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# BJP IN HUDDLE TO PICK CMS

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After securing a decisive mandate in the Hindi heartland States of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, the BJP high command is currently in a huddle to name the Chief Ministers (CM). It has been three days since the results of the Assembly polls were declared on Sunday. Party sources said several rounds of meetings, involving top leaders, including BJP President JP Nadda, have taken place in the last two days to finalise the candidates for the key positions. The party, despite having prominent leaders like multiple-time incumbent Chief Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan in MP, Vasundhara Raje Scindia in Rajasthan, and Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh in the electoral fray, did not go to the polls with a specific chief ministerial candidate. While there has been no word from senior party leaders on the likely chief ministerial picks, names will be decided keeping in mind the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Interestingly, party sources have revealed that all three winning States may have Deputy Chief Ministers, following the model the BJP has implemented in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath. BJP sources said the central



leadership will soon be appointing observers to oversee meetings of newly elected MLAs of the party in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan where they will elect their leaders. "Party will definitely keep in mind the major Lok Sabha elections within six months," party sources said. In Rajasthan, two-time Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia, Mahant Baba Balak

Nath, Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari, and Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are the top four contenders for the top post in Rajasthan. Although Vasundhara remains the front runner, at least until the Lok Sabha polls. Vasundhara is trying to impress the Central leadership and holding meetings with her loyalists since Sunday when the result were declared. On the other

hand Shivraj Singh Chouhan in MP and Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh have maintained a low profile and have left the issue with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Sources from Vasundhara camp claimed that nearly 50 MLAs have met her at her residence since then. She has been the Chief Minister of Rajasthan twice from 2003 to 2008 and from 2013 to 2018.

While she was the chief ministerial face in earlier elections, the party decided to go to polls without projecting any leader for the post and Modi leading the campaign. BJP Sources said the party is not very keen on Vasundhara having a third tenure as the Chief Minister. The party's in-charge for Rajasthan, Arun Singh, said the decision of the party's

parliamentary board about the Chief Minister's post will be acceptable to all, even as newly elected MLAs continued to visit Baba Balak Nath. The Lok Sabha MP from Alwar is the head of the Baba Mastnath Math in Rohtak. He was the BJP's candidate for Assembly elections from the Tijara Assembly constituency. Known as 'Rajasthan ka Yogi' Balak Nath is the eighth 'mahant' (chief priest in a monastery) of Baba Mast Nath Math. Another name that can be considered for the top job in Rajasthan is that of Gayatri Devi's granddaughter and Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari. Previously, she was an MP from Sawai Madhopur. She is known for social work and was initially considered as an outsider in Sawai Madhopur. In Madhya Pradesh among the probable names for the CM post being tossed around are incumbent favourite Chouhan, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Jyotiraditya Scindia. In a video message on Tuesday, Chouhan said he had not been a contender for the CM's post in the past, nor was he one now. "As a party worker, I have always carried out whatever work the BJP assigned me to the best of my ability, with dedication and honesty," Chouhan said in a video statement posted on his social media account.

## INDIA Bloc meet postponed after key leaders snub



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of differences cropping up between various parties in the INDIA Bloc, the Opposition alliance has now decided to reschedule the meeting of party heads to the third week of December. Despite many leaders of the coalition already being in Delhi for the ensuing Winter Session of Parliament, the INDIA bloc meeting, announced by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on December 6 to strategise for the Lok Sabha 2024 polls, received a lukewarm response from several major stakeholder leaders, including West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav, and senior Janata Dal United (U) leaders.

According to sources in Congress, several key Opposition leaders will not be able to attend the meeting that was earlier scheduled on Wednesday in Delhi. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin will not be able to come to Delhi as several areas of the State have been badly hit by Cyclone Michaung. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will not be able to make it to the national Capital owing to his illness. Similarly, West Bengal Mamata Banerjee would have given it a miss owing to a wedding in her family. While Mamata claimed that she would go ahead with her state programmes as she was not aware of the meeting call, Akhilesh said if the behaviour of the Congress had been different in one of the States where polls were conducted recently, it too would have seen a change.

## BRIEFS

**KARNI SENA CHIEF SHOT DEAD**  
**Jaipur:** Right-wing group Shri Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena's president Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi was shot dead in the living room of his house here on Tuesday by three armed men, one of whom was also killed in retaliatory firing, police said. One of Gogamedi's security guards sustained bullet injuries in the exchange of fire with the assailants, who had gone to his house in the Shyam Nagar area on the pretext of meeting him, they said. The incident was caught on CCTV. P2

**MICHAUNG MAKES LANDFALL, CLAIMS 12 LIVES**  
**Chennai/Amaravati/Bhubaneswar/Hyderabad:** Severe cyclonic storm Michaung made landfall crossing south Andhra Pradesh coast between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm on Tuesday leaving its maximum fury to be felt on Monday in Chennai and adjoining areas in neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Southern districts of Odisha and eastern Telangana continue to be on alert. At least 12 people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents in and around Chennai. P5

**DELHI'S AIR QUALITY IMPROVES**  
**New Delhi:** Pollution levels in Delhi improved on Tuesday, and were recorded in the "poor" category, with minimum temperature settling at 11.2 degrees Celsius, weather department officials said. As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) was 297, higher than 310 ("very poor" category) recorded a day earlier. The national Capital recorded a maximum temperature of 25.4 degrees Celsius.

## Ram Temple event guest list ready

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

As the eagerly awaited consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya approaches, the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has revealed the meticulously prepared final guest list. A total of 7,000 guests, including revered saints and sages from across the country, have been invited to partake in the historic event. In a bid to ensure a seamless and harmonious celebration, the Trust has issued a special appeal to all attending saints and religious leaders not to bring traditional symbols such as dand, chhatra and paduka to the ceremony. The decision was formalised during a meeting where officials from the four provinces of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Vishwa Hindu Parishad gathered in Ayodhya. Before the meeting, the officials inspected the ongoing work at the Ram Jannabhoomi site, along with assessing the progress of the statue construction and the tent city being set up in Bagh Bijesi. Following these evaluations, a two-hour meeting took place at the Trust office in Ramkot, focusing on the comprehensive arrangements for accommodating, transporting and providing sustenance for the guests. The guest list was meticulously prepared to encompass a diverse



array of individuals, with particular emphasis on extending a warm welcome to approximately 2,500 sages and saints representing various traditions from around the country. Approximately 7,000 guests, including representatives from Kedarnath, Badrinath, Baba Vishwanath Dham and Vaishno Devi temple, have been invited to witness the historic event. While the participation of priests from major temples remains uncertain, representatives from these temples are expected to attend the consecration ceremony. Emphasising the principle of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' (the guest is god), the Trust is keen on extending a grand reception to the esteemed guests. Dr Krishna Gopal, former co-

secretary of the RSS, held a meeting with the officials in Ayodhya, addressing various aspects of the consecration ceremony. This included discussions on accommodation, food, healthcare, sanitation and the tent city's provisions for the devotees. Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai said 21 Vedic acharyas from Kashi would conduct the consecration of the Ram temple. The throne for Lord Ram Lalla, eight feet long and four feet wide, is ready, with the final touch of a gold layer pending. "The Trust is making meticulous preparations to enshrine Ram Lalla on this golden throne during the Pran Pratishtha ceremony," he said.

## Adani Group Stocks surge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Group shares continued their upward movement on Tuesday after a report stated that US agency IDFC had found Hindenburg Research's allegations of fraud against billionaire Gautam Adani-led conglomerate were 'not relevant'. Some of the group firms hit their 52-week highs and locked in upper circuit levels, with the total valuation of group companies reaching near the ₹14 lakh crore mark at close. Adani Energy Solutions and Adani Green Energy zoomed 20 per cent each to close at ₹1,082.60 and ₹1,348 apiece, Adani Total Gas surged 19.95 per cent to settle at ₹878.20, and NDTV jumped 18.41 per cent to end at ₹266.55 per share on BSE. Flagship firm Adani Enterprises advanced 17.03 per cent to finish at ₹2,960.10, Adani Power climbed 15.91 per cent to close at ₹538.50, while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) bounced 15.15 per cent to settle at ₹1,011.85. During the day, shares of Adani Power and APSEZ hit 52-week highs on the BSE.



Shares of Adani Wilmar rose 9.93 per cent to end at ₹380.70, ACC gained 8.20 per cent to close at ₹2,185, Ambuja Cements went up 7.22 per cent to settle at ₹508.70. Meanwhile, Sanghi Industries jumped 4.97 per cent to finish at ₹129.90 apiece on the exchange. The combined market valuation of all the 11 firms soared to ₹13.91 lakh crore at close on Tuesday. It stood at around ₹11.98 lakh crore at the close of trading on Monday. Thus, the combined market valuation of all the 11 firms, including Sanghi Industries went up by about

₹1.92 lakh crore on Tuesday. This was the first time that the group stocks hit the ₹14 lakh crore mark after facing a rout early this year following a report by US short-seller Hindenburg Research that alleged financial wrongdoing and stock manipulation by the conglomerate. However, the company denied all the allegations. Meanwhile, a report stated that the US International Development Finance Corp, or DFC, examined the allegations against the Adani Group before extending a loan for the Indian conglomerate's port project in Sri Lanka.

