walls of police stations? What were police officials doing when this was being done? This is shocking." It said the MCD was still in slumber and as the civic body was doing nothing despite big hoardings coming up everywhere. "The problem is that no department speaks to the other. There is no coordination between government departments. At times, one wonders if these authorities exist or not," it said. It asked the university to issue notices to those candidates involved in defacing public property and also to remove the posters within 24 hours. The petitioner also sought directions to the authorities to ensure compliance to guidelines for the prevention of defacement of property during the DUSU elections 2024-25.

War of words between former Army chief, ex-IPS officer over assault on Army officer's fiancée

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A war of words has broken out between former Army chief and an ex-Indian Police Service (IPS) officer over the case of alleged sexual assault on an Army officer's fiancée in a police station in Odisha. Seeking stern action against the police personnel who allegedly assaulted the woman, former Union minister and army chief General V K Singh said what happened to the woman was "shameful and horrendous."

"Everyone Must listen to (name withheld), Fiancée of Army officer, Daughter of Rtd Army Officer- What happened to her in PS Bharatpur in #Odisha is shameful and horrendous." "Sir, it is not done that you, having been a Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and later a Central Minister, jumped to conclusion and castigated Odisha Police for the drunken brawl and uncouth behaviour of an Army officer and his fiancée, and Odisha Police officers were not even at fault," M Nageswara Rao said in his social media post.

He said the Odisha Police operates over 600 police stations, collectively handling about two lakh cases annually and many individuals including women and Army officers visit these stations to report grievances or seek assistance. "Odisha Police has more than 600 Police Stations and they together register and investigate about 2 lakh cases annually. Lakhs of people visit Police Stations including women and Army officers to report their grievances or seek help. It is not that they misbehave with people visiting police stations," said Rao in his post. He said Indian police respects and honours the military as the nation's last line of defence and it is reasonable to expect reciprocal support from the military.

"Sir, we, the Indian Police, respect and honour our Military because that is the last resort in defending the country from external enemies. A reciprocity from Military towards Police which defends the country from internal enemies, is a normal expectation. Our work is complementary as we together protect the country from within and without," Rao mentioned. "Sir, it is not done that you, having been a Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and later a Central Minister, jumped to conclusion and castigated Odisha Police for the drunken brawl and uncouth behaviour of an Army officer and his fiancée, and Odisha Police

officers were not even at fault. But I would not chastise the Indian Army by asking, "Is this the kind of discipline that the Indian Army imparts and inculcates in its officers?" Because an individual's aberration does not represent an esteemed institution," he added. Rao lastly, in the post, said that the conduct of the Army officer was unacceptable and called for accountability to preserve the integrity of the Indian Army. The Odisha Retired Police Officers Welfare Association, in an open letter, also made similar allegations while saying that a course on "behaviour in public and public offices for Army officers" should be added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures upon his arrival in New Delhi after completing his US visit on Tuesday PTI

Trouble for Karnataka CM as HC okays...

From page 1

On August 19, Siddaramaiah moved the High Court challenging the legality of the Governor's order. In the petition, the Chief Minister submitted that the sanction order was issued without due application of mind, in violation of statutory mandates, and contrary to Constitutional principles, including the advice of the Council of Ministers, which is binding under Article 163 of the Constitution of India. Siddaramaiah sought quashing of the Governor's order contending that his decision is legally unsustainable, procedurally flawed, and motivated by extraneous considerations. Reading out the summary of findings, Justice Nagarasanna said, the complainants were justified in registering the complaint or seeking approval at the hands of the Governor. Stating that the approval under the section 17 A of PC Act is mandatory in the fact situation, the court said: "Section 17A nowhere requires a police officer to seek approval in a private complaint registered under section 200 or 223 of BNSS against a public servant for offences punishable under the provisions of the Act. It is the duty of the complainant to seek such approval."

Governor) can take independent decisions in exceptional circumstances, and the present case is one such exception." "No fault can be found with the Governor exercising the independent discretion to pass the impugned order; it would suffice if the reasons are recorded in the file of the decision making authority, particularly of the high office, and those reasons... Form part of the impugned order. A caveat reasons must be in the file. Reasons for the first time cannot be brought before the constitutional court by way of objections," he added. As the judge dismissed the petition, senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi who appeared for Siddaramaiah, said, "the matter related to dates of 1990's, and the complaint if filed now," as he requested the bench to consider "a two weeks' stay on this." Responding to this, Justice Nagarasanna said, "I can't stay my own order...The petition stands dismissed. Interim order of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved." Solicitor-General of India Tushar Mehta represented the office of the Governor. Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty also made his submissions. In the MUDA site allotment case, it is alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife BM Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru, which had higher property value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA.

SC exempts top official, contractors from personal appearance in trees felling case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dispensed with the personal appearance of the principal secretary of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and private contractors in a case related to the large-scale felling of trees in Delhi's Ridge area. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which is scheduled to hear a contempt case against the Delhi Development Authority and others over the alleged felling of trees in the southern Ridge's Satbari area, was intimated that the official and the private contractors were present in court in pursuance of an earlier direction. Senior advocate Anupam Lad Das, appearing for the private contractors, said that they have also filed their responses to the show-cause notices and their personal appearance on Wednesday may be dispensed with. In the meantime, a counsel for the ministry also made a similar request, seeking an exemption from personal appearance of the principal secretary. The CJ allowed the plea at this stage. The bench may take up the case on Wednesday. The contempt case against DDA vice-chairman Subhashish Panda and others over the alleged felling of trees in the Ridge area is now listed before a bench headed by the CJ. Earlier, the matter was being heard by a Supreme Court bench com-



prising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan. The bench headed by Justice Oka had issued a criminal contempt notice against Panda for allowing the large-scale felling of trees in the southern Ridge's Satbari area to construct a road from Chattarpur to the South Asian University. It had expressed displeasure over a misleading affidavit filed by the vice-chairman and presenting wrong facts in the court. On July 24, another bench of Justices B R Gavai, P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan took note of two separate contempt proceedings pending before different benches over the felling of trees in Delhi's Ridge area and said it believes in "judicial propriety" and does not want any conflicting orders to be passed. Maintaining that it would be appropriate if matters about the Ridge were heard by one bench to avoid conflicting orders, it wondered when a bench was already seized of

the matter should a subsequent bench have looked into it. The apex court on March 4 refused permission to the DDA to fell 1,051 trees, saying that their application is very vague. Being an instrumentality of the state, it is the DDA's duty to first make an attempt to protect the environment by requesting for felling of only those trees which are absolutely mandatory, the court had said. "They must apply their mind whether alternatives can be examined to save the trees. Moreover, they want to construct a road through a forest. There is no permission obtained under the Forest Act. "We direct the DDA to re-examine the proposal by employing experts in the field. The exercise to be undertaken by the DDA is necessary for ensuring that while public work is carried out, a minimum number of trees are required to be felled," the apex court had said.

Mentally challenged man beaten to death for breaking tempo glass

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old mentally challenged man was beaten to death allegedly for breaking the glass of a tempo parked near his house in Rohini's Prem Nagar area. According to the police on Tuesday, five suspects have been apprehended in connection with the incident while the probe was on to identify others. "On Monday, at about 11:18 pm, a PCR call regarding death of person in the area of Agar Nagar was received at Prem Nagar police station. Local Police immediately reached at the spot and found an unconscious person having multiple injuries on his body," DCP Rohini Dr G. S. Sidhu said. According to a police officer, the deceased who has been identified as Deepak was standing outside his house when a group of men attacked him

with rods and sticks. During the course of interrogation, it was found that Deepak was mentally challenged and had broken the glass of tempo belonging to his neighbour. Some people got agitated and beat him up at about 9:20 pm, the officer said. Deepak was taken to a hospital by his family members where he was declared dead. On the statement of the victim's father, a case of murder was registered and five suspects were apprehended and interrogated further, the officer said. Accordingly, a case under sections 103(1)(Punishment for murder) and 3(5) (When a criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act in the same manner as if it were done by him alone) of BNS has been registered at police station Prem Nagar

Capacity building programme held at Tamanna residents' campus, Najafgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

International Institute of Health & Hygiene, Sulabh International, and AAS-A-Ray Foundation conducted a capacity building programme on Swaccha hi seva, Mission life, menstrual hygiene management and Medical Camp for abandoned Women at Tamanna (Sisters of Charity) residents' campus at Najafgarh, New Delhi on Tuesday. Dr. Pankaj Kumar, president of AAS-A-Ray foundation said that the camp featured a range of medical services, including consultations with specialists in general medicine, Orthopaedics, ENT, Dentistry, and Gynaecology. Screenings for haemoglobin, blood sugar, and blood pressure were also provided by a team of esteemed doctors.

Man killed by wife, her brother over harassment due to suspected affair

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A 42-year-old person was allegedly killed by his wife and her brother in the intervening night of September 17 and 18. The woman and her brother are said to have been murdered as the victim suspects her love affair and used to beat her, police said. The duo were caught by police on Monday from Sultanpur village of Gurugram. The police had announced a Rs 10,000 reward for their arrest. The victim, Shyam Bihari, a native of Sitapur district in Uttar Pradesh, along with his wife Shanti, residing in a rented accommodation in the Basai Industrial area under Sector-9A police station limits. Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson of the Gurugram police, said Shyam Bihari suspected



his wife of a marital affair and used to beat her after consuming alcohol. On the intervening night of September 17 and 18 too, the victim came home in an inebriated condition and started harassing her. "Shanti's brother, Kamlesh was also present when Shyam Bihari started to harass her wife. The brother and sister attacked Shyam Bihari strangled him to death and fled the spot," police said. "To avoid police action, the suspects kept changing their

hideout, but following secret information, a crime branch team of Sector-10 nabbed the suspect from Sultanpur village," Kumar said. The police have also recovered a towel and a sandoo (Baniyan) used in the crime. The suspects will be produced in a local court for further questioning," he added. In connection with the matter, the police have registered a murder case at the Sector-9A police and started investigations.

NIA conducts...

From page 1

"NIA investigations in the case so far have revealed that the accused, along with several groups of people, had carried out campaigns throughout Tamil Nadu to establish Khalifah or Islamic rule in India, and had been involved in activities aimed at

dividing the people and disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," the statement said. Investigations in the case, taken over by the NIA from the Chennai City Police in July this year, are continuing, and the material seized during the searches is being examined.

Eateries to display name...

From page 1

"CCTV cameras should be installed in food establishments such as dhabas, hotels, and restaurants. Surveillance should cover not only the areas where customers dine, but also other

parts of the establishment. It is imperative that every operator ensures the security of the CCTV footage and makes it available to the police or local administration upon request," it said. Similar directives by governments of Uttar

Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh that mandated eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display the name and contact details of their owner and staff earlier this year were put on hold by the Supreme Court on July 22 as an interim measure.

Government fully accountable to people: Atishi at Cabinet meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After assuming the charge, Chief Minister Atishi on Tuesday held a meeting with the cabinet ministers and all the department heads and stated that her government and its officials are fully accountable to the people. She further said that the government relies on the taxes paid by the people of Delhi, so it is the ruling dispensation's responsibility to work towards providing them with the best possible services, and to fulfill the responsibilities with complete integrity. She affirmed, "As a government, it is our duty to ensure that government services reach even the last person in line, and that it lives up to their expectations. In this regard, the government and officials will work together to ensure that every person in need receives government services and can live with dignity," she added. Atishi told the officials that their work has a significant impact on the lives of the people in the city, and therefore, it is their responsibility to work for the betterment of the people of Delhi. "As a government, we will provide full support to the officials," she assured them. Cabinet ministers including Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Imran



Hussain, and Mukesh Ahlawat were present, along with Chief Secretary Dharmendra and all department heads of the government. Taking to social media platform X, she shared a few snippets from this meeting and wrote, "After assuming charge as Chief Minister, today I held a meeting with all the cabinet colleagues and heads of departments of Delhi Government. As a government, our accountability is towards the people of Delhi. In such a situation, with the cooperation of all the officials, we will work together to provide better facilities to the people of Delhi and fulfill the vision of Arvind Kejriwal ji," affirmed the Delhi CM in her post. According to a source, the meeting was a cordial normal one where she met the bureau-

cracy for the first time and said that she looks forward for a cordial working relationship even as the bureaucracy and party has been at loggerheads over several issues. Further, she affirmed that as a government, it is our duty to ensure that government services reach even the last person in line, and that the government lives up to their expectations. "In this regard, the Delhi government and officials will work together to ensure that every person in need receives government services and can live with dignity," the senior AAP leader said. Instructing the officials to work for improving the lives of Delhiites, she said, "The work of officials has a significant impact on the lives of the people of Delhi.

AAP Government to implement scheme to provide monthly honorarium to women

Ambitious scheme likely to be implemented post Haryana polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi is likely to implement its ambitious scheme for providing Rs 1,000 monthly honorarium to women after the Haryana assembly polls. Sources said the paperwork for the scheme named 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna' is almost complete and it could be presented in the first Cabinet meeting of Atishi government expected to be held "very soon". The proposal of the scheme has to be sent to departments concerned including finance, law and revenue for their comments after which it will be sent for Cabinet nod, sources said. The scheme will also require the nod Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena after it gets the Cabinet nod. AAP convener and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal previously promised to provide Rs 1,000 to the women after coming out of jail. The preparation to roll out the scheme has picked up pace with Kejriwal out of jail, and Atishi taking charge as chief minister after his resignation, the officials said. Delhi Women and Child Development Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "All the formalities regarding our promise to provide Rs 1,000 to women above



18 years of age have been completed. It will be put before the Cabinet soon for approval." The scheme will be implemented before the Delhi elections due in February, as the budget for the scheme has been already allocated, he said. An allocation of Rs 2,000 crore has been made for the implementation of the scheme announced in the Delhi government's annual budget 2024-25 presented by Atishi, who was Finance minister in Kejriwal government then. A senior officer said that the government has plans to announce implementation of 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna' after Haryana polls, as the AAP convener is busy with campaigning for polls in the state where the AAP has fielded candidates on all the seats.

Voting for Haryana polls will be held on October 5 and results will be declared on October 8. The Cabinet meeting of Atishi government is expected to be held "very soon" and the General Administration Department (GAD) has invited agenda items from various departments by Wednesday, he said. According to the officials, all the women aged between 18 years and 60 who are not government employees or pay taxes, will be eligible for the monthly honorarium of Rs 1,000 on presenting a self-declaration form and AADHAAR number. As per official estimates, the scheme is likely to benefit around 50 lakh women in Delhi. Atishi had earlier said the scheme could be launched in September or October.

Public unable to understand when AAP Government will work: BJP president Sachdeva

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Tuesday attacked Chief Minister Atishi and claimed that while four days of her government have been completed, the public is unable to understand when the government will work. "In four days, Atishi has definitely shown char tamasha, but the government work is zero. On Saturday, Atishi did a parikrama of Arvind Kejriwal's house and got a photoshoot done of touching his feet. On Sunday, she reached the ridiculous drama of Janata Adalat, where she did not even get a chance to speak," Sachdeva alleged. He added that on Monday, she created a tamasha by placing two chairs in the office. "On Tuesday, outside the Hanuman temple, Atishi shocked the people of Delhi by announcing to take forward the vision of the Kejriwal government, which is knowingly synonymous with corruption," he claimed. Calling her a "failed minister", Sachdeva said, "The people of Delhi already knew very well that Atishi is a failed minister who only considers giving statements and announcements as administrative work,



but when she became the Chief Minister, it seemed that maybe now she will pay some attention to governance." "But the journey of about 100 hours of four days shows that she is not interested in improving governance but in taking forward the vision of Arvind Kejriwal which is drowned in corruption," he added. Delhi BJP chief has said that cabinet meetings are very important in the work of any government. "However, there has been no cabinet meeting in Delhi for about seven months and it was expected that Atishi would call a cabinet meeting and take forward the pending work, but she is not concerned about it," he added. Sachdeva claimed that it is unfortunate that instead of calling a cabinet meeting and taking government work forward, Atishi is busy blaming the officials in her old style.

Atishi visits Hanuman temple day after assuming charge as CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Day after taking charge as Delhi chief minister, Atishi on Tuesday visited the Hanuman temple at Connaught Place, and prayed for his blessings to continue working for the people and restore Arvind Kejriwal to the CM's chair after Assembly polls. Meanwhile, AAP leader Kailash Gahlot said he is former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's 'Hanuman' and will clear all his pending works, as he took charge in the Atishi-led Delhi government on Tuesday. Lord Hanuman has been protecting AAP, its government in Delhi, and Kejriwal from the attacks of "enemies" for the past two years who have been trying to "break" the party and stall Delhi government's works for the people, she said while talking to reporters after visiting the temple. As regards Atishi, she said "I



sought the blessings of Lord Hanuman, who is our 'sankatmochan' (saviour) protecting us in all the crises, to continue working for Delhi people and bring back Arvind Kejriwal as chief minister in the elections," she said. The chief minister visited the historic Prachin Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place to offer prayers and seek Lord Hanuman's blessings for the well-being and prosperity of all,

said a statement from the CMO. During the visit, the mahant (chief priest) of the temple applied 'tilak' on the Delhi chief minister's forehead and presented her a flag. The CM recited the Hanuman Chalisa and offered holy water to the Shivalinga at the temple, it said. After the 'Hanuman Darshan', Atishi shared a few snippets from the visit on her 'X' handle and said, "Took blessings of

Hanumanji at the Prachin Hanuman Mandir located at Connaught Place. In the last 2 years, many conspiracies were hatched against the AAP, the Delhi government, the people of Delhi and our leader Arvind Kejriwal. But Lord Hanuman protected us from every crisis." After coming out of Tihar jail, Kejriwal recently resigned as Delhi chief minister amid corruption allegations, saying he will not hold the post again unless the people give him a "certificate of honesty" by voting for AAP in the February polls. Atishi took charge as chief minister on Monday, saying she will run the Delhi government in Kejriwal's absence like Bharat ruled, placing his elder brother Lord Ram's 'khadaun' (wooden slippers) on Ayodhya's throne. Kejriwal's chair will await him at the Chief Minister's Office, she said, choosing to sit on a different

chair instead of that used by her predecessor. "It is Tuesday today, the day of Hanumanji, and I will work like Hanuman of Arvind Kejriwal and clear all his pending works. The AAP worked well under his leadership and tried to establish Ram Rajya," Gahlot said after taking charge as the minister for transport, home, administrative reforms and women and child development. The AAP MLA from Najafgarh has retained the same portfolios he held in the Kejriwal-led government. Gahlot also exuded hope that the assembly elections due in February will bring Kejriwal back as the Delhi chief minister. "The people of Delhi will bless us, and Kejriwal will again sit on the chair of Delhi CM; our CM was and will be Arvind Kejriwal," he said, adding the party is well prepared for the polls.

LG instructs police commissioner to ensure ample police visibility in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further tone up law and order in the national capital, Lt Governor (LG) V K Saxena has instructed the Police Commissioner to ensure ample police visibility in the city, Raj Niwas said on Tuesday. Giving details, officials also said Saxena also advised the Police Commissioner to constitute teams of senior officers in plain clothes, who can inspect and report on compliance of deployment and police presence in areas. Any laxity in the matter will be viewed seriously, the LG underlined. Saxena has asked the Police Commissioner to prepare a list of senior officers, who will be responsible for com-



pliance and ensuring such visibility. A duty chart of senior officers with details of their deployment and their phone numbers will be sent to the LG Secretariat for regular monitoring. The LG, who has been consistently stressing on visible policing as the biggest deterrent against crime, has asked for police personnel on duty

to be visibly present in all areas around police beats and chowkis. It may be noted that ever since Saxena began reviewing the traffic situation on weekly basis along with senior police and transport officials, visibility of traffic police personnel on roads has significantly increased. According to the Delhi Police's crime statistics the national capital has seen a spike in cases of crimes like burglary, organised crime and attempts to murder. As per the data, a total of 5,735 burglary cases have been reported this year till August 15, which is an increase of 25.25 per cent from 2023, during which 4,579 cases of burglaries were reported in the same period.

Mayor writes to MCD seeking response on complaints about lapses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of complaints about lapses in door-to-door garbage collection across the city, Delhi Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Tuesday wrote to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Commissioner Ashwani Kumar, seeking a response within three days. In her letter on Tuesday, Mayor Oberoi said large piles of garbage are collected across localities of Delhi and remain unattended for several days, creating unhygienic conditions. She also raised concern that the garbage dumps could become a source of several diseases, such as dengue. "I have been receiving several complaints from councillors across all MCD wards that waste collection agen-



cies are failing to carry out daily door-to-door collection from their wards. This is leading to large piles of garbage being collected across localities of Delhi, which too are lying unattended for several days. Not only is this creat-

ing unhygienic conditions across different wards of Delhi, it could also become a source for propagation of several diseases, such as dengue," the letter read. Oberoi further stated that to assess the ground reality, she inspected several areas in the past few weeks and found garbage piles accumulated at various locations, causing dissatisfaction among the residents. "I visited several wards of Delhi in past few weeks viz, Lado Sarai, Madipur, Vikaspuri, Patel Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Janakpuri, Mahaveer Enclave, Mohan Garden and Bindapur. In several areas of these wards, I found that there is no door-to-door collection happening at all and piles of garbage had accumulated at several points," the mayor's letter read.

"I interacted with several residents, too, who expressed their dissatisfaction with the task of waste collection and solid waste management by these agencies," she said. Condemning the situation as a "grave dereliction of duty" by the waste collection agencies, Oberoi said it was also a failure on the part of the MCD officials responsible for monitoring them. The mayor sought the commissioner's response on the reasons behind the agencies' failure to perform. Additionally, she asked for information on the measures the MCD will take to ensure a prompt resolution to the problem. She directed Kumar to submit his response on the matter by 5 pm on Thursday, September 26.

Husband calling wife parasite insult to her, entire womankind: HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said that a wife being able-bodied to earn a livelihood does not absolve a husband from providing her maintenance, and calling her a "parasite" is an insult to her as well as the entire womankind. The court, while dealing with a husband's plea challenging a lower court's direction to pay maintenance to his wife, observed that Indian women leave their jobs to look after the family, cater to the needs of their children and to look after their husbands and his parents. The petitioner husband, who was stated to have abandoned his wife and children and was living with another woman, was ordered by the trial court to pay Rs 30,000 per month as maintenance to his wife, along with Rs 5 lakh towards the "injuries" sustained by her, including mental torture, depression and emotional distress. The court, in a recent order,



The trial court had also directed him to pay Rs 3 lakh as compensation to his wife, including Rs 30,000 as litigation costs. Challenging the order, the petitioner argued in the high court that his wife was an able-bodied lady who has worked in a boutique and, therefore, she could not be allowed to become a "parasite" by misusing the law. The court refused to interfere with the directions and said the fact that the wife is capable of earning cannot work to her detriment. The court, in a recent order,

noted that the financial and asset profile of the petitioner reflected a "comfortable and affluent lifestyle" and, therefore, he was in a position to pay Rs 30,000 per month as maintenance. "The fact that the Respondent (wife) is able-bodied and can earn a livelihood does not absolve a husband not to provide maintenance to his wife and children. Indian women leave their jobs to look after the family, cater to the needs of their children, look after their husbands and his parents.

"The contention that the Respondent is only a parasite and is abusing the process of law is nothing but an insult not only to the Respondent herein but to the entire women kind," said Justice Subramonium Prasad while dismissing the petition. The court, in the order, also said the wife was a victim of domestic violence. The court said the term 'domestic violence' includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse and all other forms of abuse which can be inflicted on a lady. "The Respondent had to leave her matrimonial house because she was unable to tolerate the fact that her husband is living with another woman. Since the Respondent/Wife was not in a position to take care of her two children, she had no option to leave them with the parents of the Petitioner herein," the court observed. "In the complaint filed by the Respondent/Wife, it is stated

that she was subjected to physical and mental abuse by the Petitioner herein. No lady can tolerate that her husband is cohabiting with another lady and has a child from her. All these facts make the Respondent/Wife a victim of Domestic Violence," added the court. The court stated that section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, section 125 of Criminal Procedure Code and section 12 of the Domestic Violence Act are "tools of social justice" which ensure that the women and children are protected from a life of potential vagrancy and destitution. It added that section 125 entails that if the husband has sufficient means, he is obligated to maintain his wife and children, and not shirk away from his moral and familial responsibilities. A husband cannot avoid his obligation to maintain his wife and children except if any legally permissible ground is contained in the law, said the court.

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AI utilised for multilingual proceedings and digitisation in Lok Sabha: Om Birla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies were put to use to make available House proceedings in different regional languages to members of Parliament. Addressing a press conference here after the two-day meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region, Birla said the Lok Sabha Secretariat was also sharing its expertise in technology with legislatures of states and Union territories to speed up the process of digitisation. Birla said during the two-day conference, presiding officers of state legislatures from across the country also deliberated on the agenda of the upcoming 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference



(CPC) in Sydney from November 3-8. The CPC has short-listed eight topics including support of legislatures to promote LGBTQ+ participation, use of artificial learning (AI) in parliamentary proceedings, violence and abuse of parliamentarians, human trafficking, refugees and immigration across commonwealth nations for deliberation by participants. Birla said the legislative bodies were digitising

processes and records and taking measures to train public representatives using information technology in day-to-day activities. "The state legislatures should enhance the pace of digitisation, wherever lagging behind, so that the vision of 'one nation, one digital platform' could be realised," he said. He also assured that the issues raised by the presiding officers such as financial autonomy and decreasing number of sittings

of the Houses will be discussed and acceptable solutions will be found. Parliament officials said artificial intelligence and machine learning (ML) technologies were being used by the Lok Sabha secretariat to make available House proceedings to lawmakers in different Indian languages. They said a glossary of terms and their meaning in the context of parliamentary procedures was being compiled for use in making available the list of business and related parliamentary papers in 10 different languages to the parliamentarians. The officials said artificial intelligence was being used to catalogue over 10,000 hours of audio visual recordings of Lok Sabha proceedings and 8,000 hours of Rajya Sabha debates, dating back to 1992, to enable easy and accurate access to users.

Modi Government engages farmers ahead of Haryana polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to pacify farmers' anger over various issues ahead of Haryana assembly polls, the Modi government opened a dialogue with farmers to discuss and resolve outstanding issues including anxieties around minimum support price. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday held his first dialogue with a delegation of 50 farmers and farm union leaders in the national capital, days after announced to meet farmers every week. The meeting held at PUSA, where farmers' delegation talked about at least four issues including the prices of their produce, issues related to Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, losses caused by stray animals, and the government decisions at the time of harvesting while where Chouhan emphasized the



importance of open dialogue on major topics like import-export regulations, dumping duties, and other farmer-related concerns. Bhartiya Kisan Union apolitical representatives from UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra attended the meeting. The meeting seems to be important ahead of the Haryana assembly polls where the farmers have shown their displeasures towards the ruling BJP. Talking to the media after the meeting, Chouhan said he met with around 50 farmer leaders and listened to their issues and concerns. He said, Agriculture is the backbone of

the Indian economy, and the farmers are its soul. Chouhan said the farmers' union has given several suggestions related to crop rates and crop insurance. "Suggestions related to strengthening of the MSP regime have come. We will look into them," promised Chouhan who has now decided to meet farmer delegations from all over the country on every Tuesday. Today was the first round of talks, Chouhan said, adding that farmers raised issues pertaining to crop insurance scheme coverage and MSP. Chouhan said that continuous work is being done under the leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the overall development of the agriculture sector. Many schemes related to agriculture have been implemented in the last 10 years and this sequence is continuing. So far, 7 major schemes have been approved in the first 100 days of the third term of the Modi government. The central government will spend Rs 15 thousand crore on these schemes, which will benefit the farmers. Rs 2817 crore will be given for the Digital Agriculture Mission and agricultural reforms will continue through technology. Decisions are being taken in the interest of farmers and the country; efforts are being made to solve their problems by sitting together with the farmers. It has been approved to continue the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM - AASHA) with Rs 35 thousand crore.

Rajnath urges ICG to embrace technology for future threats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday here exhorted the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to become a technology oriented force to deal with conventional and future threats. He also underlined the government's resolve to make ICG self-reliant and said 31 ships for its worth over Rs 4,000 crores were under construction in Indian shipyards. The defence minister made these assertions while inaugurating the 41st edition of Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference. The three-day meeting serves as a vital forum for ICG Commanders to engage in meaningful discussions on strategic, operational and administrative matters in the backdrop of the evolving geopolitical landscapes and complexities of maritime security. Addressing the senior Commanders at the Coast Guard Headquarters, the defence minister described ICG as India's foremost guard, ensuring the security of the country's vast coastline through constant monitoring of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and prevention of illegal activities such as terrorism and trafficking of

arms, drugs and humans. Commending the bravery and dedication with which the ICG personnel serve the nation in the times of distress, he paid tributes to the bravehearts who lost their lives in a recent operation near Porbandar. Rajnath termed the contribution of ICG in protecting the nation from internal disasters as unparalleled. He extolled its quick response during an oil spill off Chennai after Cyclone Michaung, which averted a major damage to the coastal ecosystem of the area. Sharing his vision to make ICG as one of the strongest Coast Guards, the defence minister emphasised the need to move forward from being a human-oriented to a technology-oriented force to deal with conventional as well as emerging threats in today's unpredictable times. He underlined the importance of ultra-modern technology on maritime borders, stating that it acts as a force multiplier to further strengthen the security system of the country. "The world is going through a phase of technological revolution. In this era of Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology and drones, the field of security is



witnessing significant changes. Given the current geopolitical situation, maritime threats will increase in the future. We need to be alert and ready. The importance of manpower will always remain, but the world should know us as a technology-oriented Coast Guard," the defence minister said. While he stressed on the benefits of incorporating latest technology, Rajnath exhorted the Commanders to remain wary of its negative side. He termed technology as a double-edged sword and called upon ICG to be proactive, vigilant and prepared to tackle the potential challenges. The defence minister reiterated the commitment of the Government to

modernise and bolster the Armed Forces and ICG with indigenous platforms and equipment. On the efforts being made to attain 'Aatmanirbharta', he stated that 31 ships for ICG, worth more than Rs 4,000 crore, are being built by Indian shipyards. He also highlighted the approvals accorded by the Defence Acquisition Council to enhance the capabilities of ICG, which include procurement of Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft, Software Defined Radios, Interceptor Boats, Dornier aircraft and Next Generation Fast Patrol Vessels. Asserting that the three Services are evolving themselves with changing times, the defence minister urged the ICG to continue improving itself, creating a

unique identity, gaining expertise in its domain, and moving forward with renewed vigour. He also paid tributes to late ICG DG Rakesh Pal who passed away due to a heart attack in Chennai recently. He described him as a kind-hearted and capable officer whose untimely death, he said, is an irreparable loss. Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar and Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Niten Chandra were among the senior officers present on the occasion. During the course of the conference, the ICG Commanders will also interact with the Chief of Defence Staff, as well as the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Engineer-in-Chief. The discussions are designed to foster collaboration among the Services across the full spectrum of maritime security, while also promoting the growth and infrastructure development of ICG. The conference provides a platform for senior ICG leaders to meticulously evaluate key operational, material, logistical, HR development, training, and administrative initiatives undertaken over the past years.

BJP demands Siddaramaiah's resignation over MUDA scam allegations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday demanded that Siddaramaiah should immediately resign as the Karnataka chief minister to make way for a free and independent probe into the alleged Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment scam. The BJP remark came after the Karnataka High Court dismissed Siddaramaiah's petition challenging Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot's approval of an investigation against him in the case. "The high court has validated the action of the governor. The BJP demands that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah tender his resignation and make way for a free and independent investigation into the allegations of shameful corruption," senior party leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at a press conference here. In the MUDA site allotment case, it has been alleged that compensatory sites were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife B M Parvathi in an upmarket area in Mysuru which had higher property



value as compared to the location of her land which had been "acquired" by the MUDA. Chandrasekhar also hit out at the Congress and alleged that the party makes fake promises during elections to come to power with the sole objective of committing corruption. "Siddaramaiah is only continuing the tradition of the Congress under Rahul Gandhi of coming into governance in the name of (welfare of) poor by making false and fake promises but always enriching themselves and their families," the senior BJP leader said. Chandrasekhar alleged that there have been many instances of public money being looted in Karnataka since Siddaramaiah became the chief minister of the state. He also referred to the alleged

scam in the allocation of a piece of land to a trust run by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's family. "There is not one Congress leader in Karnataka today who is not involved in some land scam or the other," the former Union minister alleged. In Bengaluru, Karnataka BJP also demanded Siddaramaiah's resignation. The party's state chief B Y Vijayendra noted that the HC has ruled that the Governor's permission is as per law. "I request the Chief Minister to keep aside his charges against the Governor, respect the High Court order and, since there are allegations that your (Chief Minister's) family is involved in the MUDA (site allotment) scam, you should respectfully resign your position as Chief Minister," he told reporters.

Rahul asks SEBI to name the big players made huge profits

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said 90 per cent of small investors have lost Rs 1.8 lakh crore in Futures and Option (F&O) trading in three years and asked the SEBI to reveal the names of the "so called big players" profiteering at their expense. More than 91 per cent, or 73 lakh, individual traders lost money in the F&O segment in FY24 with an average net loss of Rs 1.2 lakh per person, a study conducted by markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revealed on Monday. Further, 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual F&O traders incurred average losses of about Rs 2 lakh per trader (inclusive of transaction costs) during the three years from FY22 to FY24. The aggregate losses of such traders exceeded Rs 1.8 lakh crore during the period. Rahul Gandhi, who is the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on social media, "Uncontrolled F&O trading has grown 45X in 5 years. 90% of small investors have lost ₹1.8 lakh Cr in 3 years." "SEBI must reveal the names of the so called 'Big Players' making a killing at their expense," the former Congress chief said. The study said in FY24 alone, individuals incurred about Rs 75,000 crore in net losses. It found the top 3.5 per cent of loss-makers -- about 4 lakh



traders faced an average loss of Rs 28 lakh per person over the same period, inclusive of transaction costs. On the other hand, only 7.2 per cent of individual F&O traders made a profit over the period of three years and only 1 per cent of individual traders managed to earn profits exceeding Rs 1 lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs. Moreover, the number of retail traders, or individual traders, has almost doubled in two years to about 96 lakh in FY24 from about 51 lakh in FY22. Although such investors contributed about 30 per cent to the total turnover in FY24, they are a clear majority in number terms, as 99.8 per cent of total traders in the equity F&O segment are individuals. "The availability of sophisticated trading platforms and lower transaction costs have enabled retail investors to actively trade in options and futures contracts, contributing to the surge in market liquidity," SEBI said.

200 chemicals in food packaging linked to breast cancer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Researchers have identified nearly 200 chemicals linked to breast cancer in food packaging materials and plastic tableware, with many capable of migrating into the human body. In a study published in 'Frontiers in Toxicology', they highlighted the presence of at least 189 potential breast carcinogens, including PFAS, bisphenols, and phthalates, in food contact materials (FCMs). Jane Muncke, study co-author, managing director and chief scientific officer at the Food Packaging Forum, a non-profit foundation based in Zurich, Switzerland said, "There is strong evidence that 76 known or potential breast carcinogens from food contact materials recently purchased all over the world can be found in people." Muncke added, "This study is important because it shows that there is a huge opportunity for prevention of human exposure to breast cancer-causing chemicals. The potential for cancer prevention by reducing hazardous chemicals in your daily life is underexplored and deserves much more attention." For the study, the team compared a recently published list of potential breast carcinogens. They found 189 potential breast carcinogens have been

detected in FCMs, including 143 in plastics and 89 in paper or board. Further, the team limited their study to the most recently available studies in 2020-2022. They also found evidence of exposure to 76 suspected mammary carcinogens from FCMs purchased all over the world, 61 of which (80 per cent) are from plastics. The study found chemicals such as benzene which is a known carcinogen connected to breast cancers in animals and people; 4,4'-Methylenebis(2-Chloroaniline) which is a probable carcinogen linked to bladder cancer; 2,4-Toluenediamine, found to cause breast and other cancers in animals; and 3,3'-Dimethylbenzidine and o-Toluidine, which are dyes used to colour plastic and paper. Despite existing regulations in these countries, intended to limit carcinogenic substances in FCMs, the study highlights gaps in current regulatory frameworks. "Our findings imply that chronic exposure of the entire population to suspected mammary carcinogens from FCMs is the norm and highlights an important, but currently underappreciated, opportunity for prevention." Breast cancer is the second most common cancer worldwide. According to the WHO, around 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer globally. Breast cancer usually affects women, however, there are cases where the disease has affected men as well.



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DCC favours ban on antimicrobial sales to non-pharma industries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With antimicrobial resistance (AMR) becoming a major public health crisis, the Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC), a high level panel of the nation's top health regulatory body, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), has favoured amending the existing rules to prohibit the sale of antimicrobials to non-pharmaceutical industries without the necessary licenses. The suggestions by the DCC aims to ensure that the powerful medications are used responsibly and only under appropriate supervision. At present, the Drugs Rules,

1945, in certain forms, has provisions to exempt selling of drugs to manufacturers of beverages, confectionery biscuits and other non-medical products, where such drugs are required for processing these products. However, in a recent meeting held by the DCC, which considered various proposals on curbing the menace of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), opined that the antibiotics are sold only to the pharma industry. The recommendation came after the Committee was informed that the antimicrobials may also be used in other industries such as food, beverages and other non-medical, non-pharma industries leading to AMR.



This measure can help prevent misuse and overuse of antimicrobials, which are significant contributors to the development of resistant strains of bacteria, said Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Professor at Delhi-based Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS) and President Delhi Society for

Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs (DSPRUD). Seen as a serious and growing threat to public health globally, the AMR has been highlighted as a global health priority at a recent G-20 meeting under the Indian Presidency too. The G-20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration states, "Implement and prioritise tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) following the One Health approach, including through research and development, infection prevention and control, as well as antimicrobial stewardship efforts within respective national action plans through AMR and antimicrobial consumption surveillance".

NREGA workers urge PM to resume West Bengal funding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 5,000 NREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005) workers from across the country have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the immediate resumption of NREGA work in West Bengal to ensure the livelihood of the State workers. The move follows after the Central Government halted NREGA funding for West Bengal in December 2021, invoking Section 27 of the Act, leading to a complete freeze on NREGA projects and leaving workers without their wages for nearly three years. Besides writing to the Prime Minister, under the platform of NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, the workers also contributed one rupee each toward the NREGA budget for West Bengal. Workers from Bihar Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan, Jan Vikas Shakti Sangathan, Pravasi Mazdoor Sangathan, Uttar Pradesh Sangitan Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan, Jharkhand Khadya Suraksha Jan Adhikar Manch, Chhattisgarh Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan, Gujarat Anna Suraksha Adhikar Abhiyan, Andhra Pradesh Ambedkarjame Punadi and Telangana Dalit Bahujan Front are some of the organizations who have joined hands for the cause.

Bengal urges SC to hear OBC case early

Defiant Adhir to continue fight against Mamata Banerjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



The Bengal Government has urged the Supreme Court to urgently hear the pending petition filed by the State challenging a Calcutta High Court order quashing Other Backward Class (OBC) status earlier granted by the State to more than 75 castes.

Appearing for the State of Bengal senior advocate Kapil Sibal said that pending a verdict from the Apex Court the State Government was unable to issue caste certificates to the target population.

The stoppage in issuance of caste certificates was depriving the people to get their caste benefits including admission to medical courses, the State Government advocate said. The Supreme Court had

earlier directed the State to furnish a quantifiable data on social and economic backwardness of the castes it had included in the OBC list and "on their inadequate representation in the public sector jobs." Incidentally a majority of the castes thus

West Bengal granted since 2010, holding as illegal the reservation for them in public sector jobs and state-run educational institutions. Incidentally the Left Front Government was in power when the New list of OBC was mooted.

The Calcutta High Court had earlier thrown out orders passed by the Bengal Government between March 2010 and May 2012 by which 77 communities (classes), 75 of which were Muslims, were given reservation under the OBC category.

While passing the order the Division Bench of Justices Tapabrata Chakraborty and Rajasekhar Mantha held that the religion had been the "sole" basis for the State to provide reservation. Such measures, based solely religious basis, were prohibited by the

Constitution the High Court had said.