## Panic subsides as leopard returns to natural habitat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The leopard, which spread panic in South Delhi's Sainik Farms and its adjoining areas for the last five days, seems to have returned to its natural habitat. According to the Delhi Government's forest department officials the leopard has not been seen since Saturday evening but the department's team remain stationed in the area. However, residents were advised to remain vigilant for a couple days more. The operation to capture it continued on Tuesday with the help of drone surveillance and at least 50 police personnel were deployed to monitor the situation. Several arterial roads in the area were blocked. Deputy Conservator of Forest (South Division) Mandeep Mittal said the Forest Department teams combed the area but did not find anything. "The leopard has not been seen since Saturday evening. We are expecting that it has gone



back but our team is still there," he said. The cage that was set up is also there," he said. Sushil Jain, a wildlife expert from Bail A Tail NGO, who led the search operation along with the forest department, wildlife and the Delhi Police for the last five days, told *The Pioneer* that search operation was on Tuesday evening. "A joint team of the force, Forest Department,

Western Avenue Resident Welfare Association (WARWA) and an NGO (Bail A Tail) conducted an hour-long search operation in the area in the afternoon but could not find the animal. There was no sighting of leopard for the past two days. That's why we decided to end operation," Jain said. After the search operation, the Residents Welfare Association of

Sainik Farms issued an advisory informing that the forest department officials have completed their search. "As per them the animal seems to have returned to its natural habitat. We can relax for now but still keep our eyes & ears open atleast for a couple of days more. We take this opportunity to thank our SHO Surinder Rana and his team and the forest officials for their support in this crisis. We on behalf of all residents thank our wonderful Member Sushil Jain for his relentless support," reads the advisory. "Last but not the least we salute our Quick Response Teams and our guards who have been on their toes all this time. Meanwhile lets try to keep the story alive so that the unwanted elements stay off our area," it said. "On Monday again, a thorough search operation was conducted in the area but the animal was not spotted. Exits were closed from three sides and only the one leading

towards the jungle was left open. It is likely that the leopard has gone back into the jungles of Aravallis but we are still on alert," the police official said. On Sunday, the Forest Department team conducted a search operation using drones but the leopard was not spotted anywhere, the official added. The Asola Wildlife Sanctuary shares boundaries with densely populated settlements like Sangam Vihar, Chattarpur, Sainik Farms and Fatehpur Beri and villages such as Mangar and Pali in Faridabad. In 2021, a leopard was caught on multiple cameras in southwest Delhi's Najafgarh, leading to cages being installed to catch the animal, but in vain. A similar exercise was also undertaken in 2016 to trap a leopard that had reached the Yamuna Biodiversity Park (YBP). The state forest and wildlife department eventually trapped the animal, which was then released in the Shivaliks.

## Revanth is Telangana new Chief Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy will be the new Chief Minister of the State. Announcing the decision at the party headquarters in national Capital on Tuesday, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal said the swearing-in will take place on December 7 in Hyderabad. "After considering the report of observers and after discussion with senior leaders, the Congress president has decided to go with Revanth Reddy as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Telangana," he said. Revanth was the frontrunner for the top post in the State after the party staged a stupendous victory in Assembly elections by

winning 64 seats in Telangana, upstaging the BRS. Venugopal said the Congress Legislature Party in Telangana had unanimously decided to authorise the Congress president to take a decision to appoint the CLP leader in its meeting earlier. He said the party had appointed four observers, including Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Deepa Dasgumshi, Ajay Kumar and K J George, besides AICC general secretary in-charge Manikrao Thakre. Shivakumar and Thakre were present as Venugopal announced the party high command's decision on Telangana. He did not answer queries on how many Ministers would be sworn in and whether there would be any Deputy Chief Ministers.



# Ladli Bahna Yojana will be recorded in history: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Ladli Bahna Yojana is in discussion everywhere, it has proved to be an important step towards women empowerment, it will be recorded in history as a social revolution. The scheme has increased the confidence and self-esteem of women. The behaviour and attitude of family members and society towards women has changed. Women have taken advantage of the scheme and started their own work and are moving towards economic independence. Chouhan addressed the officers and employees who played an important role in the planned implementation of Ladli Bahna Yojana at Samatva Bhawan and also gave them citations. Chief



Secretary Smt. Veera Rana, Principal Secretary Women and Child Development Smt. Deepali Rastogi and officers were present. Chouhan said that the government staff has created a revolution by implementing such a big scheme without any hindrance and with zero defects in a short time, this is an amazing achievement. The teamwork of Team Madhya Pradesh cannot be praised enough. Working on a war footing and adding 1 crore

31 lakh sisters in just 75 to 80 days is a proof of the commitment of the officers and employees. No eligible woman was deprived of the benefits of the scheme, the scheme was implemented without a lot of complaints, this shows their sensitivity. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the process of women empowerment started with the implementation of Ladli Laxmi Yojana. We had decided that every daughter born in the state should be a lakhpati. It was with this thought that Ladli Laxmi Yojana was started, now there are 46 lakh Ladli Laxmis in the state. Ladli Laxmi Yojana and Kanya Vivah Yojana brought change in the thinking of considering the daughter as a burden. To empower women, they were given reservation in local bodies and services. Schemes for

exemption in stamp duty in the name of women, registry and financial assistance before and after the birth of a son or daughter were implemented. Ladli Bahna Yojana is the next step in the process of women empowerment. Chouhan said that financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to women of Baiga, Bharia and Sahariya communities was started from the year 2017. The study of the effectiveness of this scheme revealed the fact that the malnutrition level of children has improved with the financial assistance. As a result, the idea emerged that providing assistance to all needy women would improve their standard of living and also increase the respect of women. Ladli Bahna Yojana was started with the aim of providing assistance to all women without any caste distinction.

## ECI officials call on Governor

**Bhopal:** Governor Mangubhai Patel was called on by Chief Electoral Officer of Madhya Pradesh Anupam Rajan and Secretary of Election Commission of India Amit Kumar at Raj Bhavan today. Governor Patel was handed over the notification of the newly elected MLAs of all 230 assembly constituencies of Madhya Pradesh Assembly Election-2023 by the officer duo. Patel was felicitated by the officials of the Commission by presenting him a bouquet of flowers. Patel was informed about various activities conducted by the Commission. On this occasion, Principal Secretary to the Governor DP Ahuja, Additional Chief Electoral Officer Rajesh Kumar Kaul, Under Secretary of Election Commission of India Prafulla Awasthi, officers and functionaries were present.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan having meals with Ladli Bahna during his visit at Nehru Nagar locality in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

## Congress candidates raise issues with EVMs in review meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Exit poll was to create an atmosphere against Congress, said State Congress President Kamal Nath at the review meeting of Congress regarding the results of the recently concluded Assembly Elections 2023. State Congress President Kamal Nath welcomed all the winning MLAs and candidates of Congress who came to the meeting. He said that we have lost in this election. But I remember we lost even worse in 1977. At that time our top leaders of the country like Indira Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi also lost the elections. The whole atmosphere seemed against Congress, but we all united and came to the field. In the elections held after three years, Indira Gandhi formed a government with full majority with more than 300 seats, simi-

larly we have to start preparing for the Lok Sabha elections to be held after 4 months and form our government with full strength. Kamal Nath said that all the candidates and MLAs should thoroughly review their elections and analyze scientifically why they lost or won. He asked all the candidates to send two separate reports to him within the next ten days. Analysis of the elections in one report and review of the organization in the other report should be sent secretly. He said that he will tour the entire state very soon and the entire party will prepare for the Lok Sabha elections. He urged the candidates and MLAs to present their election experience in the meeting. Main points emerged from the experiences shared by most of the winning MLAs and candidates. Where the Congress party lost by a huge margin, more than 100 EVMs were found to be 99 per-

cent charged at the time of counting. Whereas during voting they were used for more than 10 hours. This means that these machines were not used at all during the counting process, which is not possible under any circumstances. This raises suspicion that either the EVMs were changed or they were tampered with. Candidates said that on an average a serious case of tampering is seen in 100 EVM machines or 20000 votes. When Congress was getting a huge majority in the postal vote, the sudden reduction in EVM machines raises doubts. Due to this manipulation, when BJP gained lead on most of the seats, by putting pressure on the administration, Congress candidates who were trailing or leading by small margins in the last five rounds of counting were declared defeated. All the candidates said that the

people of Madhya Pradesh have expressed confidence in the leadership of Kamal Nath and the candidates also have full faith in the leadership of Kamal Nath, now the real need is to remove the EVMs which have become completely doubtful from the election process. Effective measures should be taken for this. The candidates also said that this time they got more votes than before in the booths dominated by BJP, while their votes in their strongest booths unexpectedly came down. After listening to the views of the Congress candidates, Kamal Nath said that all the candidates should send their reports to him in detail and with facts. He has also received many complaints regarding EVMs and will raise this issue before the national leadership in the meetings in Delhi and will find a solution by doing a thorough in-depth study on this subject.

## Two nabbed for murder charges in Sehore

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sehore police have arrested two accused who pushed a 33-year-old man of the running car at Bhopal-Gwalior highway in Sehore who was dragged for about 25 km after he got stuck with the seat belt. Shyampur police of Sehore has arrested two accused and registered a case of murder. One of the accused is a cousin of the deceased. All were returning to Bhopal from Rajasthan. According to SP Mayank Awasthi, information was received at 12 in the night of Saturday that a person was being dragged in a car on the Bhopal-Gwalior highway. By the time the car was stopped near Doraha toll post, 33 year old Sandeep, father of Ramesh, resident of Bhopal, who was trapped in the seat belt, had died.

**Sandeep had a fight with his cousin Sanjeev while sitting in the car. After the dispute escalated, Sandeep was thrown out of the car**

According to SP Awasthi, in this case the police interrogated eyewitness Mukesh Mewada and both the accused. It came to light that Sandeep had a fight with his cousin Sanjeev while sitting in the car. After the dispute escalated, Sandeep was thrown out of the car. Sandeep got stuck in the seat belt. The young man kept getting stuck in the seat belt on the

back side of the driver's seat and was dragged. The accused are identified as Sanjeev Naqwal (53) and Rajesh Chadhar (38), Awadhपुरi, Bhopal. At around 10 pm locals spotted something dragging in the car at the flyover intersection, at that time the car would be at a speed of around 80-100 and thought some bag was hanging and went a little closer to car, tried to stop them by taking down the windshield of his car but they failed to listen and immediately informed the police. Another vehicles by followed the car and finally they had to stop the car at the toll plaza. This body was hanging towards the rear of the car, entangled with the seat belt located opposite the driving seat. There were two youths in the car who were in an intoxicated state.