Reacting to the issue the Bengal BJP leaders said that the orders listing new groups of OBC passed the Mamata Banerjee was "entirely aimed at polarizing the minority votes." State party leader Dilip Ghosh said that "as Mamata Banerjee has understood that her popularity is going down among the minorities even ... she is trying to lure them with such communal acts ... she needs this order implemented before the 2026 Assembly elections ... but this will make her more unpopular among the rest of the population."

The Left however would not comment with CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty saying that they would wait for the Supreme Court verdict to come out.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Refusing to pay much heed to the "moderate" statement made by new Bengal Pradesh Congress president Subhankar Sarkar towards the Trinamool Congress, former PCC president Adhir Chowdhury on Tuesday said that his fight against the "corrupt" regime would continue as before.

"Private statements are immaterial ... I will continue to hit the streets challenging this corrupt Government," Chowdhury a five-time MP from Behrampur before he lost out to a new comer and former India cricketer Yusuf Pathan in this year's parliamentary elections said. Earlier Sarkar known for his moderate feelings for Mamata Banerjee's TMC, had said soon after becoming the State party president that he would have no problem in

supporting the powers that be if they functioned democratically.

"The Congress is clear about its secular democratic values ... we have nothing personal against the Trinamool Congress ... if we see that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is working towards restoring the democratic culture in the State then we will have no reason to be unnecessarily combative," Sarkar had said soon after assuming charge.

When asked to comment on his remarks, Chowdhury said

people were free to enjoy their personal views iterating, "I will continue my protests against this corrupt government as earlier ... besides there has been no information coming from the national leadership to suspend the movement against this Government which means the policy of the State party remains unchanged," vis a vis the TMC.

The Pradesh Congress which holds Mamata Banerjee responsible for its weakened condition in the State had under Chowdhury declared an all out war against the TMC since 2016 when for the first time it struck an alliance with the Left Front.

Subsequently the party has been fighting the TMC on all the issues from Sharada, Narada, school level recruitment scam to RG Kar rape and murder case.

Congress roots for removal of Rashmi Shukla as DGP to ensure fair Assembly polls

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Upping the ante over the extension in service given to Rashmi Shukla after her retirement as the State Director General of Police (DGP), the Maharashtra Congress on Tuesday wrote to the Election Commission of India (ECI) demanding her immediate removal from the post to ensure a "free, fair and transparent" Maharashtra Assembly polls.

In a letter shot off to the Chief Election Commissioner of the ECI in the run-up to the Maharashtra Assembly polls to be held in November this year, State Congress President Nana Patole flagged the issue of continuance of Rashmi Shukla, a 1988 batch IPS officer, as the State DGP, with the additional charge of Director General in charge of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

"Rashmi Shukla was due to retire on June 30 2024, upon reaching the age of superannuation.... However, she has been illegally granted

an extension until January 2026, in a direct violation of the Maharashtra Police Act, which stipulates that the DGP of the state shall have a term of two years or until their retirement, whichever is earlier," Patole said.

"In addition to this unlawful extension, Smt. Rashmi Shukla has a history of engaging in illegal activities that raise serious concerns about her impartiality and ability to perform her duties with integrity.

She has been involved in the illegal tapping of opposition leaders' phones without proper authorization, misleading competent authorities in the process," Patole alleged.

"Despite several cases being registered against her, these cases were shelved following the change of government in Maharashtra, with the BJP coming into power. During her tenure as DGP, she has actively misused her position to harass and threaten opposition leaders, often generating false inquiries and

registering baseless cases against them. She has acted as a political campaigner for the BJP, compromising the integrity and non-partisan nature of her role as a senior police officer," Patole alleged.

"Given the instances of her alleged political bias, misuse of government machinery, and illegal activities, it is impossible to ensure a fair and impartial environment for the upcoming elections in Maharashtra while Rashmi Shukla continues to hold power over the state police....er removal is crucial to safeguard the democratic process and ensure that the forthcoming elections are conducted in a fair, free, and transparent manner," Patole said.

It may be recalled that Rashmi Shukla had come under rough weather during the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government over the alleged tapping of Opposition leaders' phones during the Devendra Fadnavis-led government between 2014 and 2019.

Maharashtra orders CID probe into Badlapur sexual assault accused's death

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after the key accused in the sensational Badlapur child sexual assault case Akshay Shinde was shot dead in an "encounter" by an escorting police team, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) rooted for a court-monitored investigation or an inquiry by a retired high court judge into the questionable circumstances leading to the death of the accused.

Shell shocked by the manner in which 23-year-old Shinde came to be shot dead in a "retaliatory firing" by a policeman while he was taken from Badlapur to Thane in a van for investigation in another case on Monday evening, his parents Anna and Alka alleged there was a conspiracy behind the death of their son.

"This is a contract killing by the police. How can there be an encounter inside a police van? The government must take strong action against the perpetrators who killed our son," Alka Shinde asked.

The death of the Badlapur

nursery school sexual assault accused has, meanwhile, snowballed into a political controversy with the leaders of the entire Opposition MVA, including NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, former State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, his party leaders Aaditya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut, MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, State Congress President Nana Patole and leaders of three constituent parties questioning the version put out by the police and the Maharashtra government on the circumstances leading to the "encounter death" of Akshay Shinde.

The MVA leaders demanded an "impartial" investigation by a retired or sitting high court judge into the death or a court-monitored probe or a CBI probe into the "suspicious" circumstances in which the accused in which the key accused in Badlapur sexual assault case came to be killed.

Meanwhile, the State state Crime Investigation Department (CID) has taken

over the probe into the 'encounter killing' of Akshay Shinde.

Pawar questioned the laxity and lack of precautions on the part of the State home department in transporting the main accused in such a sensitive case in which two minor girls were allegedly abused in a Badlapur kindergarten school. "It seems the government has become weak....The government should such steps that would deter miscreants in indulging in such a reprehensible act"

Maharashtra Congress President Nana Patole demanded to know "if the encounter with the accused was done by the police as part of a high-level effort to suppress the whole matter?"

"An inquiry should be conducted through the present judges of the High Court to reveal the truth of this matter," he said.

It may be recalled that two nursery girls - aged four and six years -- were sexually abused allegedly by sweeper Shinde when they in the washroom of the

kindergarten school run by Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha (AVPS) on August 13 for using the toilet there. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Thane police that investigated the case has filed a charge-sheet in the case before the special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act court in Kalyan.

Wondering as to where did the 23-year-old sweeper learn how to use a firearm, Sanjay Raut said: "We have been told that Akshay Shinde fired at the police? When the police escort him, his hands are supposed to be tied and his face covered. So, what precisely happened?"

Who are Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis trying to protect? Maharashtra must know the truth."

Demanding to know as to why the trustees of the school where the incident took place had not been arrested yet, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray asked, "Why are the trustees of the school being protected by the

BJP-Shinde regime? Will the cases against the citizens who protested be taken back? They were treated like gangsters. They simply were protesting against the refusal of the police to file a complaint from the victim for a week? Who are the police protecting?"

Dubbing the encounter drama as "a story written, sponsored and executed by the state government", Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said: "The accused is dead. The other co-accused who were school Trustees and BJP workers are on the run. Such a textbook case of shoot-and-scoot tactics applied an incompetent government. Coming soon: Nobody sexually assaulted the minor girls, a story written, sponsored and executed by the state government"

Rubbishing the police version, NCP (SP) MLA Dr Jitendra Awhad asked: "How can a handcuffed accused snatch the revolver of a policeman and fire at him when five more policemen are around?," he said.

BJP rebel Naveen Goyal to contest as independent candidate from Gurgaon

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURGAON

BJP rebel Naveen Goyal is contesting as an Independent candidate from the Gurgaon assembly constituency.

His entry into the scene has complicated the field for BJP candidate Mukesh Sharma.

Political experts said Goyal is contesting the election in a very planned manner. Also, the induction of former BJP local leaders will help him to boost his election and woo voters.

In the past three days, three former BJP leaders, including Sumer Tanwar,

Seema Pahuja and Anuradha Sharma, have given their support to Naveen Goel.

Sumer Tanwar represents the reserve community and was denied a ticket from the Pataudi assembly constituency. Seema Pahuja a Punjabi and former councillor was also denied a ticket from the Gurgaon seat.

Anuradha Sharma was also a senior BJP leader and a former district president. However she is associated with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), but surprisingly, she is not supporting the party's candidate, Dr. Nishant Anand, but an independent candidate.

On Tuesday, Anuradha Sharma, in a press meeting, accused the BJP government and said the BJP, despite being in power for the last 10 years, failed to address Gurgaon's civic issues.

Meanwhile, Goyal played an important role in establishing political dominance in the Gurgaon constituency as a ticket aspirant but failed to secure his ticket.

The political analysts said BJP would be intensified because the Gurgaon constituency has a considerable Punjabi and Vaishya population. It has nearly 80,000 Punjabis and



over 50,000 Vaishya voters. Apart from this, there are about 15,000 to 20,000 Scheduled Caste (SC) voters. However, the main contest is between BJP candidate Mukesh Sharma, Congress candidate Mohit Grover and Independent candidate Naveen Goyal, which made the contest triangular.

While campaigning in Gurgaon, Goyal appealed to the voters to vote for him and ensure that if the voters need development in their region, they must cast their vote in his favour.

When asked about contesting the election despite losing ticket, Goyal

said, "I will not give up until I succeed. I have done multiple social work, especially in health services, while opening Aarogya Daam (a health facility) to common people and providing job opportunities to unemployed youths via my foundation.

I want to carry forward my work for the people of Gurgaon."

He also asserted that apart from Vaishya and Punjabi he is confident of getting the vote of other castes and religions as well.

A resident of Gurgaon, Rohan Khurana, said, "Our sympathy is there with

Naveen Goel as he is popular for his social work and a helping man. He is working and campaigning in 15 to 20 places every day. I don't know whether he will win or not, but one thing is sure he will get good numbers of votes.

Gurgaon district represents four Assembly segments — Gurgaon, Badshahpur, Sohna and Pataudi. Except for Badshahpur, which was won by an Independent candidate in the 2019 assembly elections, three Assembly seats are occupied by the BJP. Gurgaon will go to polls in a single phase on October 5.

SC slams NCPCR over plea seeking SIT probe against Missionaries of Charity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday told NCPCR not to drag the apex court in its agenda over a plea seeking an SIT probe into cases of children allegedly sold by shelter homes in Jharkhand of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa. Slamming the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh dismissed the plea filed by the child rights body. It said the relief sought is vague and omnibus, and it cannot be considered.

"Don't drag the Supreme Court into your agenda. What kind of relief is sought in your petition? How can we pass such directions? The petition is totally misconstrued," the bench told the lawyer appearing for the NCPCR. At the outset, the lawyer appearing for the NCPCR submitted that the plea has direction for an apex court-monitored time-bound investigation of all such organisations in



Jharkhand to ensure protection of children.

The top court said the NCPCR was empowered to conduct enquiry and take action in accordance with law under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. The bench refused to entertain the petition and dismissed the plea. The NCPCR in its plea filed in 2020 had sought enforcement of fundamental rights of prohibition of trafficking in human beings guaranteed under Article 23 of the Constitution.

The agency had said discrepancies have been found in children's homes in

various states and it has added them as parties in its plea. The plea had cited cases of child rights violation in Jharkhand and said the authorities in the state have adopted a callous approach to protect minors. "During course of inquiry by petitioner (NCPCR), shocking revelations were made by the victims which included the factum that the children were being sold in the children homes. These facts were emphatically brought to the notice of the State Government (Jharkhand) but continuous attempts were made to sabotage and derail the inquiry," the plea said.

Railway administration on alert for potential train sabotage bids: Vaishnav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAIPUR

Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Tuesday said the railway administration is on alert for potential train sabotage bids and is holding talks with authorities and police in several states to prevent any untoward incident.

The central government treats security threats with utmost seriousness and strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to sabotage trains, the railway minister told reporters at the Jaipur airport. "This is our commitment," he added.

Vaishnav arrived here on Tuesday to inspect a Kavach-fitted train to check the efficiency of the automatic train protection system at Sawai Madhopur. "There is dialogue going on with state governments, DGPs and home secretaries. The NIA is also involved. Strict action will be taken against anyone who tries to cause such an accident. This is our resolve," he told the media.

He also said the entire railway administration in divisions and zones was



working with vigilance with the Railway Protection Force and local state police across the country. After reaching Jaipur, the railway minister called on Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and then interacted with BJP workers at Bhatia Bhawan in Rajapark area of the city. Later, he reached Gandhi Nagar railway station to inspect roof plaza constructed at the Gandhi Nagar railway station in Jaipur. He took a round of the plaza with a team of the railway officials and engineers and inspected the construction work.

He commended the team for the work. Talking to media, Vaishnav said the plaza will connect two sides of the city. He said the Gandhi Nagar

railway station's plaza was one of the first such projects in the country.

The minister is scheduled to board the Kavach-fitted engine of a train at the Sawai Madhopur railway station and travel for 45 minutes up to the Indargarh station.

The Kavach system, also known as an Automatic Train Protection System (ATP), has been developed by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation, and it can apply brakes automatically in an emergency when a train driver fails to act in time.

The railway ministry has been working on this project for the last eight years to bring the rail network under the Kavach system in a phased manner.

Old woman forced to crawl nearly 2 km to collect pension in Odisha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESHWAR

A 70-year-old woman in Odisha's Keonjhar district was forced to crawl nearly two kilometres from her home to the panchayat office to collect her old-age pension. The ailing woman identified as Pathuri Dehury, a resident of Raisuwan gram panchayat, cannot walk. A video of Dehury crawling on a village road has gone viral on social media.

Raisuwan gram panchayat sarpanch Bagun Champia said that he drew the attention of the administration after watching the old woman crawling on the road on television news and seeing her pictures in newspapers.

"I have also verified from the villagers that the woman is not able to walk properly due to her age-related ailment," the Sarpanch said.

Though the state government had earlier issued a directive to officials to deliver the pension of elderly and disabled beneficiaries at their doorstep, Dehury said a panchayat official had asked her to visit the office to collect the monthly pension. The

woman is 70 years old and had no other alternative to reach there, according to villagers.

The gram panchayat concerned is under Telkoi block in Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's home district Keonjhar. Telkoi block development officer (BDO) Geeta Murmu told PTI that the old-age pension was earlier sent to Dehury's bank account.

However, as she became ill and expressed her inability to visit the bank, the local administration has started disbursing the pension by hand, she said.

Now, the panchayat extension officer was asked to disburse the old-age pension to Dehury at her home each month. A wheelchair has also been provided to her, the BDO said. Raisuwan sarpanch said the civil supply assistant will provide rations to Dehury at her doorstep.

The state government provides pension to 42 lakh elderly people under schemes like Madhu Babu Pension Yojana and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A call for peace and reform

PM Modi's UNGA address, following the UN's adoption of a 'Pact for the Future,' underscores India's commitment to peace

In a powerful address at the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised the urgent need for global peace and called for comprehensive reforms in top international bodies. Speaking at the "Summit of the Future" held at the UN headquarters in New York, Modi stated, "reform is the key to relevance." His message resonated deeply amidst the complex global landscape marked by emerging conflicts and ongoing challenges. PM Modi articulated that the true success of humanity lies in collective strength, advocating for unity rather than conflict. He declared, "for world peace and development, reform is essential for global organisations." He was clearly hinting at the need for revamping the United Nations itself. This call for reform is particularly poignant given the multitude of challenges facing the international community today, ranging from terrorism to new fields of conflict such as cyber threats, maritime disputes, and space exploration. Modi stressed



that "global action must match global ambition," highlighting the need for coordinated efforts to tackle these pressing issues. His message of peace comes on the heels of the UN General Assembly's adoption of a "Pact for the Future," designed to address the challenges of the 21st century, including climate change, human rights, and conflict. This pact, however, was met with resistance from seven nations, led by Russia, which is currently embroiled in armed conflict with Ukraine. Russia's representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the agreement, arguing that it failed to adequately include diverse perspectives and stifled negotiations. Dmitry Polyansky, Russia's First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN criticised the pact, stating, "The United Nations had infringed upon its own principles to pander to a group of delegations from the 'beautiful garden,' who have usurped the talks from the very beginning." This remark underscores the ongoing geopolitical tensions that challenge global unity. Despite these challenges, PM Modi's address at the UN showcases India's increasing influence on the world stage. By advocating for reforms and prioritising global peace, India positions itself as a key player in international diplomacy. Modi's leadership not only reflects India's aspirations for a more equitable global order but also underscores its commitment to addressing contemporary challenges through collaboration and dialogue. As the world faces an array of complex issues, Modi's vision of reform and peace serves as a crucial reminder that the path forward must be paved with collective action, mutual respect, and a commitment to the principles of democracy and justice. In this pivotal moment, India stands ready to lead and contribute to a more stable and harmonious global community. India has also gained prominence as a peace maker and could emerge as a major negotiator in world arena.

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PICTALK



A farmer winnows paddy grains during procurement season, at a grain market in Amritsar

The pursuit of peace in tumultuous times



RAJDEEP PATHAK

The UN General Assembly adopted the "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace," 25 years ago; it is a poignant reminder of the importance of nonviolence and justice

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the 79th UN General Assembly Session on September 23, 2024, reiterated the idea of adopting human-centric development for enhancing sustainability. Addressing the members at the "Summit of the Future", the Prime Minister emphasized the need for global reforms to foster peace, development, and collective progress. He underscored that humanity's success lies not in conflict but in harnessing collective strength. The meeting of the 79th UN General Assembly - immediately after the commencement of the International Day of Peace - which the world observed on September 21, is again a reminder of the power - and necessity - of nonviolence, dialogue, and reconciliation. In a world grappling with various forms of violence, the call for peace demands a concerted effort.