## Day temperature drops by 4.3 degree in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the state capital Bhopal day temperature dropped by 4.9 degree celsius; cold winds, drizzle and fog were witnessed creating intense cold conditions in the season and abrupt weather conditions would prevail, said Met. The weather of the capital Bhopal has become intensely cold again. Cold winds have started blowing. Within 24 hours the day temperature dropped by 4.3 degree celsius. Visibility was reduced to 500 meters and upto 1 kilometer on Monday. Cold winds continued to blow throughout the day. The weather will remain the same on Tuesday also. Meteorologists have predicted cloudy skies in the next 2 days also. It rained in the city since November 26, but the weather cleared on December 3 due to the weakening of the system made up of Western Disturbance, cyclone and trough line. Due to this the day's temperature reached 29.8 degree celsius. However, the weather changed again during the night and the weather changed on Monday. It remained cloudy throughout the day. At the same time, cold winds also started blowing. There was also dense fog on Monday morning. It was cloudy during the day. The Meteorological Department has predicted cloudy weather on Tuesday also. Senior meteorologist said that Bhopal will remain cloudy on Tuesday. The effect of storm 'Michong' will be visible. While the temperature dropped during the day, the temperature continued to rise at night. For the last four nights the temperature has been hovering at 17-18 degrees or more. This is happening because of moisture. However, now the night temperature will also start decreasing.



Congress State President Kamal Nath, senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh and other leaders review a meeting of Congress party candidates after the party's defeat in the state assembly elections, at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

## IISER researchers complete genome sequencing of Jamun tree

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal (IISER), researchers have completed the first-ever genome sequencing of the Jamun tree (Syzygium cumini), an evergreen tree popular in India for its medicinal properties, fruits, and ornamental value. To understand the genomic and evolutionary basis of the tree's medicinal values, the research team sequenced the S.cumini genome from the world's largest tree genus Syzygium using Oxford Nanopore and 10x Genomics sequencing technologies. Jamun is the largest genome to be sequenced from the world's largest tree genus, Syzygium. The team, led by Dr. Vineet K. Sharma, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, includes Abhisek Chakraborty, Shruti Mahajan, and Manohar Singh Bisht from IISER Bhopal. Their findings have been published in the peer-reviewed journal Frontiers in Plant Science. Explaining the aim of this research, Dr. Vineet K Sharma, Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Bhopal, said, "The aim of this research was to gain new functional and evolutionary insights from the

Jamun genome, which could be responsible for the wide range of pharmacological properties of this species conferred by the bioactive compounds that act as nutraceutical agents in modern medicine." Highlighting the insights gained from this research, Dr. Vineet K Sharma said, "Taken together, it is tempting to speculate that the adaptive evolution of major plant secondary metabolism pathways in S. cumini species confers unprecedented antidiabetic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and other pharmacological properties of this tree. Further, the whole genome sequence of S. cumini will facilitate future genomic, evolutionary, and ecological studies on the world's largest tree genus." Syzygium cumini, often known as Jamun, jambolan, or black plum, is a Myrtaceae plant family tropical tree. Its natural range includes the Indian Subcontinent and South-East Asia. The clove genus, Syzygium, is the world's biggest tree genus, with 1,193 recognised species, of which Jamun is one. Jamun's therapeutic properties are widely celebrated in India. Specifically, the fruit seed extracts of Jamun have well-known anti-diabetic proper-

ties. It is also highly recommended in Ayurveda to treat a variety of health ailments such as stomach discomfort, arthritis, cardiac problems, flatulence, asthma, diarrhea, and stomach spasms. The black plum can be eaten fresh or made into juice. Not just Ayurveda but multiple clinical studies in the past have also shown the health benefits of Jamun due to it being an excellent source of bioactive components such as flavonoids, polyphenols, antioxidants, iron, and vitamin C. This attempt by IISER Bhopal is the first time that the plant has been examined and decoded so closely. The Jamun genome has a higher number of coding genes resulting from gene duplication events compared to the other two sequenced species from this genus, which points towards a neopolyploidy event in the Jamun species. This duplication of genes can allow Jamun to acquire novel functions. Their analyses revealed the key genes involved in facilitating the adaptive evolution of Jamun. Among these, 14 genes allow for the biosynthesis of terpenoids, which are a diverse class of metabolites that are responsible for plant defense responses. These also con-

tribute significantly to the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties offered by the tree's leaves and seeds. Moreover, alkaloids, another type of metabolite, are also abundantly found in different plant parts and offer curative properties against many diseases. This combination of alkaloids along with flavonoids is what gives the plant its anti-arthritis properties, the researchers suggest. Jamun has been considered one of the best home remedies for treating arthritis since ancient times. To fully explain the anti-diabetic properties of this plant, the researchers discovered the presence of glucosides, another class of metabolites that prevent the conversion of starch into sugar, and explain how the plant possesses anti-diabetic value. Previous clinical assessments have shown that Jamun has a low glycemic index and alleviates diabetic symptoms such as excessive urination. Jamun also has various genes that make the plant rugged and improve its stress tolerance to factors like weeds and insects that induce damage, heat stress, salinity, and drought. This points to remarkable adaptive evolution in Jamun, the research team finds.

## Central Bank organises seminar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Seminar on the topic 'Rajbhasha Hindi - Kal, Aaj aur Kal' was organized by Central Bank of India under the aegis of Bank Nagar Rajbhasha Implementation Committee, Bhopal. While inaugurating the seminar, Zonal Head, Central Bank of India Zonal Office, Bhopal Tarsem Singh Zira, said that Hindi language has been the official language, public language and contact language since the beginning and after independence, the Constituent Assembly unanimously approved Hindi on September 14, 1949. Accepted as the official language of the Union. Hindi language itself is the carrier of thoughts and feelings as well as identifies the identity of the country. As the key speaker of the Official Language Seminar, Shalini Shukla presented concise views on the history of the official language Hindi in her statement. According to her, in the era of Internet and e-commerce, the importance of the official language of our country, Hindi has increased even more.



Newly elected MLAs undergo registration process after the state assembly elections-2023, in the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

## Shivraj welcomes Hanuman Sena Rath Yatra

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed the Hanuman Sena Rath Yatra at Chief Minister residence by offering prayers and showering flowers. On this occasion, Chouhan said that the grand temple of Lord Ramlala is ready. Everyone is very happy. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi will consecrate the temple on January 22. There was much struggle for years for the construction of Ram temple, people made sacrifices, now the auspicious day is coming when Lord Ramlala will adorn the temple. I bow down to his feet again and again, I wish that his blessings continue to shower on everyone. It may be noted here that the Rath Yatra, which started from

Bikaner on 24th November, will conclude in Ayodhya on January 14 after traveling 26,000 kilometers in the country. Tulsi Peethadishwar Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya Ji Maharaj, Amrit Mahotsav will be held in Ayodhya from January 14 to 22, under which Ashtottara Sahastra (1008) Kundiya Hanuman Mahayagya and Shri Ram Katha will be held.



# DU AC for urgent meet on alleged irregularities in 12 colleges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the Delhi University's Academic Council and a teachers' body on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh calling for an urgent meeting to discuss "irregularities" in 12 colleges highlighted by Delhi Education Minister Atishi in a recent letter to the Centre. Condemning Atishi's letter, the Indian National Teachers Congress (INTEC) said that a significant policy matter pertaining to these 12 colleges was presented before Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan without consulting the stakeholders. Atishi wrote the letter to Pradhan on Friday flagging

**Condemning Atishi's letter, the Indian National Teachers Congress (INTEC) said that a significant policy matter pertaining to these 12 colleges was presented before Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan without consulting the stakeholders**

"irregularities and procedural lapses involving hundreds of crores of rupees from the public exchequer" in 12 Delhi University colleges that are funded by the city government. She said since these colleges are "directly affiliated with DU", they're not answerable to the Delhi government for the judicious utilisation of funds. She suggested that

the colleges can either be merged and brought under the Delhi government or the Centre may disaffiliate them and take their full control and in that case, the Delhi government will stop allocating funds to them. The memorandum said, "The letter erroneously categorises these 12 colleges as 'affiliated' when in fact, they are 'constituent' colleges of

the University of Delhi and are inseparable from the university." "The Delhi government's intent to transform these colleges into Autonomous Degree Granting Colleges under clause 10.3 of the New Education Policy (NEP) clearly signals a privatisation agenda, rendering education unaffordable for economically weaker sections," it said. The memorandum further said a special Executive Meeting should be convened urgently by the Delhi University to deliberate on this issue and arrive at a decisive resolution. In a statement, INTEC "unequivocally" condemned Atishi's letter concerning the 12 colleges that receive 100 per cent funding from the Delhi government.

It also condemned the city government's proposal to disaffiliate these colleges from Delhi University and designate them to Ambedkar University or Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University, saying that not only do these universities have exorbitant fee structures, they also do not offer science stream courses. The teachers' body alleged that insufficient allocation of grants to these colleges has plunged them into a severe financial crisis, and salaries of teachers and non-teaching staff are often delayed for several months. Additionally, there are pending arrears amounting to crores of rupees for teachers who have been promoted in the last one and a half years, it claimed.



Home Guards police contingents during full dress rehearsal ahead of the 77th Raising Day celebrations of Madhya Pradesh Home Guards, Civil Defence and Disaster Management in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo



Members of the Center for Advanced Research and Development form a human chain during an AIDS awareness campaign, in front of the Vindiyachal Bhawan in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

## Young minds will steer India's growth: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday young minds will steer India's future growth with science and technology and innovation. Inaugurating the New Delhi Municipal Council's Schools Annual Science Fair, he also said India's scientific prowess is going to have a major role in the making of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. "Our greatest asset is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who not only has a natural predilection for science but is also forthcoming in supporting and promoting Science and Technology based initiatives and projects", added Dr Jitendra Singh. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has organized the two-day NDMC's Schools Annual Science Fair starting Tuesday to showcase scientific creativities in the forms of models and

charts by its school's blooming scientist. The theme of the Science Fair is "Technology and Toys". Apart from NDMC Schools, some public schools including St. Columbus, St. Thomas, Modern School, Sardar Patel etc., National Science Center, Science Magazine-Science Reporter and Avishkar were amongst those participating in the Science Fair. Science Games, quiz, debate, health mela, science toys etc. are also attractions of Science Fair. More than 60 exhibits displayed in the Science Fair, showcasing the scientific temperament, aptitude and innovative minds of the future scientists. Science/Mathematics inventive exhibits, displays from Palika Tinkering Lab /Atal Tinkering Lab, and interactive workshops for students on "Fun with Science," "Science Behind Miracles," and exploring the wonders of science with the National Science Centre are also in the science fair. The fair will also feature a display of science maga-

zines and a "Do It Yourself" (DIY) Zone. One of the standout features of the science fair is the "Live Science Talk" with prominent scientists and experts in the field. The overarching goal of the exhibition is to educate children on "AtmaNirbhar Bharat" and contribute to the education of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Notably, this event marks the resumption of the exhibition after a hiatus of three years due to the pandemic. The Science Fairs also highlighted the Digital India Mission and the objectives outlined in the National Education Policy. The event is free of cost and open to students from all schools, parents, guardians, educators, school administrators, and science enthusiasts. NDMC urges all walks of life to come together and witness the brilliance of young scientists, celebrating their commitment to a sustainable future. The event promises to be a unique opportunity for learning and engagement.

## CO Col Ajay Kohli convenes meet

**Bhopal:** A meeting was held by Assistant NCC Officer (ANO) and CareTaker Officer (CTO) along with 4 MP BN NCC and it was headed by Command Officer Colonel Ajay Kohli. He congratulated ANO & CTO for 100 percent enrollment for the session 2023-24 and ordered to complete the online process at the earliest and send it to DG NCC office Delhi. Command Officer suggested to all ANO and CTO to complete all NCC courses within stipulated time and to conduct examination of A, B & C certificate 2023-24 and shared details of the date of examination. Details on digital awareness were shared in the meeting. Activities conducted under social service and community development (SSCD) are to bring social welfare in the society, to eradicate social and economic barriers and to promote development in society. Under the guidance of 4 MP Battalion Group the Annual Training Camp would be organised on December 9 to 18, 2023 in CAPT Kokta Bhopal. The candidates would be trained under winter weather conditions. In the camp over 500 participants from different educational institutes would take part.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

AP MLA and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Tuesday said the BJP's hatred towards Delhiites is evident again as it is attempting to hinder all the good work being done by AAP in the MCD. While the Kejriwal government is ensuring salary disbursement to all MCD employees on the first day of the month, the BJP is insisting on investigating it, he said. Pathak said AAP regularized nearly 7,000 temporary employees and granted MTNL status to 3,000 DBC employ-

ees, but the BJP is seeking to dismiss these by approaching the court. Moreover, the MCD developed the 311 app, resolving more than 35,000 complaints in just one month, but BJP is labeling the app as fake. "The BJP was auctioning MCD lands, but without any auction, we are consistently increasing the government treasury. The BJP is troubled by this too. We're eliminating mountains of garbage, but the BJP attempts to defame the Kejriwal government by igniting fires within it. When the AAP's government canceled the house tax imposed by BJP

in rural areas, BJP opposed even that," he said. The BJP is troubled by this too. We're eliminating mountains of garbage, but the BJP attempts to defame the Kejriwal government by igniting fires within it. When the AAP's government canceled the house tax imposed by BJP in rural areas, BJP opposed even that. I want to tell the BJP members that only hatred-driven politics will lead to your defeat in the elections. Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor hit back at Pathak saying that AAP leader is a master in the art of misleading people.

"When in opposition then too he bluffed by misrepresenting facts and now when in power he wants to sell hollow dreams," Kapoor said. The BJP leader has said that BJP is a constructive opposition party we don't oppose any good step initiated by the MCD administration. Yet we do all we can to raise peoples demands. Delhi BJP Spokesperson has said that the regularization of sanitation workers was initiated by BJP served MCD and the formalities of 7000 whom Pathak is claiming to have regularised were initiated & completed by BJP before 2022.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
Open Tender Notice No.: JHSW-M-PLSMA-2023-24-22  
E-tenders are invited from experienced or interested contractors on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work-  
**Name of work:** Hiring of Plasma Cutting Machine along with spares for cutting services for carrying out panel cutting work in Wagons.  
**Cost of work:** ₹ 7,72,186.50/- (Including 18% GST).  
**Earnest money:** ₹ 15,500/-, Time of completion: Six Months. Online tender closing date and time: 26.12.2023 at 11.00 Hrs., Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) 1955/23 FA

**निवेशक शिक्षा और जागरूकता अभियान**  
म्यूचुअल फंड्स के बारे में और अधिक जानने के लिए इसमें अवश्य भाग लें.  
दिनांक तथा स्थान :  
शनिवार, 9 दिसंबर 2023; शाम 4:00 बजे  
होटल श्री वाटिका, जोन 1, महाराजा प्रताप नगर, भोपाल, मध्य प्रदेश.  
रजिस्ट्रेशन करने के लिए, कृपया संपर्क करें: रुचिर राजन, मोबाइल: 81093 52988.  
रजिस्ट्रेशन अनिवार्य है. रजिस्ट्रेशन का समय सुबह 9:30 बजे से दोपहर 3:30 बजे तक होगा.  
वॉक-इन की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी.  
An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative

## Marengo CIMS Hospital prominent centre of heart transplant

New Delhi: Marengo CIMS Hospital Ahmedabad is positioned today as an advanced center for heart transplants with a clinical excellence team well recognized globally. The team of doctors performs double-digit numbers annually to gain the reputation they have today. The team of doctors is led by Dr Dhiren Shah, Director - Heart Transplant Program. Heart transplantation has emerged as a well-established treatment for advanced heart failure over the past four to five decades. The last decade has witnessed a remarkable global surge in the number of heart transplant procedures, seeing an increase of more than 300% worldwide and surpassing a 400% increase in the United States alone. The Western world, particularly North America, experienced a significant uptick in heart transplant numbers, particularly since the 1980s, with annual procedures ranging from 3000 to 4000. However, the growth has plateaued, primarily due to limitations in the availability of organs for donation. Despite the heart transplant procedure having started in 1994 in India, the high-end surgery did not become a preferred option for patients with end-stage heart failure until 2010.

## Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

**Corporate Office:** Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069  
**Bhopal Branch :** Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1 St Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001, (MP).  
**Vidisha Branch :** 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha-464001, MP

### E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1.	(Loan Code No. 00600001383 / Bhopal Branch) Sunil Kumar Jatav (Borrower) Anil Kumar Jatav (Co-Borrower) Kamlesh Lala Ram (Guarantor)	24-08-2022 & ₹ 5,57,804/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, House No. EWS 58 Housing Board Colony Housing Park Berasiya Road Karond Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh -462001. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Undefined Property, West- Undefined Property, North-Undefined Property, South-Undefined Property	Rs. 6,23,000/-	Rs. 62,300/-	Physical
2.	(Loan Code No. 07600000330 / Vidisha Branch) Anil Kumar (Borrower) Poonam Agarwal (Co-Borrower) Deen Dayal (Guarantor)	13-05-2022 & ₹ 6,18,496/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No 925 1 325 2 925 3 93 Plot No297 Ward No 06 Sant Ravidas Ward Shri Ji Puram Near H P Petrol Pump Sironj Road Lateri, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, 464114 <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Plot No. 213, West- Road, North - Way, South- Plot No. 298	Rs. 5,40,000/-	Rs. 54,000/-	Physical

- Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is **21-12-2023 within 5:00 PM** at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on <https://bankeauctions.com>. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
  - Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is **22-12-2023 on https://bankeauctions.com at 3:00 PM**.
  - AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As Is Where Is Basis", "As Is What Is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis".
  - The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of "Aadhar Housing Finance Limited" Only.
  - Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
  - The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link <https://bankeauctions.com/registration/signup>, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>
  - For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, **Lokendra Rathore, (Contact No. 9977783890)** OR the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, **Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: [tn@india.com](mailto:tn@india.com) & [support@bankeauctions.com](mailto:support@bankeauctions.com), Phone No. +917291981124/25/26** As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets.
  - For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. [www.aadharhousing.com](http://www.aadharhousing.com).
  - The Bid incremental amount for auction is **Rs. 1000/-**.
- Place : Madhya Pradesh**  
**Date : 06-12-2023**
- (Authorised Officer)  
**For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited**