The very recent chilling incident of an annihilation attempt in Lebanon has thrust a long-forgotten technology back into the spotlight: the pager. On September 17, 2024, a coordinated attack sent shockwaves through the region when hundreds of pagers, used by Hezbollah members and medics, exploded simultaneously. The devastating blasts claimed the lives of at least nine people and left nearly 3,000 badly injured. While the political ramifications are immense, the sheer audacity and sophistication of this attack are terrifying. The hijacking of a seemingly obsolete technology for such lethal precision raises haunting questions about modern warfare and its evolving, invisible threats vis-à-vis the effort of reconciliation amidst unending turmoil such as these. In this direction, Mahatma Gandhi's vision of peace stands as a beacon of hope. He believed that true peace is not merely the absence of war, but a dynamic force rooted in justice, truth, and nonviolence. To Gandhi, peace was a way of life, achieved through self-discipline, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of all. Gandhi's thought process emphasised that lasting peace could only be built on the foundations of truth and ahimsa (nonviolence), where individual and collective actions are guided by compassion, respect, and cooperation. His concept of Sarvodaya - the upliftment of all - called for each person to contribute to the common good, recognising that peace could not thrive in isolation but required the well-being of every individual. Inspired by Gandhi's legacy, we are reminded that the path to sustaining this delicate, yet priceless state, lies in our hands. As the political scientist "Johan Galtung", known as the founder of peace and conflict studies puts it, "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means." Galtung went ahead to underscore the importance of dialogue, empathy, and the peaceful settlement of disputes - (vital principles) - in a world grappling with rising geopolitical tensions, internal conflicts, and growing polarisation. In his seminal work, "Terror in the Mind of God," historian and American Sociologist, "Mark Juergensmeyer" argues that acts of terror are often root-

ed in a perceived cosmic war between good and evil. He emphasises that "The ultimate goal of peace cannot be achieved by military means alone but through addressing the underlying causes of violence, such as political exclusion, economic disparities, and social injustice." This reflects the need for a broader strategy incorporating dialogue, economic cooperation, and cultural understanding. Gandhi's Satyagraha - The Ingredient for Peace - Long before September 11 became a symbol of destruction, it marked the birth of a powerful, but peaceful revolutionary force. On September 11, 1906, in Johannesburg, Mahatma Gandhi launched his first "Satyagraha" campaign, rooted in truth (Satya), nonviolence (Ahimsa), and moral courage. As Nelson Mandela once said, Gandhi's philosophy "contributed in no small measure" to transforming not just South Africa but the entire world. Judith Brown, in his book "Gandhi: Prisoner of Hope", calls Satyagraha a "moral experiment", where conflict was resolved ethically, not violently. This approach shaped India's independence. Peace as the Only Panacea in a divided world where conflicts grow more complex and risk esca-



GANDHI'S THOUGHT PROCESS EMPHASISED THAT LASTING PEACE COULD ONLY BE BUILT ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF TRUTH AND AHIMSA (NONVIOLENCE), WHERE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACTIONS ARE GUIDED BY COMPASSION, RESPECT, AND COOPERATION

lation, it is crucial to return to the principles of peace and nonviolence. Political Scientist Michael Howard reminds us that "Peace cannot be imposed from above; it must be constructed from below," through trust, education, and dialogue - values central to the UN's Declaration on a 'Culture of Peace.' As we also approach the International Day of Nonviolence on October 2, (Gandhi's birth anniversary), we must heed the lessons of war. At this crossroads, we must choose: to continue on the path of division or embrace the dialogue, compassion, and justice championed by Gandhi, Mandela, Bhabe, King, and many other silent crusaders of peace. The benefits of a peaceful world are profound, fostering stability, prosperity, and the overall well-being of humankind. Peacemakers, perse, remind us that peace is more than the mere absence of war; it requires the continuous pursuit of justice, collaboration, and respect. British historian A.J.P. Taylor had succinctly put it, "War is a failure of diplomacy and peace". It is time for collective - and renewed effort.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SRI LANKA TAKES LEFT TURN

Madam - Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55, has become a symbol of political transformation in Sri Lanka, rising from a humble rural background to claim the country's presidency in a groundbreaking election. Anura secured 42.31 per cent of the vote, while Sajith Premadasa followed with 32.71 per cent, and the incumbent President, Ranil Wickremesinghe, garnered just 17.27 per cent. Anura's early life was marked by his deep connection to the struggles of Sri Lanka's rural heartland. Unlike many other dynastic or aristocratic leaders rooted in majority Sinhala Buddhist politics, it was not academia or racial-ethnic identity that shaped his future. While in university in the early 1990s, his growing political activism drew him to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a left-wing Marxist-Leninist party that was characterised by armed uprisings in 1971 and 1987-89 and represented the oppressed Sinhalese rural youth. The violent insurrections led by the JVP were fuelled by a hard-line Marxist ideology aimed at overthrowing the existing political and economic systems, which they viewed as exploitative and feudalistic. Thus we could witness Lanka taking a left turn and moving fast for a new era in island politics.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

PROTECTING KIDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Madam - Apropos to "Social media age limit: Will banning children be enough?" published on September 23, here is my response. This is a critical debate and we should not be surprised if this reaches Indian shores from Australia soon. Every technological innovation has its own pluses and minuses. Banning it completely may sound a drastic move, but what is needed is more comprehensive discussions around it in the current context where children are more exposed to social media and in turn more vulner-

Challenges faced by LGBTQ+ community



LGBTQ+ people face so many challenges and experience a lot of discrimination in employment, healthcare, as well as in their personal lives. They are bullied and harassed

at work places also. Violence against the LGBTQ+ community is a serious matter. One should not face any kind of discrimination based on their gender identity and sexual orientation. It's just that they are genetically designed this way. But some are killed simply because of who they are. In the normal course of life, they often face social stigma, leading to depression and anxiety, which directly affects their mental health. LGBTQ+ people find it difficult to create a supportive community. They also find it very difficult to manage family relationships. They often face loneliness and complete isolation from society. We should stand together and provide them support and cooperation, listen to them, and accept them for who they are by showing our care. Only this way they will be able to get fit and comfortable in our society.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

able also from an early age. Certain age restrictions, limit usage zones, setting clear expectations are a good beginning but along with it what can really make a difference is how we as parents are able to motivate our children to take part in outdoor physical activities and have more offline interactions so that their overall lifestyle balances out and it helps in their overall mental development as well. Family, society and school all will have to play their role here to ensure children are not becoming prisoners of social media.

Bal Govind | Noida

COURT QUESTIONS BULLDOZER ACTIONS

Madam - Many houses were demolished by bulldozers in Uttar Pradesh to punish some accused before the completion of the trial. This has continuously bulldozed the line of separation of power between the executive and the judiciary. The executive cannot act like the cur called Fury in the nonsense trial as depicted in the book, 'Alice in Wonderland', and say to a convict, "Let us both go to law: I will prese-

cute you. Come, I'll take no denial: we must have a trial." It will be ludicrous to buy the logic of the cur called Fury. How can "I'll take no denial" of an accused and "We must have a trial" exist simultaneously? After many houses were bulldozed, the Supreme Court, at last, on September 2, questioned the bulldozing of homes and private properties of persons accused of crimes. Justice B.R. Gavai asked, "How can anybody's home be demolished because he is an accused in a case?... Can it happen even if a person is a convict?" Indeed, the executive cannot add more punishment to what was given by the judiciary for a convict. Should the administration destroy the future of innocent children by destroying their homes if their father is a criminal? Rather, it is the duty of the state to ensure that the innocent family members of a convict may not suffer humiliation and are not forced to accept illegal ways for survival.

Sujit De | Kolkata

The perils of imparting higher education in local languages

While promoting local languages in higher education aims to increase inclusivity, it may also pose challenges to the quality of education

The debate of whether education should be imparted in English or a regional language has been actively rhyming in our post-independent society. It's true that as a nation we have to preserve our rich culture and tradition, but at the same time, we need to equip our present generation to take up the challenges in the future, like space age and AI. During colonisation, English was forced on us to make the jobs of foreigners easy. In that process the foreign rulers who ruled our land even learned native languages, sometimes better than native Indians, to understand our rich scientific knowledge. Because of this, they were able to produce scholarly works about Indian Knowledge Systems better than native Indians. This has also helped the world recognise Indian Knowledge in the long run. On the flip side, the dominance of English has badly affected the status of many native languages. The British educational reforms prioritized English-medium instruction, particularly at the higher levels. This led to a situation where proficiency



in English became synonymous with access to power, jobs, and social mobility. Many educated Indians, especially in urban areas, began to adopt English as their primary language, sidelining regional languages. This created a linguistic divide between the English-educated elite and the native-language speaking masses. The historic NEP 2020 envisioned reorienting our attention to regional languages in the education system. Unfortunately, its focus on nurturing local language in science and technology education has become problematic because of hyper activism. Many states are involved in the translation of science, engineering and medicine textbooks into regional languages. Though these will serve as a valuable document to preserve our languages, they

won't help in improving the quality of higher education. Even before NEP, in many state universities, there was a provision to write science in their regional languages. But there were few takers for that. Even today when we make propaganda to promote regional languages, it's not implemented uniformly. All these policy changes, good or bad, will affect only students studying in public sector institutions. Unfortunately, none of the children of our government servants politicians' or even activists study in these public sector educational institutions, so they are not concerned about whether it will improve quality or not. So all this language love is 'only for others, not for me'. This culture is again creating a linguistic divide in our society, which the British did to us long before. Whether we like it or not, English is the only language that acts as a bridge connecting various sections of our country. And in higher education, especially in science and technology courses where information is gathered from the knowledge generated in other coun-

tries, it has become the only language of that can connect us with the global knowledge hub. How can we generate good engineers or scientists if they are not competent to understand English? Will be there any takers for an engineering or science course if offered in a regional language? How will our future youngsters survive in an AI dominated digital world where English is the lingua franca for the global workforce? How will they survive in a space colony? English is undeniably the global language of science, technology, and research. Most cutting-edge scientific papers, engineering manuals, and international patents are published in English. Though a bilingual mode of education can be adapted to teach complex scientific facts, totally neglecting English from our higher education will be a death trap for our science and technology. Unnecessary language chauvinism will erode the quality of higher education. (The author is the Academic affairs, Garden City University and adjunct faculty at NIAS, Bangalore, views are personal)



BIJU DHARAMAPALAN



FIRST COLUMN

KILL BOREDOM BY WORKING FOR THE SOCIETY

Engaging in meaningful social work can kill boredom and give immense joy



SHAINY SHARMA

Boredom is a common experience that many individuals face, often leading to restlessness, unproductiveness and a lack of motivation. While there are various ways to combat boredom, one highly effective and fulfilling method is engaging in community service. Volunteering within the community may not only help alleviate boredom but also provide a wealth of personal and societal benefits.

By promoting meaningful engagement, fostering social connections and offering opportunities to learn and grow, community service plays a crucial role in keeping individuals engaged and fulfilled. There is no denying the fact that community service gives people a sense of purpose, as they contribute to something meaningful. When an individual helps others, it keeps their mind engaged and focused on productive tasks. It introduces them to variety in their routine, allowing them to break away from repetitive or mundane activities that often lead to boredom. 'Boredom'—a term that often stems from feeling aimless or lacking direction, but when people dedicate their time to helping others, they find themselves contributing to a cause larger than their routine.

Whether it is volunteering at a local shelter, participating in a neighbourhood cleanup or organising charitable events, community service gives individuals a meaningful reason to stay active. This sense of purpose not only fills time constructively but also leads to personal satisfaction, as individuals witness the tangible positive impact they are making in their communities. One of the most significant rewards of community service is the realisation that individuals are contributing to the greater good of society. Community service reverses this by showing volunteers the immediate impact of their actions.



Whether it's reducing hunger, improving local infrastructure or supporting vulnerable populations, every hour spent in community service makes a meaningful difference. This contribution gives volunteers a deep sense of fulfillment and pride in knowing that they are part of something bigger than themselves. By actively participating in the betterment of their community, individuals cultivate a sense of responsibility and connection to their surroundings, making it far less likely that they will feel bored or disengaged.

Community service has proved to be a powerful antidote to boredom. It engages individuals in meaningful work, fosters social connections, provides opportunities to learn new skills and allows for both mental as well as physical engagement. The sense of purpose and fulfillment that comes from helping others replaces the emptiness of boredom with productivity and satisfaction. Additionally, the positive impact that volunteers have on their communities contributes to a stronger and more connected society. Engagement in community service provides not only the older generation but also the young generation with purposeful activities that not only combat boredom but also offer personal growth, social connections and skill development.

It exposes young people to experiences they may not have encountered otherwise. Whether it's volunteering abroad, helping in different sectors such as health, education, and environment or interacting with diverse communities, these experiences add excitement and variety to their lives. Volunteering also introduces young people to new social circles, helping them meet like-minded individuals who share their passion for helping others. This interaction can reduce feelings of isolation, which is a common cause of boredom, especially for those who may not have a wide social network or stimulating environments. It will even help young people to grow personally by stepping outside their comfort zones and taking on new challenges. As they contribute to various projects and initiatives, they will build self-confidence and resilience, knowing they can make a tangible difference in the world.

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)

Rising suicides among Indian students in Canada



SURJIT SINGH FLORIA

With recent changes in immigration policies and the mounting pressures of living abroad, an alarming number of Indian students are turning to suicide



Every year, countless international students arrive in Canada on study visas, hopeful of building a better future. However, many soon discover that the reality here is far from what they had envisioned. Tragically, this has led some to take their own lives.

At the same time, thousands of international students and workers in Canada, especially from India, are growing frustrated with recent changes to federal immigration policies. Many live under the constant threat of deportation. Protests and demonstrations, led by students carrying placards with their demands, have been organised in cities like Brampton and Vancouver to voice their grievances against the Canadian government.

While various communities have attempted to address this crisis by calling for proactive measures, the growing number of suicides is alarming. The grief, pain, and despair experienced by these individuals have not been adequately acknowledged, with many opting for suicide—a deeply troubling and heartbreaking trend.

In recent years, suicide rates have surged across Canada, cutting across age, gender, and social classes. What was once a taboo subject has now become a national crisis, exposing significant systemic failures. Despite efforts to build a stronger mental health infrastructure, the rising suicide rates highlight the need for urgent action.

To the people of Punjab, I must deliver a hard truth: Canada is not the land of opportunity it once was. Many are struggling with serious challenges. For now, it might be wise to reconsider your dreams of settling here.

According to Statistics Canada, the country experiences around 4,500 suicides annually. While we have data dif-



THOUSANDS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND WORKERS IN CANADA, ESPECIALLY FROM INDIA, ARE GROWING FRUSTRATED WITH RECENT CHANGES TO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICIES. MANY LIVE UNDER THE CONSTANT THREAT OF DEPORTATION

ferentiating between age and gender groups, there is still a lack of comprehensive understanding of the diverse experiences that drive these tragic decisions. In 2023, British Columbia reported 639 suicides—roughly 12 deaths per 100,000 people. This alarming figure has remained steady since 2016, with peaks in suicide deaths occurring in January, May, and August.

Behind these statistics lie stories of hopelessness and isolation. Unemployment, financial pressures, family breakdowns, and untreated or undiagnosed mental health issues push many to the brink. Over the past decade, Canada's socio-economic landscape has shifted drastically, contributing to these challenges. Rapid urbanisation, job losses, inflation, and the pressure to succeed have increased the mental strain on individuals, particularly foreign students. The government's focus on foreign relations, often at the expense of domestic welfare, has only made life harder for many.

Foreign students, in particular, are bearing the brunt of Canada's economic hardships, struggling with high living costs and loneliness. Without adequate financial support or mental health resources, many find themselves in despair.

The traditional social support systems that once offered emotional and financial stability have eroded, leaving many to navigate their struggles alone. A lack of mental health services further compounds the problem, with access to psychologists, therapists,

and counsellors remaining a privilege in many parts of the country. The stigma surrounding mental illness forces many to suffer in silence.

The role of technology, particularly social media, in this crisis cannot be ignored. While it serves as a vital communication tool, it has also become a breeding ground for cyberbullying and toxic comparisons. This environment, combined with societal pressures, has contributed to rising depression rates among the youth, some of whom tragically resort to suicide.

Canada urgently needs to reevaluate its mental health policies and increase funding for mental health services. The current Mental Health Bill must be accompanied by a clear implementation plan to make therapy affordable and accessible, especially for vulnerable groups. Unfortunately, the Trudeau government is facing political instability, with the departure of NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, leaving the government in a precarious position. As a result, it's hard to expect meaningful action from them in the near future.

In the meantime, grassroots efforts to raise awareness and remove the stigma surrounding mental health are crucial. Communities need to create safe spaces where individuals feel comfortable seeking help without fear of judgment. This will require collaboration between government, civil society, and religious organisations to build support systems that individuals can rely on during crises.

The pressure on young international students—many barely 20 years old—to study, work, and support their families back home is overwhelming, especially in Canada's current economic climate. Parents must understand the immense burden they place on their children. With the same investment, students could thrive in Punjab, completing their education and building fulfilling lives.

This crisis requires a comprehensive response. A study exploring the beliefs of first-generation Canadian Punjabi Sikh parents regarding suicide revealed that factors such as peer relationships, parental pressure, hormonal fluctuations, and mental health issues contribute to suicidal behaviors. The findings highlight the need for better parental involvement and more accessible mental health services.

Finally, addressing the root causes of suicides—financial pressures, lack of job opportunities, and mental health support—is essential. Educational institutions and workplaces must offer proactive mental health services, and the government must establish financial assistance programs to alleviate economic stress.

The rising suicide rate in Canada is a warning to both the Canadian government and the Punjabi community. Immediate action is needed to save the lives of students and others on the brink of despair.

(The author is a veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Canada; views are personal)

Anura Kumara Dissanayake's Victory: A new dawn for Sri Lanka amidst political upheaval

As Sri Lanka embarks on this new chapter, the implications for its ties with India and the broader geopolitical landscape remain critical

On Sunday, September 22, 2024, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, a prominent left-wing leader, won the presidential election in Sri Lanka, securing a victory that signals a significant departure from the country's traditional political establishment and heralds a period of unprecedented transformation. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka officially declared Dissanayake the winner after conducting the nation's first-ever second vote count, which included preference ballots.

"People are voting for change," said Dissanayake, the National People's Power alliance's presidential candidate, who was led by the JVP. "Change" became one of the primary slogans for the 2024



POOJA KAPOOR

presidential election. The election was remarkable in many ways—it was the first since the public uprising in July 2022, which forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa out of office. The election was largely centered around economic issues. Interestingly, the Rajapaksa family, which had dominated Sri Lankan politics for decades, had no influence on the election. Among the 38

candidates, Namal Rajapaksa, son of former President and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, was never considered a serious contender. The main contest was between opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, Dissanayake, and incumbent president Ranil Wickremesinghe, who assumed office after Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country in 2022.

Wickremesinghe campaigned on a platform of continuity, with his primary focus on stabilising the nation's economy following its debt crisis and collapse in 2022. His administration claimed to have restored some financial stability by securing an IMF bailout package, ending fuel rationing, and addressing economic turmoil. However, poorer sections

of the population, who were hardest hit by the economic collapse, saw little benefit from the stability he touted. The core cause of Sri Lanka's economic crisis was excessive borrowing for non-profitable ventures. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the government's insistence on depleting its limited foreign reserves to support the rupee, further crippled the economy. The severe shortage of essentials like fuel, food, cooking gas, and medicine led to mass public outrage. People stood in line for days to access basic necessities. As protests intensified, then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was forced out of power, with demonstrators taking over key government buildings, including the president's residence



and office. Sri Lanka's deep political divisions continue to threaten the country's already fragile legislative framework, making effective governance increasingly difficult. These divisions risk perpetuating delays and inefficiency, potentially leading to a prolonged political deadlock that hinders the nation's progress. Antonio Gramsci's theory of passive

revolution is relevant here, highlighting the danger of significant changes that merely reinforce the existing power structures. Likewise, Hannah Arendt's observation that "The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative the day after the revolution" warns against decisions based purely on emotion rather than logic.

Sri Lanka and India have long been civilisational twins. India has historically maintained a deep interest in Sri Lanka's political landscape. Today, the island nation is one of India's most important regional allies, especially as some of its neighbors struggle with internal conflict or drift further from India's influence. Sri Lanka's proximity to key Indian scientific and security installations,

including nuclear reactors, space research centers, and naval bases in southern India, makes the island strategically vital. India's primary concern has been ensuring that no foreign power, particularly an adversarial one, gains undue influence in Sri Lanka. China's growing presence in Sri Lanka is a major point of contention. Both India and China are vying for a foothold in the country due to its strategic location for trade and military purposes.

India has actively worked to strengthen its ties with Sri Lanka. This is evident in Colombo, where India's Adani Group, with backing from US investments, is leading a multi-million-dollar expansion of the Colombo West International Terminal.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has handed control of Hambantota, a major shipping hub, to China on a 99-year lease due to financial losses. In addition to its strategic interests in the Indian Ocean region, New Delhi is keen to maintain strong relations with Colombo to address the unresolved Tamil question in Sri Lanka.

In India's Vision SAGAR and Neighbourhood First Policy, Sri Lanka occupies a special place. Both countries' ministers can look forward to close collaboration to further develop and strengthen their bilateral relationship.

(The writer is an Associate Professor at the School of Liberal Arts - Bennett University, Greater Noida; views are personal)

Iran's president claims Israel provoking broader Mideast war

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Iran's new president accused Israel on Monday of seeking a wider war in the Middle East and laying "traps" to lead his country into a broader conflict. Masoud Pezeshkian told about two dozen media representatives that Iran doesn't want to see the current war in Gaza and airstrikes across the Israeli-Lebanon border expanded. "We don't want to fight," he said. "It's Israel that wants to drag everyone into war and destabilize the region. ... They are dragging us to a point where we do not wish to go." Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon and reformer, defeated a hard-liner in Iran's July presidential runoff, after the death of the former president in a helicopter crash. He is making his debut on the international stage at this week's annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly, just as Israel steps up attacks on Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

The Iranian leader, who will turn 70 on Sunday, said that while Israel insists it doesn't want a wider war, its actions show otherwise. Pezeshkian pointed to the deadly explosions of pagers, walkie-talkies

and other electronic devices in Lebanon last week, which he blamed on Israel, and the assassination of Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31, hours after Pezeshkian's inauguration. Pezeshkian said the Iranian drone and missile attacks on Israel in April, in response to attack on an Iranian consular building in Syria's capital that Tehran blamed on Israel, proved its defensive capabilities. He said Iran is not seeking to destabilize the Middle East. "We are willing to put all our weapons aside so long as Israel is willing to do the same," he said.