<b>इंडियन बैंक</b> ALLAHABAD	<b>Indian Bank</b> ALLAHABAD	<b>Zonal Office : Office Complex, Gautam Nagar, Bhopal</b> Ph. 0755-2784821, 2600714, 2583669 2602347	<b>E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE</b>
<b>Appendix-IV-A [See provisio to rule 8(6)]</b> <b>SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES</b> E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rules 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) / Mortgagee(s) & guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the <b>Possession</b> of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of <b>Indian Bank, Concerned Branch</b> , the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on date mentioned below for recovery of bank dues (amount mentioned below) to the Indian Bank, secured creditors From below Mentioned borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) & guarantor (s)			
<b>Name of the Branch / Borrower / Guarantors / Mortgager</b>	<b>Description of Secured Assets (Moveable/Immovable Properties)</b>	<b>Demand Notice Date</b> <b>Possession Date</b> <b>Outstanding Amount as per demand notice</b>	<b>Reserve Price</b> <b>EMD</b> <b>Bid Incremental Amount</b>
<b>Indian Bank, T.T. Nagar Branch, Bhopal</b> <b>Name of EMD A/c &amp; No. : AUTHORISED OFFICER INDIAN BANK A/c No. 818659668, IFSC : IDIB000B022</b>			
<b>Borrower: 1. M/s Next Step Lights India Pvt. Ltd. W/o Mr. Joseph Olianattil Joseph and Deepa Jose W/o Mr. Joseph Olianattil Joseph</b>	<b>(Property ID: IDIB302758367311)</b> 1. Diverted Land Bearing Kharsa No 180/1/6/2, Situated At Gram Laukhedi, Patwari Halka No-23, Tehsil Huzur, Dist-Bhopal (Admeasuring 1500 Sq. Ft. Or 139.355 Sq.Mtrs) Boundaries: East: Property of Buyer, West: Property of Mrs. Vimla Gopinath, North: Other's Land, South: Path <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>11/11/2022</b> <b>31/01/2023</b> as on 01.12.2023	₹ <b>22,00,000/-</b> ₹ <b>2,20,000/-</b> ₹ <b>10,000/-</b>
<b>Kashab Dayal Sharma 3. Mrs. Nisha Sharma W/o Mr. Amit Kumar Sharma</b>	<b>(Property ID: IDIB302758367312)</b> 2. Diverted Land Bearing Kharsa No 180/1/6/2, Situated At Gram Laukhedi, Patwari Halka No-23, Tehsil Huzur, Dist-Bhopal (Admeasuring 1721 Sq. Ft. Or 159.886 Sq.Mtrs) Boundaries: East: Property Of Baba Alavi, West: Property Of Mrs. Vimla Gopinath, North: Other's Land, South: Path <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>10665320/-</b> + Interest & other Charges	₹ <b>28,00,000/-</b> ₹ <b>2,80,000/-</b> ₹ <b>10,000/-</b>
<b>Date &amp; time of e-auction: 26.12.2023, from 11.00 A.M. To 5.00 P.M</b> <b>E-auction platform : <a href="https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi">https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi</a></b>			
<b>Indian Bank, Kotwali Road Branch: (erstwhile Allahabad Bank), Bhopal Phone No: 0755-2543608</b> <b>Name of EMD A/c &amp; No. : AUTHORISED OFFICER INDIAN BANK A/c No. 818659668, IFSC : IDIB000B022</b>			
<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor: M/s A &amp; D Company Proprietors Mr. Deep singh S/o Ranjeet singh</b>	<b>(Property ID: IDIB300902517451)</b> 1) All that part and parcel of Land & Building property situated at House at Plot Kh.no. 383/4, New Galla Mandi Road, Near MP&EB office, Village Hathwas, PH No. 17, Tehsil Pipariya, District Hoshangabad (M.P.) Area-2000 sqft. Boundaries: East: Plot of Mr. Santosh Sharma Bihari, West: Plot of Mr. Hansraj Patel, North: 10ft wide kachcha Road, South:Plot of Mr. Ranjeet Singh	<b>01/04/2019</b> <b>15/10/2022</b> as on 28.11.2023	₹ <b>6741000/-</b> ₹ <b>674100/-</b> ₹ <b>10,000/-</b>
<b>Mrs. Nirjeet Kaur W/o Mr. Ranjeet Singh</b>	<b>2) All that part and parcel of Land &amp; Building property situated at House at Plot Kh. No. 383/4, New Galla Mandi Road, Near MP&amp;EB office, Village-Hanthwas, PH No. 17, Tehsil Pipariya, District-Hoshangabad (M.P.) Area 1500 sqft. Bounded By:- East: Purchaser's Plot, West: Mr. Badri Parsal, North:10 ft wide kachcha Road, South: Plot of Mr. Ranjeet Singh <b>Symbolic Possession</b></b>	<b>9019071.00</b> + Interest & other Charges	
<b>Indian Bank, ASHTA Branch, ASHTA</b> <b>Name of EMD A/c &amp; No. : AUTHORISED OFFICER INDIAN BANK A/c No. 818659668, IFSC : IDIB000B022</b>			
<b>Borrower: Mrs. Shakuntala Malviya W/o Dinesh Kumar Malviya.</b>	<b>(Property ID: IDIB30090237496)</b> All the part & parcel of the property Consisting of house at Kharsa No 657/4, Ward No 15, Malviya Nagar, Ashta, Dist Sehore Area 750 Sq. Ft. Boundaries: East: RRC Road, West: House of Narayan Singh, North: House of Hamir Singh, South- House of Jagdish & Ravindra <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>17.06.2023</b> <b>02.09.2023</b> as on 02.12.2023	₹ <b>1966500/-</b> ₹ <b>196650/-</b> ₹ <b>10,000/-</b>
<b>Date &amp; time of e-auction: 15.01.2024, from 11.00 A.M. To 5.00 P.M</b> <b>E-auction platform : <a href="https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi">https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi</a></b>			
Bidders are advised to visit the website ( <a href="http://www.msstcecommerce.com">www.msstcecommerce.com</a> ) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPPESK No. 033-23400020/23400021/23400022 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact <a href="mailto:ibapiin@msstcecommerce.com">ibapiin@msstcecommerce.com</a> and for EMD status please contact <a href="mailto:ibapiin@msstcecommerce.com">ibapiin@msstcecommerce.com</a> . For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <a href="https://ibapi.in">https://ibapi.in</a> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131". Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <a href="https://ibapi.in">https://ibapi.in</a> and <a href="http://www.msstcecommerce.com">www.msstcecommerce.com</a>			
<b>Place : Bhopal, Date: 02.12.2023</b> <b>AUTHORISED OFFICER, INDIAN BANK</b>			



# Modi takes a swipe at critics after poll win

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took a swipe at critics, saying they may remain happy with their arrogance, lies, pessimism and ignorance but people should be beware of their divisive agenda as an old habit of 70 years cannot go away so easily. He was reacting to a social media post captioned “Meltdown-e-Azam” (great meltdown) of a news clip that cited “excuses” and alleged attempts by an “ecosystem” to stoke regional divide and insult voters in Hindi speaking states after the BJP swept to power in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, brushing aside the challenge from the Congress. Congress drew some consolation by winning the assembly poll in Telangana. “May they be happy with their arrogance, lies, pessimism and ignorance. But... Beware of their divisive agenda. An old habit of 70 years can't go away so easily. Also, such is the wis-



May they be happy with their arrogance, lies, pessimism and ignorance. But...

⚠️⚠️⚠️ Beware of their divisive agenda. An old habit of 70 years can't go away so easily. ⚠️⚠️⚠️

Also, such is the wisdom of the people that they have to be prepared for many more meltdowns ahead. 😊😊😊😊

dom of the people that they have to be prepared for many more meltdowns ahead,” the PM posted. His reply and the expression of unusual social media aggression in reaction to a post was also punctuated by several emojis, also not very common with his remarks on X. BJP leaders said the prime minister's post reflects the party turning up the heat in its social media outreach in the recent months. “This post of the prime minister is not out of character. It is

aggressive and taking the opposition ecosystem head on,” a leader said. He added this has been the case with the BJP's content on social media in general too for the last few months now. “Its campaign and reels have seen aggressive in tone and tenor.” Many Instagram reels have generated 1.5 million views and more, he added. Commenting on Modi's post, a leader likened it to “a technically sound batsman resorting to a slog sweep to hit the ball for a six”.

# Opposition looking for excuses to hide shortcomings: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday hit back after Congress's Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh and some other Opposition leaders questioned the reliability of electronic voting machine (EVM) and said the Opposition was looking for excuses to hide their shortcomings. Digvijaya raised the issue of reliability of EVMs on Tuesday following his party's defeat in the Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly polls. The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister claimed that any machine with a chip can be hacked and said he has opposed voting by EVMs since 2003. As the BJP emerged victorious in three Hindi heartland states -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh -- in the recent round of Assembly polls, several opposition leaders raised questions over electronic voting machines, even as some said they had faith in the EVMs. Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh slammed the opposition and



said they blame EVMs whenever they fail to win elections. “There is nothing new. The opposition, whoever it may be, when they win, they are fine with the EVMs, but when they lose, they blame it on the EVMs,” he said. Another BJP leader, S P Singh Baghel, said, “With these EVMs, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won elections in Delhi thrice and in Punjab once, the Samajwadi Party (SP) got an absolute majority (in Uttar Pradesh) in 2012, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) got an absolute majority (in Uttar Pradesh) in 2007 and the Congress won Telangana.” He used an idiom -- “Naach na jane angan tedha (a bad workman blames his tools)” -

- to explain the situation. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) MP Chirag Paswan said the opposition is being repetitive. “There is nothing new, but if you are raising questions in three states, also question the Telangana victory. This is a done-to-death formula. It is repetitive. Why do you go for campaigning if you think the EVMs are manipulated? You do selective criticism in states where you have lost elections. You need to accept and understand your loss,” he said. Senior BJP leader Rajiv Pratap Rudy said EVMs have been around for a long time. “EVMs have been there for the last 18-19 years. They (opposition) do not raise

these questions when they win elections. Do they not trust people? I think after repeated defeats, it is ridiculous that the opposition still raises this,” he said. Actor and BJP MP Ravi Kishan said, “It was known that they would blame the EVMs. Their brains have stopped working. Their corruption and appeasement have been rejected by people, so they are saying such immature things,” he said. “The country has rejected the opposition. In the future, the BJP will win every election,” he asserted. Actor-turned-politician Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua said, “The opposition will keep crying over EVMs and (Prime Minister Narendra) Modiji will come back with 400 (Lok Sabha) seats next year.” Several opposition leaders said the doubts over the EVMs have been growing. Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Saugata Roy said there are concerns that should be addressed. “Our party has not taken a decision on this but there are, obviously, questions. Many opposition parties have raised the question that EVMs can be manipulated by telephone.

Also, an Israeli technology has come into question in this matter. The government has taken a pro-Israel stand in the recent conflict (between Israel and Hamas). This needs to be looked into thoroughly,” Roy said. “The results in several states were very surprising and led to the doubt about EVM functioning,” he added. BSP MP Danish Ali said he has always been against EVMs. “Questions on EVMs are being raised for long. It was questioned by the BJP's Lal Krishna Advani. BJP's Rajya Sabha MP G V L Narasimha Rao has written a book on it,” he said. “Even when I was elected as an MP, I had said I will continue protesting against EVMs. Winning or losing is another issue, but even developed countries have stopped using EVMs. People do not have faith. Why not use ballot paper?” he asked. Communist Party of India (CPI) MP Binoy Viswam said it is a serious matter to ponder over. “The confidence over EVMs is diminishing. More and more people are believing that EVMs are doing mischief in elections,” he said.

# DMK MP calls Hindi heartland gaumutra States Senthilkumar apologises after his remark draws flak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

DMK MP Dr S. Senthilkumar sparked a controversy on Tuesday in Lok Sabha by describing Hindi heartland States as “gaumutra States”, and said the BJP can win elections only there and not in South India. The comments few months after a DMK's ‘Sanatan Dharma’ row create ripples on social media however the major alliance partner Congress immediately said the party did not relate with the politics of DMK. Participating in a debate in the Lower House on two bills related to Jammu and Kashmir, Senthilkumar said people of this country should think that the power of the BJP is only winning elections “in the heartland states of Hindi and what we generally called as gaumutra states”.



Later in the evening, Speaker OM Birla ordered to expunct the word – gaumutra – from the records. “You (BJP) cannot come to South India. You see all the results of what happens in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka ... We are very strong over there,” said Senthilkumar, amid protests from BJP MPs. Senthilkumar is representing Dharmapuri constituency in Lok Sabha and a doctor by profession, specializing in

radiology. He went on to say, “We will not be surprised if you have an option of converting all these States into Union territories so that you can come into indirect power because you can never dream of setting foot over there and taking control of all the southern states.” BJP leaders hit back at the DMK and asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi if he agreed with the insulting remarks of its INDIA bloc partner against the north Indians. The comments come in the backdrop of some referring to the recent assembly election results as a ‘North-South divide’ after the BJP trounced the Congress in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and the Congress won in Telangana. “Congress belives in Sanatan Dharma and Gau Mata, we don't agree with DMK's state-

ments,” said Congress General Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Rajiv Shukla. During the elections, the row over some DMK leaders' remarks against Sanatan Dharma had been latched on by the BJP to target the Congress. Earlier this year, Congress had wrested Karnataka from the BJP, while other southern states are ruled by non-BJP parties including Tamil Nadu where Congress ally DMK is in power. In Tamil Nadu, state BJP chief K Annamalai condemned the “insensitive” remarks of the MP, saying the level of the party's discourse is “sinking” like Chennai and the “arrogance” of DMK will be the prime reason for its downfall. “After calling our North Indian friends Pani Puri sellers, toilet constructors, etc., I.N.D.I. Alliance DMK MP, makes Gaumutra Jibes,” he

said on X. “Chennai is sinking due to the misgovernance of DMK & and so is their level of discourse on the floor of the Parliament,” Annamalai said, referring to the flood-like situation in the state capital. The BJP “highly condemns this insensitive remark,” he said. Annamalai said the DMK MP has possibly forgotten that the NDA Alliance is in power in Puducherry and was in power in Karnataka until recently. “The arrogance of DMK will be the prime reason for their downfall!” he posted. Later in the evening, Senthilkumar apologised on his controversial remark. “Commenting on the results of the five recent state assembly elections, I have used a word in an inappropriate way. Not using that term with any intent, I apologize for sending the wrong meaning across,” he posted in X

# Book Ministers making hate speeches against Sanatan Dharma: BJP MP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

BJP Rajya Sabha member BGVL Narasimha Rao on Tuesday charged some Tamil Nadu Ministers with making “hate” speeches against Sanatan Dharma and Hindu religion and asked the State Government to register a case against them. The Constitution allows every religion, every member and every sect to practice their faith and even propagate it, he said, and demanded the sacking of the state ministers for their objectionable remarks. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour in the Upper House, Rao said that a minister in the Tamil Nadu government indulged in hate speech against Sanatan Dharma and the Hindu religion. “I quote what he said, ‘Sanatan Dharma is like malaria, and dengue, and so it must be



eradicated and not opposed,” the BJP member said without naming anyone. Another minister in the same state government has mentioned that the purpose of the formation of the INDIA alliance is “the eradication of Sanatana Dharma”, the BJP member alleged, and wondered whether they wanted to pursue “this kind of anti-India agenda”. Rao claimed that another minister in the Karnataka government, who is the son of the Congress President and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya

Sabha, had supported those comments. “This is the agenda of the INDIA alliance,” he said, adding that such statements constitute “hate speech”. According to the BJP MP, these statements are deliberate and malafide acts intended to outrage religious sentiments, and there was also an attempt to create public mischief. “Therefore I call upon the state government, Tamil Nadu, to on its own, register FIR against the same ministers who spoke against Sanatana Dharma and also dismiss these ministers from the state government because what they have, what they have publicly stated, is the violation of the oath they have taken under the Constitution,” he said. He said it was a matter of regret that there are ministers in the state government who are campaigning against Sanatan Dharma and calling for its eradication.

# ‘₹15,000 crore seized by ED going back to public sector banks’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday informed the Rajya Sabha the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has confiscated assets worth Rs 15,186.64 crore under the stringent prevention of money laundering law and almost all of these have been restituted to public sector banks. Replying to supplementary questions in the House, she said specific actions through various legal provisions are being taken against defaulters and as a result, “huge monies” are going back to the banks. Sitharaman informed the House that as of March 31, 2023, legal suits were filed for recovery against 13,978 loan accounts, action under the SARFAESI Act has been initiated in 11,483 cases, FIRs have been filed in 5,674 cases, and an aggregate amount of Rs 33,801 crore has been recovered. “As of December 1, 2023, assets amounting to Rs 15,186.64 crores under the PMLA have been confiscated by the ED out of which Rs 15,183.77 crores have been restituted to the Public Sector Banks,” she said. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar asked the minister to explain the meaning “phone banking” which was mentioned in reply to a supplementary question. Explaining the meaning of the phrase, Sitharaman said ‘Phone Banking’ was the method through which “political interference (during UPA rule of 2004-2014) spoilt all our banks and drove them to a loss-making situation”. “‘Phone Banking’ was at that time when people would call the banks and say ‘so and so will come to seek a loan from your bank, please grant it’, meaning that there's no need to look at their eligibility, etc & that the loan must be granted,”



the minister said. She further said the heart of the problem was during the 10 years of UPA rule between 2004 and 2014 when calls were made to grant loans to people who were not worthy of getting a loan. “The burden fell on us to sort the Indian banks out with reforms. Prime Minister Narendra Modi sat with all of us, including my predecessor Arun Jaitley (former finance minister). We spent a lot of time understanding where the problem was and worked together with the RBI,” Sitharaman said. It must be looked at what contributed to the NPAs and made Indian banks actually have a twin balance-sheet problem which brought down the Indian economy to the ‘Fragile Five’, she added. Due to the measures taken by the Modi government, the minister said the Indian economy is the world's fastest-growing economy, registering a 7.6 per cent GDP growth rate in the last quarter. Sitharaman also informed the House the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (now merged with Unity Small Finance Bank) has recovered Rs 104.02 crore with active cooperation and support from agencies. Assets amounting to Rs 692.89 crores have been confiscated under the provisions of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, she said. The finance ministry also

informed the House that over the last two financial years, the number of non-performing asset (NPA) accounts in the commercial banks has declined from 2.19 crore to 2.06 crore, showing a decrease of 6.2 per cent. Similarly, aggregate outstanding of such accounts (gross NPAs) has declined from Rs 7.41 lakh crore to 5.72 lakh crore during the same period, showing a decline of 22.9 per cent. Further, slippage ratio (fresh slippages of NPAs during the financial year as percentage of standard loans and advances at the beginning of the financial year) of banks has declined from 2.74 per cent (fresh slippages of Rs 2.86 lakh crore) in the financial year 2021-22 to 1.78 per cent (fresh slippages of Rs 2.13 lakh crore) in the financial year 2022-23. Net NPA ratio, Sitharaman said, has come down to 0.95 per cent in 2022-23 for all commercial banks from 5.94 per cent in 2017-18. In the case of state-owned banks, the net NPA has declined to 1.24 per cent from 5.94 per cent in 2017-18. Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said banks have written off Rs 10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years, of which Rs 5.52 lakh crore was in respect of loans pertaining to large industries, the government informed the Rajya Sabha. “As per RBI data, scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have written off an aggregate loan amount of Rs 10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years,” Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. The scheduled commercial banks have also recovered Rs 7.15 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) during the five-year period.

# Tamil Nadu seeks ₹5,000 crore aid for flood ravaged Chennai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday saw an appeal for an interim central assistance of Rs 5,000 crores to provide relief to people of Tamil Nadu affected by heavy rains. Other issues like missing women, suicide by youth in coaching institutes and sale of millets through public distribution system also figured in the house. Seeking an interim assistance of Rs 5,000 crore for Tamil Nadu to rebuild infrastructure damaged by incessant rains in Chennai and some other districts, DMK leader T Siva said heavy rains due to severe Cyclone Michaung have submerged Chennai and other districts. At least nine people, including a child, were killed in the flooding and the havoc caused hours before the cyclone was due to make landfall. Cars were swept and airport operations shut down as the streets of Chennai got inundated.



“Roads have become rivers because of non-stop running waters and rivers have become like seas... All the water bodies are overflowing. Many tanks have been breached,” he said. Informing the Rajya Sabha that roads have been badly damaged due to the fury of nature, Siva said essential supplies have been hampered. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M

K Stalin and the entire Cabinet, municipal corporation officials, fire department, sanitation workers, doctors, rescue teams and electricity department have been working on a war footing to rescue people and provide relief material. As a precautionary measure, electricity supply was suspended, Siva said. He said while the state gov-

ernment is doing everything in its means, the damage to infrastructure is so huge that it cannot be repaired at the earliest. “The state government has requested an interim relief of Rs 5,000 crore.” “I urge the Union government (that) considering the condition of Tamil Nadu and five districts, kindly release Rs 5,000 crore as initial interim relief

which would help the State government in their efforts to safeguard the people of Tamil Nadu,” he said. Drawing the attention of the Upper House to missing women, Fausia Khan(NCP)said it was matter of grave concern. She called for a sustained awareness campaign to address the issue and likely reason for it was trafficking by organized groups. Sushil Kumar Modi(BJP)drew the attention of the Elders to suicides in institutes of higher learning and said 26 such incidents were reported from Kota this year. He called for appointment of counselors to interact with students facing pressure and sought review of syllabus of institutes of higher learning. Highlighting the benefits of millets as these crops required little water for cultivation, Ajay Pratap Singh(BJP)favoured sale of millets through public distribution system as it will benefit farmers.