Two weeks ago, the United States and Britain formally accused Iran of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine and announced new sanctions on Moscow and Tehran before a joint visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats. Pezeshkian insisted that Iran has not and will not supply Russia with ballistic missiles to attack Ukraine. "We have never approved of Russia's aggression against Ukrainian territory," he said, adding that the two countries should establish a dialogue. The president was asked about Iran's nuclear programme following the

Trump administration's withdrawal from its 2015 nuclear deal with the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. It has seen Tehran expand its uranium enrichment from 3.67 per cent purity under the deal to 60 per cent purity, making many countries in the West nervous that it is seeking to make a nuclear weapon. Would Iran go back to low-enriched uranium and give up its stockpile of high enriched uranium if the nuclear deal is restored? Pezeshkian said weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran and its military structures. "We are still ready to live up to the same framework" that was agreed on in 2015, he said, but the Europeans tried to get Iran to sign a different accord. He said Iran is willing to sit down with Europeans and Americans to negotiate. Pezeshkian was asked if Iran had advance knowledge of the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel that killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians. "The Americans know, and Israel is very well aware that Iran was not aware," he replied. Israel says it only targets militants and accuses Hamas and other armed groups of endangering civilians by operating in residential

areas. Pezeshkian also accused Israel of committing "genocide" in Gaza by attacking schools, hospitals and homes. He defended Iran's support for the Palestinians and Lebanon's Hezbollah militants, saying his country "will not stand by to oppression and injustice." Israel's nearly year-long retaliation has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants. Pezeshkian responded to America's top intelligence official Avril Haines, who said in July that the Iranian government is covertly encouraging American protests over the war in Gaza in a bid to stoke outrage ahead of the November presidential election. "Please don't believe these things - they're childish," he said. When a reporter asked if Iran would free Narges Mohammadi, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023 for her activism including for women's rights, Pezeshkian said there are four women ministers in his administration. And if the Western media is so concerned about human rights, he asked, "Why are you not screaming about what is going on in Gaza?"

As Israel's fight with Hezbollah heats up, people of Gaza fear being forgotten

Muwasi (AP): As the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah grabs global attention, Palestinians in Gaza wonder: What will become of their plight after nearly a year of devastating war? They are petrified that international concern has been diverted, and that a dark possibility looms: abandonment. The families of Israeli hostages held in Gaza have the same worry. Nezar Zaqout, one of some 1.9 million Palestinians forced to flee their homes since the Israel-Hamas war broke out, said he fears the fighting across the Israel-Lebanon border will overtake interest in the abysmal living conditions in Gaza and efforts to negotiate a cease-fire. "We have become completely forgotten," said Zaqout, who is living in Khan Younis after fleeing from Gaza City months ago. "There is no news about us in the media." Palestinians fret the miserable conditions in Gaza will become



Children play as they take shelter in a school in Beirut, after fleeing the Israeli airstrikes in the southern Tyre district, Tuesday. AP/PTI

camp along Gaza's southern coast. Since Hamas launched the war on October 7, Israel's retaliatory invasion of Gaza has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians and wounded more than 95,000, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between civilians and militants, but says over half of the dead were women and children. Months of intense air and ground assaults have razed entire housing blocks to the ground; researchers who study satellite imagery estimate nearly 60 per cent of buildings in the Gaza Strip have likely been damaged since the start of the war. Israel vowed to destroy Hamas after October 7, when its militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted 250 others. While it has been badly hobbled, the militant group backed by Iran remains in power. Israel's government says about 70 of the 100 hostages are still presumed alive.

IRAN REPORTS ALL MISSING MINERS PRESUMED DEAD, RAISING TOLL TO 49

Tehran (AP): Iran said Tuesday it believes the remaining workers trapped by an explosion at a coal mine in the country's east have died, bringing the death toll in one of its worst industrial disasters to at

least 49. A provincial emergency official, Mohammad Ali Akhondi, gave the death toll in a report carried by Iranian state television from the mine in Tabas. Figures for the numbers of miners

inside the mine at the time have fluctuated since a methane gas leak Saturday sparked an explosion at the coal mine in Tabas, about 540 kilometers (335 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran.

Kamala Harris more popular than Trump among voters: Survey

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Vice President Kamala Harris is viewed more favourably by Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander registered voters than former President Donald Trump, according to a new poll. AAPI voters are also more likely to believe that she is the candidate who better represents their background and policy views. The new survey from AAPI Data and APIAVote finds that around 6 in 10 AAPI voters have a very or somewhat favourable opinion of Harris, while about one-third have a somewhat or very unfavourable view. In comparison, 3 in 10 AAPI voters have a positive view of Trump and around two-thirds view him negatively. That's an increase in favourability for Harris since October 2023, when an AP-NORC/AAPi Data poll found that about half of AAPI adults had a somewhat or very favourable view of her. Opinions of Trump among this group have remained stable. Harris is both Black and South Asian American, and has worked to rally AAPI voters in swing states like Georgia where their numbers are growing. But while the poll indicates that AAPI voters are much more likely to see their own cultural identity reflected in her than



in Trump — about half of AAPI voters say Harris better represents their background and culture, while only about 1 in 10 say this about Trump — it's not clear how much this is influencing their perspectives on the candidates. Only about 3 in 10 AAPI voters say that Harris' Asian Indian identity is extremely or very important to them, although some AAPI Americans may be more connected to her background than others. About 7 in 10 Asian Indian adults see Harris as the candidate who better represents their background and culture, which is higher than AAPI adults overall. Ping Hackl, a 27-year-old Chinese American independent in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is planning to vote for Harris, but not because of the Democratic candidate's race or gender. "I don't really care. She can be anybody," said Hackl. Hackl says she worries about the preservation of democracy and divisiveness that could lead to political violence. Thus, she feels Trump "is very dangerous to the country". In fact, the poll indicates that Harris' gender may be more salient to AAPI voters than her racial background. While the Harris campaign has avoided emphasizing that she could be the first female president, about half of AAPI women voters say her identity as a woman is extremely or very important to them. AAPI women are also more likely than AAPI men to say their own background as Asian or Asian American is at least "very" important to how they think of themselves, and they're also more likely to say this about their identity as a person of colour. And younger AAPI voters, between the ages of 18 and 34, are especially likely to care about Harris' identity as a woman.

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
C-29, Community Centre Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Phone: 911-25611042, 25611043, 25611044
E-mail: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com
Website: www.kangrabank.com

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29 Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 04-07-2024, calling upon the borrower & mortgagor namely **Smt.Vimla Devi, W/o. Sh.Sanjay Pahariya R/o. H.No.102A, Upper Ground Floor, F-Block, K-1 Extn., Gali No.8, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59** also **Smt.Vimla Devi W/o. Sh.Sanjay Pahariya, C/o. M/s. Radhey Krishna Cloth House, 80/138, Gram Sabha, D.K.Road, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059**, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.3,73,076/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Seventy Six Only)**, together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The above mentioned borrower & mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor and the public in general that the Bank has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule (8) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this **23rd** day of **September** 2024.

The borrower & mortgagor, in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of **Rs.3,73,076/-** together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in realizing the said amount.

The borrower & mortgagor attention is also being invited towards provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below mentioned mortgaged property/Secured Asset.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The property under consideration is All the part and parcel of the UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OUT OF PROPERTY NO 102A, LAND AREA 35 SQ.YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO 64/25, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE HASTSAL, DELHI, STATE DELHI UTTAM NAGAR KNOWN AS MOHAN GARDEN, IN BLOCK K-1 EXTN., UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059, WITH COMMON STAIRCASE, FROM GROUND FLOOR TO TOP FLOOR, WITH ONE BIKE PARKING AT PARKING FLOOR, Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar- IIB, Janakpuri, Delhi.

Bounded as under
EAST: PORTION OF PLOT NO.102, WEST: PORTION OF PLOT NO.102, NORTH: ROAD 15FT., SOUTH: PORTION OF PLOT NO.102.

DATED: 23-09-2024
PLACE: DELHI

(HARISH SHARMA)
AUTHORISED OFFICER
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58
PHONE NO.91144547548, 90135648119

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सुचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अंतर्गत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि (1) मेसर्स तिलोदा फ्लेग स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्रीमती संगीता कुम्भकार), ग्राम- तिलोदा, तहसील-गुण्डरदेही, जिला-बालोद, खसरा नं. 330, 331, 332, 334, 363, 367/2, 370, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388 एच 389, लीज परिया - 4. 95 हेक्टेयर, खदान उखनन क्षमता - 3,00,00,00 टन प्रतिवर्ष (2) मेसर्स तिलोदा फ्लेग स्टोन क्वारी (प्रो. श्री ऋषि प्रजापति) ग्राम - तिलोदा, तहसील-गुण्डरदेही, जिला- बालोद, खसरा नं. 291 पाट, 293/2, 293/3, 293/4, 293/5, 294/1, 294/2, 295 पाट, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329/1 एवं 329/2, लीज परिया- 4.92 हेक्टेयर, खदान उखनन क्षमता - 3,00,00,00 टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। एक परियोजनाओं के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजनाओं के लिये संयुक्त लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 28/10/2024 को समय दोपहर: 01:30 बजे, स्थान- ग्राम पंचायत भवन, ग्राम-तिलोदा, तहसील-गुण्डरदेही, जिला- बालोद में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:-

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर 2006 (यथा- संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़, कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, बालोद, जिला- बालोद, मध्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, बालोद, जिला- बालोद, महप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, बालोद, जिला- बालोद, संचयन- सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत तिलोदा तहसील-गुण्डरदेही, जिला- बालोद, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, भिलाई, जिला दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

रायपुर सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to General Public that my clients Mr. Deepak Mohin son of Late Sh. O. P. Mohin and his wife Mrs. Anita Mohin resident of Flat No.3C, Tower 7, Bellevue 7, Sohna Road, Central Park II, Sector 48, Gurugram-122018, have deeded/dismitted/disowned their son Madhur Mohin from all their moveable and immovable properties rights and titles. Public at large is notified that anybody dealing with him shall be doing it at their own cost and risk and my client shall not be held liable for any dealing/transaction hereinafter with them.

Manoj Tewari (Advocate) Ch. No. 133, Patiala House Court New Delhi-110001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT my clients (1) Mr. Munna Lal, S/o Late Ramraj and (2) Mr. Ramesh Kumar, S/o Sh. Munna Lal both partners of STRESS CON TECHNICAL SERVICES and residents of H. No. B-31, Gali No. 13, Khand-B, Shivdurga Vihar, Lakkarpur, Surajkund, Faridabad Haryana are being targeted by some unknown persons under a planned manner by concealing their identity as anonymous complainants are being filed in many police Stations against my clients levelling false and serious allegations like involving in unlawful business, rape, smuggling, fake currency etc. which is highly objectionable by my clients and requires serious action against such persons playing hide and seek with my clients seems to be for the sole purpose of plotting story to extort money from my client. Police officials are calling my clients in different Police Stations (Delhi Police, Haryana Police, U.P. Police and other State police also) to respond to such pseudonymous repeated complaints which are not only painful in nature but totally false, harassing, defamatory, painful and is causing serious harm to the reputation and lawfully growing business of my clients who are government contractors (Civil). My clients have repeatedly been requesting the concerned Police Officers to find out the culprit but till date the identity of such person(s) are not revealed. Anybody indulged in such serious illegal activity are hereby advised, warned and restrained from doing so with immediate effect falling which my client shall approach the Court of Law for their grievances and also for damage and compensation.

SUBHASH CHANDRA (Advocate)
Office: 209, A-21C2, Tirupati Plaza, Lane No.1, Shakarpur, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Third Floor with roof rights, (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Floor"), Built up on Property Bearing No. A-74, area measuring 30 sq. yds., Out of Kharsa No. 163, situated at Gali No. 9, West Azad Nagar Village Chandoli, Illaga Shandara, Delhi. (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

Be it known to all that our clients, Mrs. Tanu and Mr. Raju (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said floor from Mrs. Rajshree Gupta (hereinafter called the "seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that she is the sole and absolute owner of the said floor vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Sachin Bansal in her favour. The said Sale Deed is registered as Document No. 7306, Sub-Reg. No. 1, Volume No. 1594, pages 59-68 on 29.08.2018 (SRO-IVS, Vivek Vihar). The seller further informed that the said property was owned by Mrs. Prem Wali Gupta vide POA documents viz. GPA, ATS and Will dated 29.04.2011 and after her death, the said property devolved on her legal heirs viz. Neeru Jain, Dinesh Bansal, Nakul and Sachin Bansal. Later on, Neeru Jain, Dinesh Bansal, Nakul executed an Acquiescence Deed in favour of Mr. Sachin Bansal in respect of their undivided shares in the said floor. The seller has further informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor.

Any person including Banks/ Financial Institutions, in writing, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of the publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller in respect of the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance and the undersigned shall bind or any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.

Shivkant Arora, Advocate
M/s Intellectual Law Offices,
A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,
New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that **Imran Ali** is purchasing the Second floor without roof rights built on Property Bearing No. 337 admeasuring 70 Sq. Mtrs. Block C-12 Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053 from Mrs. Shivani who is the owner of the said property vide Sale dated 16.05.2018. That Imran Ali intend to get the financial assistance from **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd.** If any person(s) institution has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khalan & Khalan
A-38 Kalash Colony,
New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

Lost & Found

I, Manoj Malhan S/o Ved Prakash Malhan, 162, New Rajdhani Enclave, Delhi - 110092 have to inform that I have lost / misplaced my original GPA Dated 27 - 02 - 2003 executed by Sh. Arun Kumar in favour of Smt. Deepthi Kamra along with Agreement to Sell Receipt and WILL (2) Original GPA Dated 27 - 02 - 2003 executed by Smt. Deepthi Kamra in favour of Sh. Rakshit Ahuja along with Agreement to Sell Receipt and WILL (5) Other Miscellaneous Documents of 28, First Floor, Hargobind Enclave, Delhi - 110092. I have already filed complaint about the above mentioned lost documents vide L.R. No - 2109900/2024 dated 11-09-2024

Manoj Malhan

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **Krishan Pal Singh** claims to be owner and in possession of **Prop. No. 20 on road no. 27, Class-D, Punjabi Bagh Delhi, Bassai Darapur Distt., Delhi** (herein after called the said property) having inherited the said property after the death of Mukhtiar Singh who expired on 02.07.2015, said Mukhtiar Singh was the owner of the said property vide Sale deed dated 05.05.1965 reg. vide doc no. 5437 and said Mukhtiar Singh had executed a reg. will dated 02.08.2003 reg. vide Doc. 30118 in favor of Krishan Pal Singh and as per Krishan Pal Singh, he is the only surviving legal heir of late Mukhtiar Singh and said Krishan Pal Singh has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients **Axis Bank Limited, Axis House Sector 128, Noida U.P.**, any person(s) having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19
Mobile No. 9816399599

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Built-up Portion of Property Bearing No. 42-A, New Plot No. C-2281, area measuring 25.08 sq.mtrs., (i.e. 30 sq.yds.) referred to as the "Said portion" part of Property Bearing No. 42-A, New Plot No. C-2281/1, measuring 46 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 63/13, Village Nangloi Jat, Delhi State, abadi known as Vandana Vihar, Nangloi, Delhi-110041. (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

Notice is hereby given to the general public including Banks, Financial Institutions, etc. that, as informed by our client, Mr. Janardan, he is the sole and absolute owner of the said portion of the said property vide Gift Deed executed by Mrs. Meera Devi in his favour. The said Gift Deed is registered as Document No. 2024/615263 in Book No.1, Volume No. 573, page No.107-126, on 30.07.2024. (SRO-West Punjabi Bagh) Mrs.Meera Devi owned the said portion vide POA documents viz. GPA, ATS and Will dated 07.03.2024, and later on gifted the said portion to Mr. Janardan, as aforesaid. Now, Mr. Janardan intends to mortgage the said portion with SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., for availing loan facility. If any person, society, bank, financial institution or other institutions have any objection against the ownership of our client or the said portion of the said property, and subsequently rightful mortgage of the said portion of the said property in favour of SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., by our client, may raise his/her/their objections, in writing, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below, within 07 days on the address mentioned below. Otherwise after expiry of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, the said portion of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance and the undersigned shall bind or any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.

SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE
FOR M/S INTELLECTUAL LAW OFFICES,
A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR,
DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden pose for a photo after he was presented with the Global Citizen Award by former President Bill Clinton, Chelsea Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative Monday in New York. AP/PTI

UK PM aims to shed gloomy image with key speech

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will try to shake off his image as a gloom-monger on Tuesday, telling voters exhausted with politics that better times are on the way — if they swallow his recipe of short-term pain for long-term gain. Starmer will cap Labour's first annual conference since winning a landslide election victory with a speech assuring members and supporters that there is "light at the end of the tunnel."

Some members of the centre-

left party say Starmer has made that dark tunnel longer by delivering downbeat messages about the economy since becoming the first Labour prime minister for 14 years in July. That and a distracting row about freebies have overshadowed what should be a celebratory gathering for thousands of party members in the north-west England port city of Liverpool. "I know this country is exhausted by and with politics," Starmer plans to say, according to advance extracts released by the party. "I know that the cost-of-living

crisis drew a veil over the joy and wonder in our lives and that people want respite and relief." He'll say the government will deliver positive change, but won't offer "false hope." "Just because we all want low taxes and good public services, does not mean that the iron law of properly funding policies can be ignored," Starmer plans to say. He'll pledge to take "tough" decisions — code for spending restraint and likely tax increases — to achieve economic growth to fund schools, hospitals, road, railways and more.

Head of United Nations calls global situation 'unsustainable'

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned world leaders Tuesday that impunity, inequality and uncertainty are creating an "unsustainable world" where a growing number of countries believe they should have a "get out of jail free" card. "We can't go on like this," he said as the General Assembly's annual debate among presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and other leaders began. Citing deepening geopolitical divisions, wars with no end in sight, climate change and nuclear and

emerging weapons, he said humanity is "edging towards the unimaginable — a powder keg that risks engulfing the world." But, he said, "the challenges we face are solvable" if the international community confronts the uncertainty of unmanaged risks, the inequality that underlies injustices and grievances and the impunity that undermines the international law and the UN's founding principles. "Today, a growing number of governments and others feel entitled to a 'get out of jail free' card," he said in a reference to the classic board game Monopoly. The world leaders'

meeting opened under the shadow of increasing global divisions, major wars in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan and the threat of an even larger conflict in the wider Middle East. Guterres previewed his opening speech at Sunday's "Summit of the Future," where he pointed to conflicts from the Middle East to Ukraine and Sudan and to the global security system, which he said is "threatened by geopolitical divides, nuclear posturing, and the development of new weapons and theaters of war." He also cited huge inequalities, the lack of an effective global system to

respond to emerging and even existential threats, and the devastating impact of climate change. One notable moment at Tuesday's opening assembly meeting: US President Joe Biden's likely final major appearance on the world stage, a platform upon which he has traded for decades. US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters last week that the US focus in the assembly will be on ending "the scourge of war," lamenting that roughly 2 billion people live in conflict-affected areas. "The most vulnerable around the world are counting on us to make progress, to

make change, to bring about a sense of hope for them," she said. Among other speakers on opening day are Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian. The Iranian leader accused Israel on Monday of seeking a wider war in the Middle East and laying "traps" to lead his country into a broader conflict. He pointed to the deadly explosions of pagers, walkie-talkies and other electronic devices in Lebanon last week, which he blamed on Israel, and the

assassination of Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31, hours after Pezeshkian's inauguration. "We don't want to fight," the Iranian president said. "It's Israel that wants to drag everyone into war and destabilize the region. ... They are dragging us to a point where we do not wish to go." Iran supports both Hamas in Gaza and Lebanon's Hezbollah militants. International Rescue Committee President David Miliband recalled that at the San Francisco conference in 1945 where the U.N. was established, then-U.S. President Harry Truman

pleaded with delegates to reject the premise that "might makes right" and reverse it to "right makes might," which was enshrined in the U.N. Charter. "Almost 80 years later, we have seen the terrible consequences of the failure to flip this equation," Miliband said. "In contexts like Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine, might is making right." Facing mounting global humanitarian needs, unchecked conflict, unmitigated climate change and growing extreme poverty, Miliband challenged world leaders asking: "How will you strengthen, not weaken, the

principles of the U.N. Charter for the next 80 years?" The assembly's annual meeting, which ends on Sept. 30, followed the two-day Summit of the Future, which adopted a blueprint aimed at bringing the world's increasing divided nations together to tackle the challenges of the 21st century from conflicts and climate change to artificial intelligence and women's rights. The 42-page "Pact for the Future" challenges leaders of the 193 U.N. member nations to turn promises into real actions that make a difference to the lives of the world's more than 8 billion people.