# India to provide \$250 million to Kenya to modernise agriculture, says Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced India's decision to provide USD 250 million to Kenya for modernisation of its agriculture sector following his wide-ranging talks with visiting Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto. He arrived here on Monday on a three-day visit with an aim to expand overall ties between the two countries. In its foreign policy, India has always given high priority to Africa and has expanded its overall ties with the continent on a mission mode in the last nearly one decade, Modi said



in his media statement after the talks. “I am confident that President Ruto's visit to India will not only strengthen bilateral ties but will give a new momentum to our engagement with Africa,” he added. The prime minister said India will pro-

vide USD 250 million as Line of Credit to Kenya for modernisation of its agriculture sector. Referring to the Indo-Pacific, Modi said closer cooperation between India and Kenya in the region will advance common efforts.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday



# Echoes of distress persist in Chennai amid deluge aftermath

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Submerged in water, with no access to power and transport, it was various social media platforms that came to people's aid in the rain hit city since Monday. Cries of help were forwarded through the night, as Chennaiites, who waded through a similar nightmare in 2015, reconnected online again and formed citizen rescue groups to deal with emergencies. Some, like the 22-year-old Harsha Vardhan, a student from Triplicane, were caught without even a morsel of food. With rain water almost rising to chest level, Vardhan said he did not dare to go out and was forced to ask people through X for some food.

At least 12 people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents in and around Chennai even as personnel on fishing boats and farm tractors were engaged in rescuing stranded people in the city on Tuesday. "Thankfully, someone got me some biscuits and water imme-

diately. In the night, my father's friend got me dinner, said Vardhan, who recently moved to Chennai to pursue international English language test coaching. Another immigrant, a 26-year-old from Kumbakonam district, Shakthiguru Radhakrishnan, who works as a driver, found himself in a predicament when water entered his employer's car that he had parked in a corner near Perambur to wait out the storm. He too took to X, asking help from officials. But unfortunately for him, none came his way. Finally, he said, he forced himself to get out of the car in the pouring rain and push it. Seeing him struggle, some people helped him push it to a place from where it cannot float off in the water.

"The real problem for me was getting back home in Thorapakkam. "Nothing worked in that area, so I had to walk till Egmore, take a metro to Airport and then again walk to Thorapakkam. I started around 4pm and reached

home almost at midnight," said Radhakrishnan. People gingerly making their way through water filled roads became the norm last night. Some decided to risk their lives and venture out in the pouring rain, leaving a relatively safe area, just so they could ensure that their loved ones were safe. Like Aamir Khan in Mandaveli, who had to be rescued by the fire service finally. "I rushed to my parents' house in Mandaveli. I helped them move things from the ground floor, as there was around half-a-feet of water inside our house. Power was switched on at around 1 pm on Monday itself, but we were completely marooned. My parents are senior citizens. We have three pets as well. We were waiting at the first floor of our house, when we were finally rescued today," said Khan. The intensity of the flooding could be gauged from the fact that it was almost impossible to see the ground or road in most parts of Chennai.



But for the raised road median and some young men walking over it, the road towards Velachery from Madipakkam Bazaar Road in south Chennai, for instance, could have been easily mistaken for a swollen river, as boats criss-crossed the locality to evacuate affected people. The many residential neigh-

borhoods on either side of the road such as Ram Nagar were completely flooded. The access to a prominent hospital in the same area is cut off and youths of the locality stood guard at the road's entrance, near a brimming lake, to caution people from outside about the heavy inundation. Some men equipped with huge

wooden logs could be seen helping people leave their houses and in buying essential commodities. Several men could be seen carrying water cans over their shoulders and wading through water that reached the chest in some residential colonies, some of which are posh. Vehicles parked in the parking lot in several apartment

complexes were under water. Authorities deployed boats to evacuate people and some managed to leave the place on their own. Several people like Kumaran said they are used to flood situations such as this. Even with water gushing onto the road from storm water drains and, in some places even from sewers, people dared to venture out, looking to buy essentials. A couple of restaurants and bakeries that opened by afternoon did brisk business. Suresh, a businessman from Ramalinga Nagar Main Road, who was spotted wading through water later in the day, said he didn't anticipate such a heavy rainfall. "That is why we didn't buy extra vegetables and milk," said Suresh. Residents from the nearby Sadasiva Nagar too were out and about, looking to buy essentials. "Non availability of milk is a real issue, we were told it would be made available by afternoon, but it didn't happen," they said.

Some pockets of Madipakkam that are usually not so vulnerable to inundation were also hit. Here too water entered homes, especially ones that were in relatively low-lying areas. The scenario was worse in areas like Pallikaranai. Although many things were under control once the rain stopped, some, like Manikandan and his family from New Kumaran Nagar in Sholinganallur, are still waiting to be rescued. Even after the rain stopped, water level in his area is slowly increasing, he said. "It's almost six feet now as we speak. There are about 30 families here and only one person — with his child held over his head — so far dared to go out. It was so scary watching him go. "To make matters worse, there are so many snakes in the water. So, we are holding on to our phones, switching it on every now and then to save battery, pushing our case through X, and waiting to be evacuated," says Manikandan, a 45-year-old IT employee.

# ISRO unique experiment

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Propulsion Module (PM) of Chandrayaan-3 has been moved from an orbit around the Moon to an orbit around Earth, ISRO has said, terming the operation a unique experiment. The primary objective of the Chandrayaan-3 mission was to demonstrate a soft landing near the lunar south polar region and perform experiments using the instruments on the 'Vikram' lander and the 'Pragyan' rover. The spacecraft was launched on July 14, 2023, on board the LVM3-M4 vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR). On August 23, the Vikram lander made its historic touchdown on the Moon and subsequently, the Pragyan rover was deployed.

The scientific instruments in the lander and rover were operated continuously for one lunar day as per the defined mission life. "The mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3 have been com-

pletely met," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a statement. For the Propulsion Module, the main objective was to ferry the lander module from the Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) to the final lunar polar circular orbit and separate the lander, it said. After the separation, the Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload in the PM was also operated, the space agency said. The initial plan was to operate this payload for about three months during the mission life of the PM. The precise orbit injection by LVM3 and optimal earth or lunar burn manoeuvres resulted in the availability of over 100 kg of fuel in the PM after over one month of operations in the lunar orbit, it added. ISRO said that it was decided to use the available fuel in the PM to derive additional information for future lunar missions and demonstrate the mission operation strategies for a sample



return mission. To continue the SHAPE payload for earth observation, it was decided to re-orbit the PM to a suitable earth orbit. This mission plan was worked out considering collision avoidance such as preventing the PM from crashing onto the Moon's surface or entering into the Earth's Geosynchronous Equatorial Orbit (GEO) belt at 36,000 km and orbits below that, the state-

ment said. Considering the estimated fuel availability and the safety of the GEO spacecraft, the optimal earth return trajectory was designed for October 2023. The first maneuver was performed on October 9, 2023, to raise apolune altitude to 5,112 km from 150 km thus increasing the period of orbit from 2.1 hours to 7.2 hours. Later, considering the estimate of available

propellant, the second manoeuvre plan was revised to target an Earth orbit of 1.8 lakh x 3.8 lakh km. The Trans-Earthinjection (TEI) maneuver was performed on October 13, 2023. In the post-TEI manoeuvre realised orbit, the PM made four Moon fly-bys before departing the sphere of influence (SOI) of the Moon on November 10. Currently, the PM is orbiting Earth and crossed its first perigee on November 22 with an altitude of 1.54 lakh km. The orbit period is nearly 13 days with a 27-degree inclination. The perigee and apogee altitude vary during its trajectory and the predicted minimum perigee altitude is 1.15 lakh km, ISRO said. "Hence as per current orbit prediction, there is no threat of close approach with any operational Earth-orbiting satellites," it said. As per the plan, the SHAPE payload is being operated whenever Earth is in its field of view. Also, a special operation of the

SHAPE payload was carried out on October 28, 2023, during a solar eclipse. The SHAPE payload operations will continue further, the statement added. "UR Rao Satellite Centre/ ISRO's flight dynamics team has developed an analysis tool from first principles for this operation which is being validated through the return manoeuvres carried out for the Chandrayaan-3 PM," ISRO said. According to ISRO, the following are the main outcomes of the return manoeuvres carried out on the PM related to future missions: Planning and execution of trajectory and manoeuvres to return from the Moon to Earth; development of a software module to plan such a manoeuvre and its preliminary validation; planning and execution of a gravity-assisted fly-by across a planet or celestial body; and avoiding uncontrolled crashing of the PM onto the Moon's surface at the end of life of the PM thus meeting the requirements of no debris creation.



## NIA files chargesheet against suspected ISKP operatives

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet in the special court here in Gujarat against five persons, including a woman, for their alleged links with terror outfit Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP). The chargesheet against Ubaid Mir, Hanan Shawl, Mohammad Hajim Shah, Zubair Ahmed Munshi, and Sumerabanu Hanif Malek was submitted in the court of special judge Kamal Sojitra by NIA special public prosecutor Amit Nair. The ISKP is a UN-designated terrorist organisation. Investigations by the NIA revealed that the accused had planned to "train themselves and carry out terror attacks" in Afghanistan after reaching the war-torn country via Iran as directed by their handler, the chargesheet stated. On June 9, the Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) busted this ISKP module and arrested Mir, Shawl, and Shah from Porbandar city in Gujarat. A day later, the ATS nabbed Sumerabanu from Surat and Munshi from Srinagar. All four men hail from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. They were booked under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and section 120 B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. The NIA had found a video clip in which the accused can be seen pledging their allegiance to ISKP while flashing sharp weapons

sitting under the flag of the outfit, as per the chargesheet. The interrogation of the accused by the ATS had revealed that all of them were part of the ISKP module and radicalised by their handler Abu Hamza, officials had said. Mir, Shawl and Shah had reached Porbandar to work as fishermen on boats with the given GPS coordinates as directed by Abu Hamza. They had planned to cross the International Maritime Boundary Line and reach Afghanistan via Iran to join ISKP, the ATS had said. From Porbandar, they were to be taken to Iran on a dhow and were provided with fake passports for Afghanistan and to reach Khorasan via Herat, as per the ATS. The ATS had found mobile phones, tablets, and sharp weapons in the bags of the accused. It was revealed that their handler had planned to release the pre-recorded videos and photographs of their 'sacrifice' in Afghanistan. In a video clip, they can be seen pledging their allegiance to ISKP while flashing sharp weapons. The ATS had found copies of various publications promoting radicalisation, including ISKP's mouthpiece "Voice of Khorasan" during the search of the house of Sumerabanu Hanif Malek in Surat. Malek had "admitted" to having been in touch with Abu Hamza and being "close" to Munshi, the ATS had said. The case was transferred to the NIA by the Ministry of Home Affairs on June 28.