Pak high court disposes of petition regarding Imran's military trial

Islamabad (PTI) A Pakistani high court on Tuesday disposed of a petition regarding holding a military trial of former prime minister Imran Khan after it was informed that no decision had been taken by the federal government. Khan's supporters allegedly attacked defence installations and vandalised state properties on May 9, 2023, to protest the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in a case of alleged corruption. More than 100 people among those arrested were handed over to the military authorities for their trial under the army regulations. Several government officials have indicated that Khan could also be tried by a military court. The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician had petitioned the Islamabad High Court against his trial being handed over to the military authorities. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb presided over the hearing while Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Duggal represented the government in court, who during the proceedings explained

that the federal government has not decided whether Khan will face a military trial. He stated that if such a trial is pursued, it will be conducted in accordance with Rule 549, following the necessary legal procedure. He further informed the court that in the event of a military trial, the process would start with a request to a civil magistrate. Following the government's response, the Islamabad High Court closed the petition regarding the PTI leader's military trial. After the threat of a military trial by the government, Khan on Tuesday approached the Islamabad High Court to prevent his possible transfer to military. Earlier, Khan had filed a petition on September 3 to ensure that he is kept under civilian jurisdiction. He made Secretary of Law, Secretary of Interior, Inspector Generals of Islamabad and Punjab, the Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the Inspector General of Prisons as respondents in the plea. The former premier requested in the plea that the

court issue an order to the authorities, restraining them from handing him over to military custody and to ensure his trial remains within the civilian judicial system. The former premier faced at least a dozen of such cases and his plea came on the heels of a warning by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday that a military trial of Khan was possible in cases linked to the May 9 violence. The civilian authorities already handed over 103 people to the military authorities who were arrested due to their alleged involvement in the riots that broke out in the country after Khan was arrested. In October last year, the Supreme Court struck down Section 2 (1) (D) of the Army Act, which allowed for the trial of civilians, and ordered that all cases be tried before ordinary criminal courts. In December, a six-judge bench of the Supreme Court suspended the order, but also said that the military courts do not hear any case until the petitions against the civilian cases are decided in the military courts.

Several detained in Switzerland over suspected death in 'suicide capsule'

Geneva (AP): Police in northern Switzerland said Tuesday that several people have been detained and a criminal case opened in connection with the suspected death of a person in a new "suicide capsule." The "Sarco" suicide capsule, which has never been used before, is designed to allow a person inside to push a button that injects nitrogen gas into the sealed chamber. The person is then supposed to fall asleep and die by suffocation in a few minutes. Prosecutors in Schaffhausen canton were informed by a law firm that an assisted suicide involving use of the Sarco capsule had taken place Monday near a forest cabin in Merisshausen, police said in a statement. It said "several people" were taken into custody and prosecutors

opened an investigation on suspicion of incitement and accessory to suicide. Dutch newspaper Volkskrant reported Tuesday that police had detained one of its photographers who wanted to take pictures of the use of the Sarco. It said Schaffhausen police indicated the photographer was being held at a police station but declined to give a further explanation. The newspaper declined to comment further when contacted by the AP. Exit International, an assisted suicide group based in the Netherlands, has said it is behind the 3D-printed device that cost over USD 1 million to develop. Swiss law allows assisted suicide so long as the person takes his or her life with no "external assistance" and those who help the person die do not

do so for "any self-serving motive," according to a government website. Dr Philip Nitschke, an Australian-born trained doctor behind Exit International, has told the AP that his organisation has received advice from lawyers in Switzerland that use of the Sarco would be legal in the country. In July, Swiss newspaper Blick reported that Peter Sticher, a state prosecutor in Schaffhausen, wrote to Exit International's lawyers saying any operator of the suicide capsule could face criminal proceedings if it was used there — and any conviction could bring up to five years in prison. Prosecutors in other Swiss regions have also indicated that use of the suicide capsule could lead to prosecution.

Saudi asks Pak to block beggars with Umrah visas

Islamabad (PTI): Saudi Arabia has raised concerns about the growing number of Pakistani beggars arriving in the Kingdom under the guise of religious pilgrimage and asked Islamabad to take action to prevent them from entering the Gulf country, a media report said on Tuesday. Citing sources from Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs, a newspaper reported that the Saudi authorities have also warned that if the situation is not controlled, it could negatively affect Pakistani Umrah and Hajj pilgrims. "The Saudi Ministry of Hajj has issued a warning to Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs, urging action to prevent Pakistani beggars from entering the kingdom under Umrah visas," the paper said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Vikrant Goyal owner of Flat bearing no. D3 on 11th Floor with roof rights, super area measuring 90 sq. yards, i.e. 50'00" sq. meters, "Said Floor" built on Property bearing no. H-3/124-A & H-3/124-B, area measuring 80 sq. yards, i.e. 66.888 sq. meters, out of Khitara no. 75/3 & 73/4 situated in the area of village Patan, Jhansi State, colony known as Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045. He is in Possession of Said Flat through Regd. Will dated 07.12.2016 Doc. No-880 executed by Mrs. Vinod Kumar Goyal in favor of Mr. Vikrant Goyal. Mr. Vikrant Goyal intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Flat to Mrs. Mamta Joshi. Subsequently, Mrs. Mamta Joshi is in the process of mortgaging the said flat in the process of mortgaging Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that We, Sushir Bhatia, s/o Late Sh. Narain Das Bhatia & Priya Bhatia, d/o Late Sh. Narain Das Bhatia are filing application in L&DO for substitution/mutation of 50% undivided share of the property no. B-93/94, Double Storey, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015 in the name of Late Sh. Narain Das Bhatia, on the grounds of registered Will. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in, within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Name: Sushir Bhatia & Priya Bhatia
Address: 59, Indraprastha Apartments, Pocket 3, Sector 12, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078 Phone: 9968296804

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR NOTICE

Applications forms for allotment of hostel Shops/Vehicle Stands from session 2024-25 (Extendable upto 30.06.2025) of University Campus, Amritsar, Regional Campus, Gurdaspur and Regional Campus, Jalandhar are invited till 04.10.2024. The details, terms & conditions and forms can be downloaded from the university website link- <https://online.gndu.ac.in/tenders-notice.aspx>
Dean Students' Welfare
NA/12/25636/2023/37979
Dated CHD :- 9/24/2024

NALCO National Aluminium Company Limited (A Government of India Enterprise)

NALCO Bhawan, Plot No-P/1, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha (CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920) A NAVRATNA COMPANY

PUBLIC NOTICE DO NOT BE A VICTIM OF FRAUD

It has come to our notice that unscrupulous persons/agencies, are circulating fraudulent recruitment advertisements by sending letters, e-mails or through social media trying to deceive the public by false promises of securing job in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Fake HR circulars (promotions, transfer etc) forging NALCO name/logo are also being circulated trying to deceive with fake news and create a negative image of NALCO amongst the public. We have received complaint that certain individuals have fallen into the trap of such miscreants and shelling out money against the promise of facilitating appointment. Also, some YouTube channels are trying to circulate fake news against NALCO, particularly related to recruitment. NALCO is taking legal measures and has registered FIRs against such incidents. Through this notice it is being brought to the attention of general public to exercise caution and not to be misled by any fake or false advertisement. NALCO releases its recruitment advertisements through reputed newspapers and Employment News and notifications are also posted in the career section of NALCO Official website <https://nalcoindia.com>

In case, you come across any such incident, please contact the office of General Manager(H&A), Nalco Bhawan, P/1, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751013.

Executive Director (H&A)
(Issued in the public interest)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Saarthak Gupta has resigned from partnership firm M/S COSMO TRADING COMPANY at K-31/1, Gali No. 4, Anand Parbat, New Delhi-110005 on 31.01.2024 and the continuing partners Shashi Kiran and Vandna Gupta has admitted Chirag Gupta and Sarthak Gupta as new (incoming) partners in the firm w.e.f. 01.02.2024.

M/S COSMO TRADING COMPANY (Partners) For Cosmo Trading Company Shashi Kiran Partner, Vandna Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, GURDIP SINGH S/O MEHAR SINGH R/O Ramana Chak, P.O.Dhulka, Distt Amritsar, Punjab-143111 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as GURDEEP SINGH and SHARANJEET KAUR in my minor son namely GURPREET SINGH aged 15 year in his School Record The actual name of mine and my wife are GURDIP SINGH and SARANJEET KAUR respectively which be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Deepank Agrawal, S/o Late Sh. Damodar Agrawal R/o. A-502, Pearls Gateway Towers, Sector 44, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) and Office address Plot No. B-78 Block-B, Sector 08, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) hereby inform that I have lost my original property documents i.e. ORIGINAL ALLOTMENT LETTER, ORIGINAL POSSESSION LETTER, ORIGINAL LEASE DEED AND ORIGINAL TRANSFER MEMORANDUM DATED 19.05.2007 of Industrial Plot no. 079 Block-B, Sector 08, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) which is registered in the office Sub-Registrar-II, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar vide Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 1719, Pages 733 to 880 at SR. No. 4300 dated 21.09.2007. I tried a lot to trace it but could not find it. If anyone finds it, please return it to the above address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, GURDIP SINGH S/O MEHAR SINGH R/O Ramana Chak, P.O.Dhulka, Distt Amritsar, Punjab-143111 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as GURDEEP SINGH and SHARANJEET KAUR in my minor son namely GURPREET SINGH aged 13 year in his School Record The actual name of mine and my wife are GURDIP SINGH and SARANJEET KAUR respectively which be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of KRISHAN KUMAR who is owner of the PROPERTY AREA 330 SQ. YDS. MU. No.66, KILLA NO.2/22 (0-4), AND MU. NO. 27, KILLA NO. 7/7-13, 14/10 (0-18), VILLAGE AGRAWAL, TESHIL & DISTRICT FARIDABAD, HARYANA, purchased the same from Mr. Manoj Prabhakar vide Sale Deed dated 09.11.2024 Document No.11278, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from UTKARSH SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED that Original Release deed dated 26.06.2023 executed by Mr. Manoj Prabhakar in favour of Mr. Manoj Prabhakar vide sale measuring 50 sq. yds. out of Khatwa No. 309/274min. Khatwa No.332/309/274min. Khatwa No. 437, Mu.No.66 Killa No.2/22(0-4) and Khatwa No.331/069 Khatwa 436. Mu. No. 27, Killa No. 14/1 (0-18), vide doc. No. 3572, book no. 1, vol no. 4/105, executed by Mr. Manoj Prabhakar in favour of Mr. Faridabad is Lost/ misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim (right/interest/encroaching mortgage) over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 10 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 911-40946316

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of KRISHAN KUMAR who is owner of the PROPERTY AREA 330 SQ. YDS. MU. No.66, KILLA NO.2/22 (0-4), AND MU. NO. 27, KILLA NO. 7/7-13, 14/10 (0-18), VILLAGE AGRAWAL, TESHIL & DISTRICT FARIDABAD, HARYANA, purchased the same from Mr. Manoj Prabhakar vide Sale Deed dated 09.11.2024 Document No.11278, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from UTKARSH SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED that Original Release deed dated 26.06.2023 executed by Mr. Manoj Prabhakar in favour of Mr. Manoj Prabhakar vide sale measuring 50 sq. yds. out of Khatwa No. 309/274min. Khatwa No.332/309/274min. Khatwa No. 437, Mu.No.66 Killa No.2/22(0-4) and Khatwa No.331/069 Khatwa 436. Mu. No. 27, Killa No. 14/1 (0-18), vide doc. No. 3572, book no. 1, vol no. 4/105, executed by Mr. Manoj Prabhakar in favour of Mr. Faridabad is Lost/ misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim (right/interest/encroaching mortgage) over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 911-40946316

ENGINEERING WORKS UNDER ALIPURDAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. 811W-2/A/PD/J; Dated: 20-09-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No: 36-AP-I-2024. Name of Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 and 1 in 8% crossing body using Robotic Translaminic technique under the jurisdiction of Alipurduar Division. Tender Value: ₹94,54,571.98; Earnest Money: ₹1,89,100.00. E-tender will be closed at 13:00 hrs. on 14-10-2024 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 14-10-2024. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
DRM (Works), Alipurduar Jn.
NORTH FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, FABRICATION WORKS

Tender Notice No.: DCBL/11/2024/M/G. Dated: 20-09-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No.: DCBL202024MLG; Name of Work : Manufacture, Supply & Fabrication of 4000 nos. Christ Church Cribbs under Dy. CE/BL/Maligaon. Approximate Tender Value: ₹8,65,05,731.20/-; Bid Security: ₹5,82,500/-; Tender document can be received upto 15-10-2024 at 15:00 hours. Date & time of opening of tender at 15:05 hrs. on 15-10-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
Dy. CE/Bridge-Line, Maligaon
NORTH FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

E-DRAW

Public at large is hereby informed that 3rd Draw for allotment of flats, through ONLINE DRAW ON E-DRAW PORTAL of the project MAULSHREE HEIGHTS" Sector-84, Faridabad, being developed by M/s ARTECH AFFORDABLE HOUSING LLP., having its office at GF-10, Plot-9, Ground Floor, Ozone Centre, Sector-12, Faridabad-121007, being developed under the Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013, will be held on Dt 26.09.2024 at 1:00 P.M. in office of Senior Town Planner, Second Floor, HSPV Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad in the presence of the Draw Committee. The applicants can watch the live link <https://youtube.com/live/sql9R4yJlUc?feature=share>

ARTECH AFFORDABLE HOUSING LLP
GF-10, Plot-9, Ground Floor, Ozone Center, Sector-12, Faridabad

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812.66
Short Term e Tender Notice
www.verka.coop

Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
For Verka Sangur Dairy	
Supply of Rice Husk	Oct 2024- 500 MT Nov 2024- 500 MT Dec 2024- 500 MT

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/25629/2023/37972 Dated CHD :- 9/24/2024 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्गा

Email ID:- durgmc2019@gmail.com Phone:-0788-2322148
:- ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :-
क्रमांक:-/435/लोक.वि./2024 दिनांक - 20.09.2024

एकत्रित पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से नीचे उल्लिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)	निविदा जारी दिनांक
1.	Construction of Mangalik Bhawan at Ward 15 Satnam Para Behind Aurvedic Hospital Durg (C.G.) System No. 158877, Dt:20.09.2024	49.41 लाख	20.09.2024 से 11.10.2024
	Construction of Mangalik Bhawan at Ward 01 Gaya Nagar, Near 33 KV Power Station Durg System No.158885, Dt: 20.09.2024	195.22 लाख	खोलने का तिथि 15.10.2024

निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें धोरण राशि निविदा विज्ञापन निविदा दरस्तरेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अथवा ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट www.uad.cg.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
कार्यालय अध्येता

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd Office Number 201-B, 2nd Floor, Road No 1 Plot No-B3, WFI IT Park, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane (West)- 400604

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Dinesh Kumar Sharma & Neha Sharma- LBGWA0005550679	Flat No. 108, Anand Nagar Scheme Of Gwalior Development Authority, Anand Nagar Yojana, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh- 474001/ September 20, 2024	April 17, 2024 Rs. 10,58,509.00/-	Gwalior

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: September 25, 2024 Place: Delhi Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajesh Ranjan Verma/ Ranju Kumar/ LBFDB00002866435	Entire Flat On Second Floor, With Roof Rights, Residential Plot No. 4226, Sainik Colony, Sector 49, Faridabad/ September 21, 2024	March 17, 2017 Rs. 28,96,348/-	Faridabad
2.	Prashant More/ Jyoti Anand/ LBFDB00006433165/ LBFDB00006653877	Flat No. T1-11022, 11th Floor, Advitya Homes, Tower- T1, Situated At Main Mathura Road, Sector-143, Village Sikri, Faridabad Haryana-121002/ September 21, 2024	May 22, 2024 Rs. 15,98,493/-	Delhi/ Faridabad

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: September 25, 2024 Place: Delhi & Faridabad Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/20/2024-25; Dated: 20-09-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1: Tender No. 61/24/5124/OT/163/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 27-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Elastic Rail Clip MK-V with flat toe for 60 kg UIC/ 52 kg rail sections to Drg. No. RDSO T-5919 with specification conforming to IRS-T-31-2021 with latest amendment, if any, with all no. 2 with latest alterations, if any, [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 805446 Nos for SSE/P.Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-60110028.

SN. 2: Tender No. 30/24/282/OT/164/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 30-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Swinging Link Pin for connecting Body to Bogie(RCF) Drawing No. 1268596 VER.00R1 or latest Mat. Spec.- As per drawing. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 1200 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/ Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 300 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 6000 Nos for New Bongaigaon/ Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 100 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 50 Nos for Kathar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No. - 33500186

SN. 3: Tender No. 30/24/0595A/OT/165/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 30-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Composite Brake Block "K" Type (Non Asbestos based) for Coaching Stock. Drg. No.: RDSO, SK-98066 Alt-6 Mat. Spec. RDSO C-9809 (Rev-4). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 15802 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 24228 Nos for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 19325 Nos for DEMU, NFR (West Bengal), 4) Qty- 3686 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty- 15398 Nos for Kathar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), 6) Qty- 14341 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 30316121.

SN. 4: Tender No. 30/24/1442A/OT/166/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 30-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: SUPPORTING DEVICE ASSEMBLY COMPLETE FOR BG LHB PASSENGER COACHES. MAT. SPEC. : RDSO/2011/CG-03 (REV-03). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 125 Set for Dibrugarh Town/ Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 227 Set for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 15 Set for Kathar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No. - 33505536.

SN. 5: Tender No. 30/24/1108/OT/167/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 30-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Bearing FOR ANTI ROLL BAR to RCF Drg. No. 1268555 VER. 00R, Part No. GE 70 TXE-2LS Mat. Spec.-As per Drawing. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 953 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 5299 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 33502377.

SN. 6: Tender No. 61/24/5275/OT/168/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 30-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 1) BG PSC T/OUT SLEEPERS (1 IN 12) TO DRG No.T-4732. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 19 Set for SSE/P.Way/Barsoi Jn., NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 600400410017. 2) BG PSC T/OUT SLEEPERS (1 IN 12) TO DRG No.T-4732 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 25 Set for SSE/P.Way/Barsoi Jn., NFR (Bihar), P.L. No.- 600501100010.

SN. 7: Tender No. 61/24/5292/OT/169/2024-25; Closing/ Opening Date: 30-09-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Manufacture and Supply of Broad Gauge (1673mm) Pre-stressed Mono Block Concrete Sleeper (Pre-tensioned type) as per RDSO Design for 1 in 16 - 60Kg Turnout sleeper in sets conforming to RDSO's Drawing No T-5691 (General Layout) including Sleeper Drawing Nos. T-4512, T-4514 to T-4517, T-5595 to T-5690, T-4786 to T-4790 & T-5471 to T-5474 with latest alterations/amendments from time to time in accordance with the recommendations made by Track Standard Committee during currency of the contract and conforming to Indian Railway Standard specification (IRS) T-45/45(Fourth Revision- March-2021) with up to date amendments duly loaded into wagon /road vehicle. One set consists of 114 Nos. sleepers. [Warranty Period: 60 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. 1) Qty- 3 Set for SSE/P.Way/Lumding, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty- 3 Set for SSE/P.Way/New Harangajao, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty- 3 Set for SSE/P.Way/Hill/Lumding, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty- 4 Set for Sr. Section Engineer/ P.Way/New Hafong, NFR (Assam) P.L. No.- 60220077.

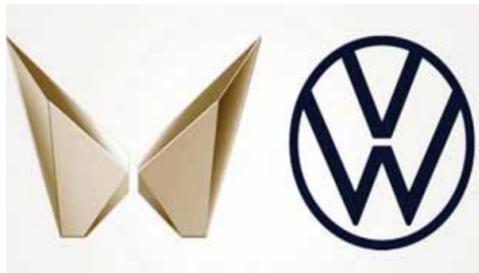
(NOTE: In case of any details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM/ Maligaon

Mahindra in talks to acquire 50 per cent in Skoda-Volkswagen India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian conglomerate, Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) is in advanced negotiations with Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Private Limited (SAVWIPL) according to a report in Autocar Professional. According to the report, it is believed that M&M is to acquire a 50 per cent stake in SAVWIPL for a consideration of US\$ 1 billion (Rs 8350 crore). SAVWIPL which is the Indian arm of the German automotive giant Volkswagen group has been searching for partners in India for over one year now, as the German carmaker faces severe turmoil in their home market, Germany with talk of plant closures and is also suffering in their largest market, China thanks to the



rise of local Chinese carmakers such as BYD. The report also mentions that the transaction will include only the Skoda Auto and Volkswagen brands and not the other luxury brands such as Audi, Lamborghini, and Porsche in SAVWIPL's portfolio. According to sales data released by the Society of Indian Automobile

Manufacturers (SIAM), combined sales for Skoda Auto and Volkswagen India in the domestic market from April to August 2024 accounted for less than two percent of the overall car market. However, both brands export vehicles manufactured at the SAVWIPL manufacturing facility in Chakan. In fact, Skoda Auto is on the

verge of launching their new 'Made for India' compact SUV, the Skoda Kodiaq by November 2024 according to some news reports. In February 2024, Mahindra announced that they would be using Volkswagen Group's 'MEB' platform for electric vehicles for their next-generation electric vehicles and would be using Volkswagen Group-developed 'Unified Cell' technology. This would form the basis of new electric vehicles developed on Mahindra's INGLO platform which are going to be launched from 2025 onwards. In a statement issued to the stock exchanges last evening, M&M said that both companies continued to explore "multiple opportunities to expand the collaboration potential." When questioned about the

news item, a SAVWIPL spokesperson said, "Skoda Auto is leading the India operations on behalf of the Volkswagen Group and its brands. To fully explore the country's growth potential, we are always considering new business opportunities and are evaluating various options to ensure the best possible solution to implement our strategy in the highly dynamic Indian market. Earlier this year, Volkswagen Group and Mahindra signed a supply agreement on components of Volkswagen's MEB for Mahindra's purpose-built electric platform, taking a step further on a joint vision for e-mobility collaboration. Volkswagen Group and Mahindra continue to explore multiple opportunities to expand the collaboration potential."

President Murmu calls for timely audit of public finance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Underscoring the importance of timelines in auditing public finance, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said if a wrong is pointed out well within time, it can be corrected and help save huge amount of public money. She emphasised the need for audit bodies keeping pace with technological evolution in order to be able to perform its oversight functions effectively as more and more public services are being delivered using technology. "What is equally important for effective auditing of public finances is timeliness. If a wrong is pointed out well within time, it can be corrected," she said while addressing the 16th Assembly of Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) here. This implies that an auditor is entrusted with the task of not only pointing out faults but also suggesting a way out to improve the quality of governance, she said.



The mandate of public sector audits has expanded beyond traditional auditing to include assessing the effectiveness of public welfare schemes and projects, ensuring that they serve all citizens equitably, she said. In an increasingly technology-driven world, more and more public services are being delivered using technology, she said, adding, audit, therefore, needs to keep up with technological evolution in order to be able to perform its oversight functions effectively. "With Asia emerging as the continent that is setting the global economic agenda, all of you carry the onerous task of improving the lives of more than half of humanity," she said.

Observing that the profession of audit and accounting is as old as civilisation itself, she said "we have scriptures which talk about how fiscal prudence and financial probity are critical elements of statecraft." Similar references can also be found in the civilisational journey of Egypt, Greece and Rome. The CAG of India plays a key role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the country's public finance, she said. It was not without reason that the Indian Constitution vested the office of CAG with a wide mandate and complete autonomy, she said. While explaining the role of CAG in the Constituent Assembly, she said Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of our Constitution, had aptly described the CAG as "the most important officer in the Constitution of India." Appreciating the work of the office of CAG, the President said, it follows a strict code of ethical and moral conduct that ensures the highest order of probity in its functioning.

Piyush Goyal urges realtors to ensure guaranteed ESIC, PF registrations for seven million workers

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday asked the real estate industry to provide guaranteed ESIC and provident fund registrations for 7 crore people working in this sector, besides adopting new form of construction process for fast project execution with less pollution. Addressing an event organised by realtors' apex body CREDAI here, he also asked India Inc, including realty firms, to set up manufacturing facilities for construction equipment to make India self-reliant. "I urge you to kindly think about this in very serious terms. Can we ensure a guaranteed ESIC and

provident fund registration of all these 70 million workmen and women (working in this sector)," Goyal told real estate players. He asked the CREDAI to come out with a resolution on November 25, when the association will celebrate its 25 years, after extensive stakeholder discussions with its 14,000 members. Goyal said there are many positive impacts if industry ensures guaranteed ESIC and PF registrations. Elaborating on possible benefits, he said, "it will give credit and credibility to your industry. People will start appreciating that you are providing jobs to 70 million, and that number will grow in the years to come." Industry will truly get credit

for the good work it is doing, he said. "Very often that credit is found wanting because many policy makers, possibly bankers and possibly regulators, still look upon the industry with the prism of the past, and I think it's time we change that." "With 70 million people registered under ESIC and PF, you will truly be able to showcase your contribution to the national economy and to the well being of India," Goyal said. The Union Minister further said the guaranteed ESIC and PF registrations would ensure 100 per cent health coverage and pension for their social security post retirement. Goyal said this step would



also boost productivity and efficiency of people working in this sector, leading to improvement in quality. He also asked Quality

Council of India (QCI) Chairperson Jaxay Shah, who was present at the event, to work with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to

come up with new standards for the construction sector. Goyal also stressed on the need to inculcate "quality of culture" in the industry and said this will not cost much. On CREDAI President Boman Irani's demand to reduce import duties on construction equipment, the minister suggested that the industry should rather focus on manufacturing those items in India only and make the country self-reliant. He said there would be huge demand for construction equipment because of high growth potential in the real estate sector. "Why should all of these (construction equipment) not be made in India? And I am not saying assembly, Made in India. And I would

urge you to come up with a list of products and potential market size. I will become your ambassador and talk to industry leaders in CII and FICCI, to all of them, to start promoting the manufacture of these products in India," Goyal said. He said there is no harm in taking collaborations and technologies from abroad. "But instead of the duties, I think let's focus on making high quality equipment in India," he said. The minister, however, said the government could consider a proposal of reducing import duties for 3-4 years of the transition period with a clear roadmap that by then the Indian companies would set up manufacturing facilities of

construction equipment. Goyal also expressed concern over pollution levels in big cities with construction activities being one of the major factors. He asked realtors to adopt new forms of construction technologies that are environment-friendly. "If we were to move to steel structures and use precast equipment, just like we see in Europe, America, Dubai, Singapore and possibly even in Australia, the cost of construction may not go up very significantly, but the speed of construction will certainly go up." Goyal said the industry players will be able to complete real estate projects much faster and also reduce their interest cost.

FIEO urges Government to extend interest subvention scheme for five years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Apex exporters body FIEO on Tuesday urged the government to extend the interest subvention scheme for five years to help increase credit flow in the sector in order to boost the country's shipments, which registered a steepest decline in 13-month falling 9.3 per cent in August to USD 34.71 billion. Earlier this month, the government extended the interest equalisation/subvention scheme, which provides interest benefits, on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit for one more month till September 30. "The scheme will end on September 30. We have requested for it to be extended for five years. If there is no interest equalization scheme, then we will lose some markets and some orders," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai told reporters here. The scheme helps exporters



from identified sectors and all MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) manufacturer exporters to avail of rupee export credit at competitive rates at a time when the global economy is facing headwinds. Exporters get subsidies under the Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit. The scheme was started on April 1, 2015, and was initially valid for five years up to March 31, 2020. It has been continued thereafter, including a one-year

extension during COVID-19, and with further extensions and fund allocations. The scheme is fund-limited, and benefits to individual exporters are capped at Rs 10 crore per annum per IEC (Import Export Code). FIEO President Ashwani Kumar said that over 50 per cent of the production in India is done by MSMEs, which are facing financing problems. The organisation has earlier stated that the declining bank credit to exporters will hurt the sector.

Slower deposit growth forces banks to raise ₹1.3 lakh crore from bonds in FY25: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Slower deposit growth pushing banks to raise funds from bonds: Icrs report. The slower deposit growth will push banks to mop-up up to Rs 1.3 lakh crore from bond issuances in FY25, a report said on Tuesday. The bond issuances, coming amidst a continuing wedge between deposit and credit growth, will come between Rs 1.2-1.3 lakh crore and will be the highest ever for the system, the report said. Nearly 85 per cent of the bond issuances will be by public sector banks, the report by domestic rating agency Icrs said, adding that the higher appetite for infra bonds among such lenders will drive the market. "Tight liquidity conditions and credit growth continuously surpassing deposit growth has necessitated fundraising by banks from alternate sources," the agency said. Banks had raised Rs 1 lakh crore from the bond issuances



avenue in FY24, while the previous all-time high was reached in FY23 at Rs 1.1 lakh crore. With the mid-fiscal year mark approaching, the report said banks have already raised Rs 76,700 crore from bonds till now, which is an over 225 per cent growth over the resources mobilised during the same period in FY24. As private banks are focusing on reducing their credit-to-deposit ratio, fundraising through bonds is largely being dominated by public banks this year, the agency said. Its head for financial sector ratings Sachin Sachdeva said raising money from bonds will optically worsen the CD ratio for private sector banks, while

the public sector banks will continue to pursue growth through infrastructure bonds, given the ample headroom available. It said banks' advances to the infrastructure sector are estimated at Rs 13-14 lakh crore as on June 30, 2024, of which the PSBs have a lion's share of around 75 per cent. Infra-bond issuances have seen higher volumes due to the government of India's focus on infrastructure spending, availability of a sizable infrastructure loan book that is eligible to be funded through this instrument and strong demand from insurance companies and provident funds for long-term issuances, it said.

SEBI simplifies registration of certain FPI categories

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To ease onboarding for FPIs and reduce duplication of information, Sebi on Tuesday proposed an abridged version of Common Application Form (CAF) that only requires information unique to the applicant. Further, the rest of the information will be auto-filled from the depository's records or certain fields will be disabled if not needed. Also, the applicants will need to confirm that the previously provided information remains unchanged, Sebi proposed in its consultation paper. The regulator observed that in case of certain categories of Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) applicants like multiple funds under an Investment Manager (IM), sub-funds of a master fund, or schemes of insurance companies, much of their relevant information is already captured in depositories' CAF module, which can be leveraged without seeking the same from said applicants. Further, there are certain fields which are exclusive to individual FPI applicants and hence will not be applicable to the applicants belonging to these categories, it added. Accordingly, in order to save significant time and efforts for such FPI applicants, in terms of reviewing the application and signing the CAF, it has been proposed to seek only such information that is unique to such applicants. In case of onboarding applicants belonging to certain categories, Sebi has proposed an abridged version of CAF having only those fields that are unique to such applicants should be used. The remaining fields should either be auto-populated from the information available in the depository system or should be disabled, as applicable. "While leveraging on the available information, an explicit consent to use the available information and confirmation that all the details other than those mentioned in the abridged version of CAF remain unchanged.

SBI predicts private capex uptick in second half of FY25

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SBI Chairman C S Setty has said the bank has already got Rs 4 lakh crore strong credit pipeline from India Inc and expressed hope that capital expenditure by the private sector is expected to pick up in the second half of the fiscal year. "We see a good amount of interest in private capital expenditure. The infrastructure financing, of course, is mainly coming from the roads, renewable energy, and some of the refineries," he told PTI in an interview. As far as public spending is concerned, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget proposed to raise the capital expenditure target by 11.1 per cent to record Rs 11.11 lakh crore for 2024-25. This is 3.4 per cent of the



country's GDP. Setty said some of the corporates had undertaken brownfield expansion for which the capital expenditure was funded by their own cash accruals and cash balances that they had. However, he said, "We now see some of the corporates drawing the term loans for brownfield expansion too." "We have a pipeline, both in terms of sanctioned but not disbursed and a pipeline of proposals which are under process. This amounts to

almost Rs 4 lakh crore, indicating that the corporate pipeline is strong," he said. Stressing that the private capital expenditure definitely will pick up during the year, he said, there is renewed government expenditure after the first quarter slowdown due to general elections. "We see in the second quarter, as well as in the second half of the current financial year, both capital expenditure will be spurred by the government expenditure as well as private expenditure," he said. On monetisation of SBI's stake in some of its subsidiaries, Setty said, there was no thinking in terms of divestment of stake of any of the subsidiaries presently. "If these subsidiaries require (growth) capital, we will definitely examine," he said. At this point in time, he said none of the large subsidiaries

require capital from the parent to scale up their operations. The bank in the 2023-24 fiscal year infused an additional capital of Rs 489.67 crore in SBI General Insurance Company Ltd. The company has also allotted ESOP to employees and consequently, the bank's stake has decreased marginally from 69.95 per cent to 69.11 per cent. Setty also said the Reserve Bank of India is unlikely to ease the benchmark policy rate during 2024 given the uncertainty over food inflation. The US Federal Reserve's first cut in interest rate in more than four years of 50 basis points took place last week, triggering central banks in other economies to follow suit. The decision lowers the federal funds rate to a range of 4.75-5 per cent.

S&P maintains Indian growth forecast, predicts rate cuts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday retained India's growth forecast at 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal and said it expects the RBI to start cutting interest rates in its October monetary policy review. In the economic outlook of Asia Pacific, S&P Global Ratings also retained its GDP growth forecast for the 2025-26 fiscal at 6.9 per cent and said solid growth in India will allow the Reserve Bank to focus on bringing inflation in line with its target. "In India, GDP growth moderated in the June quarter as high interest rates temper urban demand, in line with our projection of 6.8 per cent GDP for the full fiscal year

2024-2025," S&P said. The Indian economy grew 8.2 per cent in the last fiscal. S&P said the Union Budget in July outlined that the government remains committed to fiscal consolidation and to keeping the focus of public expenditure on infrastructure. The Budget has earmarked a capital expenditure of Rs 11.11 lakh crore in the current fiscal ending March 2025. S&P said the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) considers food inflation a hurdle for rate cuts. It reckons that unless there is a lasting and meaningful decline in the rate at which food prices are increasing it will be tough to maintain headline inflation at 4 per cent.

INBRIEF

IIFL FINANCE TO OFFER GOLD LOAN AT 1% INTEREST RATE

NEW DELHI: IIFL Finance announces Gold Loan Mela from Wednesday, September 25 to Saturday, September 28, 2024 in Delhi and Gurgaon NCR. During this period, customers will have the opportunity to avail of gold loans at a flat 1% interest rate per month with zero processing fee (NIL PF).

NSS ADVENTURE CAMP CONCLUDES



AMRITSAR: The National Service Scheme concluded a 10-day adventure camp from September 13 to 22 at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Himachal Pradesh.

SRM OPENS RUSSIAN STUDIES CENTRE

KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Institute of Science and Technology has launched a Russian Studies Center on its campus, in partnership with N.P. Ogarev Mordovia State University, Russia. This initiative allows students to incorporate Russian language studies into their curriculum.



INDIA TO HOST GERMANY FOR TWO MATCH SERIES IN NEW DELHI NEXT MONTH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's hockey team will take on Germany in a two-match bilateral contest at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on October 23 and 24, Hockey India announced on Tuesday. The last time India faced Germany was in the semi-final of the Paris Olympics, where the European giants emerged victorious by 3-2 margin. India won the bronze medal at this year's Olympics beating Spain in the third place play-offs. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm and stated: "This bilateral series against Germany will be a remarkable showcase of world-class hockey. Both India and Germany have a rich history in the sport, and this series will give fans an opportunity to witness an intense competition between two of the most formidable teams in the world. "We are honoured to host this event, which will not only promote the spirit of hockey but also strengthen the bond between the two nations," the former India captain further stated. HI Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added: "The India-Germany hockey rivalry has always been a thrilling contest. Our players are eager to compete against such a good side, and I



believe this series will offer both teams a chance to fine-tune their skills and strategies ahead of future international tournaments. "We are proud to be part of this Indo-German collaboration, which brings together not just business and diplomacy but also the love of sport." German Hockey Federation president Henning Fastrich said that the national team is looking forward to this challenge. "India has always been a special place for hockey, and our team is excited to play in front of passionate Indian hockey fans. This series will be a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the

Cherian leads India challenge to qualify for maiden AFC U20 Asian Cup

PTI ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS)

Defender Thomas Cherian will lead India in their bid to qualify for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup for the first time, as they face Mongolia in their Group G opener here on Wednesday. India reached Vientiane on Monday evening, and after a night's rest, coach Ranjan Chaudhuri convened the squad to announce Cherian as the captain. The top teams from each group, along with the five best second-placed teams from 10 groups will qualify for the tournament proper. "We have a great responsibility from our nation, and we've prepared well for it. The mindset of the boys is extremely good, and we just have to do our job with a positive mindset," said the young Indian defender. Coach Chaudhuri said they have been preparing for three months and it's time for the real action and start well. "We've been preparing well for the last three months, and the boys are ready for the challenge," said Chaudhuri. "Of course, our aim is to qualify for the AFC U20 Asian Cup for the first time, which



will set a great precedent for our boys. "Not only will it be a good experience for them all, but it will also put India on the Asian stage at this age group level," he said. "The first match of any tournament is crucial, and we must ensure that we get three points from it. That would set the tone for us," said Chaudhuri. "Mongolia are a very good side, and we have to be at our best, but we will try to maintain our focus and remain positive." For Mongolia, who arrived in Laos a couple of days before India, it is a matter of acclimatising in time to play on natural turf. Mongolia head coach Anar Batchuluun said, "We thought the weather conditions would be the biggest factor for us, but we have been pleasantly surprised by it. The only thing we have to adjust to is the natural turf on which we will play, as all the turfs back home are artificial. "They (India) are a very strong team, but we will try our best. We have done our research on all the teams, and we will play accordingly," he added. India's next challengers will be Iran (September 27), and hosts Laos (September 29) at the Lao National Stadium KM16.



BAI announces cash rewards for Paris Paralympic medal winning shuttlers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Badminton Association of India announced on Tuesday a total reward of Rs 50 lakh for the para shuttlers who secured medals at the Paris Paralympics last month. Indian para shuttlers won five medals, including one gold, two silver and as many bronze, at the Paris Games. Nitesh Kumar, who clinched the coveted gold in the men's Singles SL3 category, will receive a prize of Rs 15 lakh, while silver medallists Suhas Yathiraj (men's singles SL4) and Thulasimathi Murugesan (women's singles SU5) will each be awarded Rs 10 lakh. Bronze-medal winners Manisha Ramadass (women's singles SU5) and Nithya Sre Sivan (women's single SH6 category) will each receive Rs 7.5 lakh. Thulasimathi, Manisha and Nithya made history by

becoming the first Indian women shuttlers to secure medals at the Paralympics. "Indian para badminton players have been performing consistently on the world stage and the cash rewards are just one way for BAI to recognise their efforts in helping the country win medals at the Paralympics," BAI secretary-general Sanjay Mishra said. "BAI is committed to developing and promoting para-badminton across the country and helping these players achieve much more success and many more initiatives to develop para-badminton are being undertaken," he added. Considering the tight tournament schedule of the players, BAI will also organise a virtual interaction session with these players to congratulate them and to understand their requirements for continued development.

Punjab FC aim for third win on trot; Hyderabad FC seek first points

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab FC will be looking to extend their winning streak to three matches while Hyderabad FC aim to secure their first points of the season after a difficult start when the two teams face-off in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday. Punjab FC head into the round three, sitting third in the table, level on points with leaders Bengaluru FC and second-placed Jamshedpur FC, having won both of their opening fixtures. A victory would mark their longest-ever winning run in ISL history. Despite their fine

form, the side has shown defensive frailties, conceding in their last six matches, an area head coach Panagiotis Dilmperis will be eager to tighten. Luka Majcen's absence has thrust new signing Mushaga Bakenga into the spotlight. Although yet to find the back of the net, the Norwegian forward is backed by Dilmperis to hit his stride soon. "Bakenga is a quality player who's played at the highest level. He needs time to adjust, but I have full faith in him. He will deliver soon," said Dilmperis ahead of the game.



Hyderabad FC, on the other hand, have had a tough start to the campaign, with a 0-3 loss to Bengaluru FC in the last round, leaving them without a goal in their last two outings. Historically, the 'Nizams' have never gone three consecutive ISL games without scoring, and head coach Thangboi Singto is determined to avoid that record. "We need to create more goal-scoring opportunities and be clinical. The effort from the boys has been good, but we must improve tactically," said Singto. Punjab's Nihal Sudheesh has been a standout performer,

registering 12 long progressive carries across two games, while Tekcham Abhishek Singh boasts an impressive 88% tackle success rate this season. For Hyderabad, Mohammed Rafi has been solid defensively, averaging 6.8 clearances per game, and Abdul Rabeeh has had the most touches in the opposition box among his teammates. On head-to-head, Punjab FC hold a slight edge in this fixture, having never lost to Hyderabad FC in ISL (W1, D1), and will look to maintain that record as they seek to consolidate their position at the top of the table.

Approached Olympiad as an individual event: Gukesh

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh on Tuesday said he approached the recently-concluded Chess Olympiad as an individual event while expressing satisfaction with his performance ahead of the eagerly-awaited World Championship in November. The 18-year-old world championship challenger was the key architect of India's historic victory, as the men's team clinched its first ever gold medal in the tournament. "In the Olympiad, I took it as an individual event. I just wanted to perform well in this specific tournament. I am very happy with my performance and the team's performance," Gukesh, who arrived here from Budapest on Tuesday morning, told reporters at the airport. Gukesh produced a sensational display on the top board for India as he notched up



nine points out of his 10 games, conceding just a couple of draws besides eight victories, which fetched him an individual gold as well. "The result is proof that we were doing many things right and we were in the right spirit. I am really glad about whatever happened in Budapest," he added. He will now focus on the all-important

World Championship clash against defending champion Chinese Grandmaster Ding Liren in November-December. The Indian had won the Candidates tournament in April to become the youngest challenger to the world title at the age of 17. He turned 18 in May. The two will clash in Singapore from November 20 to December 15 for the coveted title and a prize fund of USD 2.50 million. "The form heading into the World Championship, and for now I am quite very happy. There are still a couple of months left and I will work harder and be fully ready," he said. Should the teenager succeed, he would become the first Indian since the legendary Viswanathan Anand to claim the title. Anand won the world crown five times in his glorious career.



Jeevan, Vijay win Hangzhou Open Yuki-Olivetti runners-up at Chengdu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and his partner Vijay Sundar Prashanth clinched their maiden ATP title together, winning the Hangzhou Open men's doubles event, while Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti finished runners-up at Chengdu Open on Tuesday. The unseeded Indian duo of Jeevan and Vijay scripted a remarkable comeback to defeat the unseeded German team of Constantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens 4-6, 7-6(5), 10-7 in a one hour and 49 minutes battle. For the 35-year-old Jeevan this was his second ATP Tour title, having won the Chennai Open with Rohan Bopanna way back in 2017. This was Vijay's first ever ATP Tour title. After losing the first set 4-6, the Indian pair showed immense resilience, holding their nerve to force a tie-break in the second set, which they clinched 7-6 (5). The match then headed into a deciding super tie-break, where Jeevan and Vijay displayed poise under pressure, prevailing 10-7 to seal the win. The Indians managed two aces against their opponents' eight and saved two of three

break points they faced. Jeevan and Vijay remained rock solid in the second serve points, winning 74 per cent of them. YUKI MISSES A THIRD: Yuki and his French partner Olivetti narrowly missed out on a third title this year, losing 4-6, 6-4, 4-10 to the top-seeded French pair Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul in a tense final at the Chengdu Open. Both teams battle hard, with Bhambri and Olivetti winning the second set to push the encounter to a tie-break before falling short in the final moments in a match lasting more than one hour 30 minutes. The Indo-French duo showcased its serving power with six aces, compared to two from their opponents. However, they also struggled with six double faults that proved costly. For the French duo, this was their first win over Yuki-Olivetti, who had won in their previous exchange in a round of 16 clash at ATP Lyon Open. Yuki-Olivetti, who defeated the second seeded doubles pair of Ivan Dodig and Rafael Matos in the semifinal, have won two ATP titles, -- Swiss Open Gstaad in July; and BMW Open, Munich in April. Both were held on clay courts.

Arteta responds to 'dark arts' taunts by Man City as injuries mount for Arsenal



AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta bristled at suggestions his team used "dark arts" in the feisty English Premier League match at Manchester City, saying he preferred to look at "facts" rather than opinions. Arteta said there were "a few players" who will be unavailable for the League Cup third-round match against Bolton Wanderers on Wednesday, one of whom could have a serious injury. He didn't disclose any names.

these things. This is the reality. "Unfortunately, there will be a few players unavailable. Tomorrow, you will find out." Pressed further about his "dark arts" reference, Arteta added: "If a player was feigning, then that means he will carry on and he will be involved in the squad (against Bolton)." The incendiary nature of the draw on Sunday showed that a bitter rivalry might be developing between the best two teams in the Premier League over the past two years. Arsenal appears closer than ever to winning its first league title since 2004, with Arteta - in his fifth full season as its manager - making the team tougher to beat and more streetwise. "All the managers want a team that is happy and able to compete in any context that has been thrown (at them)," he said. "That is what we want to achieve as a team." Arteta said it will be a "matter of weeks" before captain Martin Odegaard returns from ankle ligament damage sustained in the recent international break while playing for Norway.

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Man City midfielder Rodri pictured in Spain goes for tests on injured knee

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City midfielder Rodri has been pictured arriving in Spain reportedly ahead of tests on a right knee injury sustained against Arsenal in the English Premier League at the weekend. City hasn't publicly commented on the nature of the problem, amid reports in the British media that the Spain international has suffered an ACL injury and is set for a long-term absence from the team. Sections of the Spanish media published footage on social media of Rodri arriving in Barcelona on Monday. If Rodri is missing for a long period of time, it seriously damages City's chances of winning the Premier League for a record-extending

fifth straight season. City leads the league by a point after five games. Rodri, who is among the favorites to win the Ballon d'Or for 2024, is arguably City's most important player because of how he protects the defense and conducts the team's passing game. He limped off in the 20th minute of the 2-2 draw with Arsenal at Etihad Stadium on Sunday after hurting his right knee when jostling with Arsenal's Thomas Partey in the box at a corner. Just last week, Rodri said top players could soon go on strike because of the number of games they are being asked to play as new competitions are introduced to an already-packed soccer calendar and matches are added to existing tournaments.

RAHUL BHAI WAS REGIMENTED, GAMBHIR IS RELAXED: ASHWIN

PTI ■ CHENNAI
Gautam Gambhir is more relaxed compared to his predecessor Rahul Dravid, who had a "regimented" style of functioning, feels Indian team's oldest member Ravichandran Ashwin. Dravid, who was in charge of Team India since November 2021, quit the role this July after T20 World Cup triumph and has since been replaced by Gautam Gambhir. Pointing out the difference, Ashwin noted that Gambhir has a relaxed approach and helps in maintaining a lively atmosphere in the dressing room, calling him a "relaxed Rancho". "I think he (Gambhir) is very relaxed. I want to call him 'relaxed rancho'. There's no pressure at all," Ashwin said on

his YouTube channel. "In the morning, there will be a team huddle. He is very relaxed about that as well. He will be like, 'Are you coming, please come'; it's like that." However, when it came to Dravid, Ashwin revealed that he had a more stern and ordered approach. "With Rahul bhai, as soon as we come, he demanded in order. Even a bottle should be kept at a particular place at a particular time. He is very regimented," he disclosed. "With Gambhir, he doesn't expect all that. He has a relaxed order and will be a people's man. He will capture everybody's heart, and I think he will be loved by the boys." While Dravid led India to the T20 World Cup conquest before stepping down from the role, Gambhir took charge after leading Kolkata Knight



Riders to its third Indian Premier League title, having joined his former franchise as a mentor only this season. Gambhir is guiding the Indian team in his first-ever Test assignment with the side, having won the opening Test against Bangladesh here. "Pant was born for cricket in every angle" Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was also in the news during the Test, having scored a hundred in his

maiden Test post his return from the horrific car accident 16 months ago. Remarking on his return, Ashwin felt that the youngster was born for cricket and often his abilities are underestimated. "He (Pant) played very well. When he played, I told Rohit 10 times, 'He plays very well. I don't know how he gets out and sometimes doesn't score runs,'" Ashwin continued. "He was born for cricket in every angle and is a strong person. It goes very far when he hits, and he hits it with one arm." "Everyone sees that and underestimates him, but he has that much capability. He is a talent, and when he bats, everyone gets beaten." "He puts his leg forward and says, 'Ball, are you coming?', and he looks at it and defends."



Pant has been a big influence, need to keep him quiet: Pat Cummins

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
His unbeaten 89 in the second innings at the Gabba in 2021 not only handed Australia their first defeat there in 32 years but also secured a 2-1 series victory for India. "Someone like Rishabh Pant might play a reverse slap and it's an incredible shot, and that's just part of who he is. I think we've become a bit more accustomed." The 31-year-old pacer further compared Pant's aggressive approach to that of his teammates Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh. "Every team has one or two of those players who can take the game on. You know, we've got Travis Head and Mitch Marsh and those guys. I think with those guys, you know that they're going to be aggressive. If you miss your area a little bit, they're going to take the game on," he added. Australia will be in search of their first Test series win against India since the 2014-15. The five-match series is starting with the Perth Test on November 22. Australian captain Pat Cummins acknowledged that Rishabh Pant has been a "major influence" in India's back-to-back Test series wins Down Under, stressing the need to keep the flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter "quiet" in the upcoming five-Test series later this year. A key figure in India's historic Test triumphs in 2018-19 and 2020-21, the 26-year-old Pant made a stunning comeback from a horrific car accident in December 2022, scoring a second innings century in the first Test against Bangladesh last week. "He's someone that has a big influence in a couple of series and we have got to try and keep him quiet," Cummins said on Star Sports. Known for his unorthodox shots, including the reverse and one-handed flicks, Pant has made significant contributions in the last two Test series against Australia. In 12 innings, he has amassed 624 runs at an impressive average of 62.40, with a top score of 159 not out.



India skipper Harmanpreet happy to tick all boxes on preparation front

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The feeling of near misses has haunted Harmanpreet Kaur for the long but the Indian captain feels that her team has been able to tick all the boxes in its bid to cross the line as it starts its Women's T20 World Cup campaign in Bangladesh from October 3-20. Since the tournament's inception in 2009, India have managed to reach the final only once — in 2020 when they lost to nemesis Australia. India have also played WODI World Cup final in 2017. Harmanpreet has been a part of both teams and led in the 2020 T20 World Cup. "This is the best team we are going forward with. The players have been playing together for a long time. For us we came so close last time and lost in semis (2023). "We have ticked all the boxes in terms of preparation compared to the small things were not there maybe in earlier editions," said Harmanpreet at the pre-departure press conference for the T20 World Cup beginning October 3. India have not had game time since end of July when they surprisingly finished runners-up to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup. They had an extensive preparatory camp at the NCA where the players spent a lot of time on fitness and fielding, areas where the team has been found wanting in the past. The conference was also attended by head coach Mumudkar and chief selector Neetu David also made a rare appearance. "During the Asia Cup, we played good cricket, one odd day things did not go to plan," said Harmanpreet, who has been part of all the T20 World Cup that have been staged till date. She has played so many global events in a career spanning close to decade and half but feels that she is as excited as her maiden World championship. "I know I have played so many World Cups but I have the same excitement as I had when I was 19," the 35-year-old skipper said. The main challenge will come from England and Australia, who have found a way to beat India in ICC events even from difficult situations. "We can beat any team and Australia know that very well. They know if there is one team that can beat them it is us," said Harmanpreet. **FOCUSSED ON ENHANCING ATHLETIC ABILITY IN TRAINING CAMP:** Head coach Mumudkar shed more light on the team's focus areas during the training camp in Bengaluru. "We did identify a few things (after the loss to Sri Lanka) and we went about it in the subsequent camp. We first had a fitness and fielding camp. Then we had a 10 day skills only camp. We brought in a sports psychologist also (Mughda Bawre). She has been fantastic with the group."

Elaborate security arrangements for India Bangladesh second Test match in Kanpur

PTI ■ KANPUR (UP)
Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the India-Bangladesh second Test match to be played at the International Green Park stadium here scheduled from September 27, a senior official said on Tuesday. An FIR was filed against 20 members of the Akhilesh Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha on Monday for allegedly organising a 'havan' by obstructing the road before the stadium to protest against atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, said ACP Harish Chander. Police said a "fool-proof" security plan has been chalked out for India and Bangladesh cricket teams



which are supposed to arrive here by Tuesday evening. Kanpur's Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander told PTI they have sought adequate police force, including senior rank officials, to be deployed for the match. "We are reviewing the security arrangements to leave no stone unturned and (are) confident of getting an adequate police force to meet the requirements," he added. The officer said they were coordinating with the central and state agencies, including the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the state Intelligence to share inputs regarding threats, if any, to deal with it deftly. The Green Park stadium and Hotel Landmark have been divided into sectors, zones and sub-zones, and its reign has been given to DCP, additional DCP and ACP rank officials, respectively, said DCP (East) Shrawan Kumar Singh, who has been made the nodal officer of the entire event. Traffic diversions have also been imposed ahead of the match. Those named in the FIR included Rakesh Mishra, Vikas, Atul, Jaydeep, Vikas Gupta, Prashant Dheer, Ajay Rathore, Ashish, Brajesh and about 10 others unidentified. The FIR has been lodged under BNS sections of 189(2) (unlawful assembly), 191 (2) (rioting), 223 (disobeying an order promulgated by a public servant), and 285 (obstruction or injury to any person in any public way), he said.

Sarfraz, Jurel, Dayal likely to be released from India squad for Irani Cup



PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Premier middle-order batter Sarfraz Khan, wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel and pacer Yash Dayal are set to be released from the Indian team for the Irani Cup in case they are not selected in the playing XI for the second Test against Bangladesh, starting September 27 in Kanpur. The BCCI on Tuesday announced the Rest of India squad, led by Rituraj Gaikwad, which will take on reigning Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai in Lucknow from October 1-5. "Dhruv Jurel and Yash Dayal have been selected in the Rest

of India squad and their participation is subject to them not being involved in the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur," said the BCCI statement on Tuesday. If sources are to be believed, in case Rishabh Pant suffers any niggle during the Test, KL Rahul can fill up for him. As reported by PTI on Monday, prolific run-getter Sarfraz, who represents Mumbai domestically, too will play for his home side, led by Ajinkya Rahane, if he does not figure in the playing XI for the second Test against Bangladesh. "Sarfraz Khan who has been retained in the Team India squad for the 2nd Test, will be released to represent the Mumbai team subject to him not being involved in the second Test match against Bangladesh in Kanpur," added the BCCI statement. The Irani Cup match will also mark Mumbai all-rounder Shardul Thakur's return to first-class cricket post surgery. It is understood that all top players including Shreyas Iyer, Musheer Khan, Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian will also play the match for Mumbai. It is also understood that Mumbai stalwart Suryakumar Yadav, who is India's T20 skipper, and all-rounder Shivam Dube, both of whom are automatic picks in the Indian T20 squad, won't be playing the Irani Cup as they would have to report in Gwalior on October 3 for the T20I series starting October 6. Rest of India squad: Rituraj Gaikwad (c), Abhimanyu Easwaran (v-c), Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (wk)*, Ishan Kishan (wk), Manav Suthar, Saransh Jain, Prasidh Krishna, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal*, Ricky Bhui, Shashwat Rawat, Khaleel Ahmed, Rahul Chahar.

New BCCI secretary appointment not on Apex Council agenda

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The BCCI Apex Council will meet on Wednesday to discuss a variety of issues related to the Board's functioning but the appointment of a new secretary to replace the outgoing Jay Shah is not on the agenda. It will be the last apex council meet before the Board's 93rd Annual General Meeting in Bengaluru in five days' time. The appointment of a new secretary has become necessary after Shah was unanimously elected as the next ICC Chairman. However, he will not step down from his current role as BCCI Secretary during the upcoming AGM, as he is scheduled to assume his new position only from December 1. But even a discussion on the process of nomination is not part of the eight items listed in the apex council's agenda which features, among others, the update on Byju's matter. The BCCI has a payment settlement issue with their former title sponsor. The embattled edtech firm ended its sponsorship deal with the BCCI in March last



year. Bengaluru-based company, co-founded by Byju Raveendran, had initially signed a jersey sponsorship deal in March 2019 for three years, which was later extended by another year for a reported sum of USD 55 million. Payments were made until September 2022, but the controversy revolves around unpaid dues from October 2022 to March 2023. There will also be a discussion on the inauguration of the state-of-the-art National Cricket Academy on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Currently, the NCA functions at the M Chinnaswamy stadium premises since its inception over two decades back. Approval for commencement of renovation work on the exteriors of the BCCI headquarters at Mumbai and the North East development project are also part of the agenda.

My biggest goal is to get Sindhu back on the podium: Sridhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
PV Sindhu still has the hunger to succeed, and the primary aim is to help her regain consistency, says her new coach Anup Sridhar, who has been roped in by the two-time Olympic medallist on a trial basis following the Paris Games. Sindhu, who returned from the French capital without a medal for the first time in three Olympics, has been training under Sridhar, a Beijing Olympian, for the past three weeks at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad.

"I spoke with Sindhu's team a few weeks ago, and she has been training under me in Hyderabad since the start of this month. We've made significant progress, and in two weeks, we'll head to tournaments in Europe," the 41-year-old Sridhar, who also briefly coached Lakshya Sen, told PTI. Sindhu lost in the pre-quarters to China's He Bingjiao at the Paris Games and will restart her BWF world tour season with the European leg, which includes the USD 420,000 Arctic Open in Vantaa, Finland (October 8-13), and

the USD 850,000 Denmark Open (October 15-20) in Odense. "I'm taking it week by week," said Sridhar, who has been brought on board for the remainder of the season after Indonesian Agus Dwi Santoso's contract ended post-Paris Olympics. "Since we haven't committed to anything long-term, it's hard to plan for 2025. However, there are a couple of tournaments in 2025 that Sindhu should aim to peak at," he said. "You can plan for physical peaks, but not for form. I have my eye on a few tournaments



next year, but the immediate focus is to enhance her consistency and get her back on the podium -- that's the big goal." Sindhu last won the Singapore

Open and Commonwealth Games in 2022 and finished as runner-up at the Madrid Spain Masters in 2023 and the Malaysia Masters Super 500 in May this year. Reflecting on his run so far, Sridhar, an Arjuna awardee, said: "I've spent this time understanding her situation, and I'm pleased to report that she's completely physically fit, with no signs of aches or pains. "We've followed our training schedule without missing any sessions. I'm working on helping her unlearn certain things while introducing new elements to her game."

Sindhu suffered a knee injury during the French Open in October last year and returned to competitive play just five months before the Paris Games. "She faced a tough couple of years with some good results but lacked consistency during that period," Sridhar said. "In just three weeks, I've noticed decent improvements, but there's still more work to be done," said Sridhar, a 2007 Asian Championships bronze-medallist. "If we can get her to a level where she's consistently advancing past the early

rounds, regardless of her draw or opponent, she'll have a realistic chance of making a strong comeback." Sridhar said Sindhu has accomplished nearly everything in badminton. "...Yet her hunger remains. She works extremely hard and is a great role model for the rest of India's badminton players." Sindhu made a series of coaching changes in the lead-up to the Paris Olympics. After clinching a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, her South Korean coach, Park Tae Sang, parted ways with her in early 2023.