## Karnataka mulls to implement social security schemes for unorganised sector workers

PTI ■ BELAGAVI (K'TAKA)

Karnataka Labour Minister Santosh S Lad on Tuesday assured the legislative assembly that the government will implement special social security schemes for unorganised sector workers including weavers and tailors in the state. He also said that the government will consider collection of cess in various sectors, similar to the one already being done in the construction sector, to provide social security schemes. The Minister was replying to a question by Terdala MLA Siddu Savadi and Kapu MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty during the Question Hour. "A cess of one per cent is being levied for every construction work in the state. The Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has implemented many social security schemes for the construction workers from the funds collected under this," Lad said. Noting that these schemes cannot be extended to workers to any other unorganised sector including weaving and tailoring, he said there is a social security board for unorganised workers in the state, which is registering and issuing identity cards free of cost to 11 categories of unorganised workers including porters, housekeepers, rag pickers, tailors, mechanics, carpenters, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, and barbers under the 'Ambedkar Karmika Sahay Hasta Scheme'. Free registration of 379 types of

unorganised workers is also being done on the 'e-Shram' portal, he said. Highlighting that for those who are doing tailoring in the state's garment firms, a certain percentage of the employee's salary and the same amount of the firm are being contributed to the provident fund, Lad said this provident fund is allowed to be withdrawn for purposes such as resignation of employee, retirement, illness, marriage, education, purchase of land and construction of house. But there is no provident fund facility for those doing tailoring at home or in small shops, he said, adding, there are 7,28,044 tailoring workers in the unorganised sector across the state. There is 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana', an accident insurance scheme meant to help workers in distress. He further said under the 'Pradhan Mantri Shramayogi Mandhan Yojana', workers in the unorganised sectors who have completed 60 years can get fixed pension of Rs 3,000 per month. He then reiterated that the state government will implement special social security schemes for weavers and tailors in the future. Like the cess model followed in the construction sector, it is being considered to collect one per cent cess in various sectors including garment, vehicle manufacturing and transport, the minister said, adding that the money collected from this cess will be used for schemes for the workers involved in the respective sectors.

## Congress should decide whether Rahul will fight against BJP or LDF in LS polls: Vijayan

PTI ■ THRISSUR (KERALA)

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Tuesday said the Congress will have to decide whether it was fighting the BJP or the LDF while fielding Rahul Gandhi from Wayanad in the Lok Sabha polls next year. He said that both Congress and the LDF were part of the opposition INDIA bloc that was formed to take on the BJP in next year's general election. If there is no need for the alliance then there will be a contest between the Congress and the LDF in Kerala, Vijayan said and made it very clear that the LDF would be fielding its candidate in Wayanad. "The Congress has to decide whether Gandhi should fight against the BJP or the LDF in Kerala. Can you say here in



Kerala that you are fighting or competing against the BJP?" he said at a press conference here. Vijayan also said the INDIA alliance will not decide where the member parties would field their candidates. His remarks came a day after the ruling

CPI(M) in Kerala criticised Rahul Gandhi's reported move to contest from Wayanad. CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan had said that the Congress MP from Wayanad should focus on combating the "fascist policies" of the BJP

rather than involving himself in intra-state political rivalries. The Gandhi scion should contest from a place where the BJP has an influence, he said and added that the saffron party is not an important force in Kerala. During his recent visit to Kerala, Gandhi had said the state and the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency felt like home to him, hinting at a potential preference to contest from the hill constituency in the upcoming polls next year. With less than six months remaining before the scheduled Lok Sabha elections, Gandhi also said that coming to Kerala and Wayanad did not feel like work. "I consider it like coming back to my family and meeting my friends. The more I come to Kerala and Wayanad, the more I feel that it is my home," he had said.

## TMC moves resolution seeking consensus building on Bills to replace criminal penal laws

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The ruling Trinamool Congress on Tuesday moved a resolution in the West Bengal Assembly seeking consensus building on three bills introduced before the Parliament by the BJP-led NDA government to replace criminal-penal laws. Moving the resolution, West Bengal minister Sovande B Chattopadhyay said that from a study of the bills, it appears that many provisions in these are much more draconian and anti-people than the original provisions in the old codes and acts which are meant to be supplemented. The BJP-led NDA government in August introduced in Parliament the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill to replace the existing Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of

Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act respectively. Chattopadhyay claimed that the three new Bills surreptitiously want to entrench police raj in India by conferring more power in the hands of enforcement authorities than were even contemplated during the colonial era. He said that since the present Lok Sabha is almost nearing its end of term, it would be fair and appropriate that the new government and the newly elected members deliberate on these important legislations. The Lok Sabha elections are due in 2024. Participating in a discussion on the resolution, senior minister Chandrima Bhattacharya claimed that Hindi nomenclatures have been used for the new Bills, which she said is an attempt to impose a particular language on the people of the country.

Claiming that the new bills are largely copied from the old laws, she said that it is old wine in a new bottle. Minister Firhad Hakim said that the Bills, if made into laws in their existing form, will turn the country into a police state. Supporting the resolution, he claimed that the new provisions will give enormous powers to law enforcement agencies. BJP MLA Arup Kumar Das, opposing the resolution, said that the new Bills have been introduced keeping in mind the present social requirements and the nature of crime. He said that the purpose of the new Bills is to provide justice and not to punish, which he claimed was just the opposite in the existing provisions. The discussions on the resolution will continue on Wednesday before being taken up for passing, Speaker Biman Banerjee said.

## Railway employees can now apply for leave through mobile app

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Railway Board has simplified the leave application process for its employees by making changes in the leave module of its mobile app, HRMS (Human Resources Management System). The leave module, which was launched on August 1, 2023, for digitising the process of leave, now offers a facility for employees to apply for leaves through this mobile application. "In order to further improve the user interface for employees, facility for applying for certain types of leaves have been provided in the Mobile App of HRMS with immediate effect," said a written communication from the Railway Board dated November 4, 2023 issued to all railway zones. It added, "It may be noted that as of now, the mobile app feature will only be available for apply-

ing the leave and process of sanction needs to be done either through the web portal 'HRMS' or through mobile browser." According to the Board, the application is currently available only in the Android version. "There are certain technical reasons due to which this facility is not functional in the IOS version but we are working on it and very soon, these glitches will be removed," a Board official said. In a separate communication to all zones, the Board has further informed the steps it has taken to streamline leave management functions and to ensure updation of leave ledger of all the employees in a dynamic manner through the HRMS app. "LAP (Leave on Average Pay), LHAP (Leave on Half Average Pay) due for the employees as on 1st January of 2024 will be tentatively proposed to be credited to the leave account of the employee subject to verification

of details of each employee by the concerned leave admins," the Board's letter said. It added, "The process of manual verification is an interim measure pending launch of related modules such as Cadre Management, D&A module etc." The Board has also expressed concern over the slow speed of leave verification by the respective leave admins in various zones and divisions. This year, it issued two communications dated August 1 and November 23 directing leave admins "to complete the verification of the initial leave balance of all employees by 31.12.2023." "It is observed that the process is still not moving at the desired pace. Keeping in view the urgency of the matter all the leave admins may kindly be instructed to complete the verification process in respect of LAP and LHAP before 24.12.2023 and for CL and RH by 19.12.2023," the Board's letter said.



the Meenas to make then-state chief Sachin Pilot the chief minister. Eight Gujjar candidates of the Congress won, giving the party a total of 25 seats in Eastern Rajasthan. The BJP was reduced to three seats in the region, with the remaining seats going to independents and the BSP, which later supported the Congress. This time, the BJP had been working on a multi-pronged plan for some time to win back the Gujjar votes, as evidenced by Prime Minister Modi's attempt to capitalise on Congress's attempt to humiliate Rajesh and Sachin Pilot at rally after rally. This not only brought many Gujjar leaders into the organisation but also kept the issue of Pilot's "insult" alive in the Gujjar belt to draw community voters away from the Congress. State BJP leaders acted at Modi's behest, for example, Sukhbir Singh, Jaunapuriya, a two-time MP from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur, said Pilot had "no chance of becoming chief minister because Gehlot would never allow it".

*(Writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)*







## FIRST COLUMN

## GET ON THE HAPPINESS TRAIN!

Happy people see the humour and magic in each moment



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

As per ‘World Happiness Report’ (WHR) released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global initiative of the United Nations, India stands at rank 126th in the global happiness ranking list with a Happiness score of 4.036, classifying it as one of the world’s least joyful nations. Isn’t it startling & unpleasant? There is no doubt in it that happiness is an aspiration of every human being, and it can also be a measure of social progress. It is the art of living, the very purpose of our existence & the true index of quality of life. Without happiness, life is dry and meaningless. With happiness, life immediately becomes fulfilling and wonderful. Being happy is not about how well you’re doing in general, but rather if you’re doing better than expected. For example, say you go to an ice cream parlour where the desert ice cream was the best you’ve ever had in your life. Now, according to the happiness equation, you would be happier if you had expected it to be just average, as opposed to assuming it would be as delicious as it was. However, it doesn’t mean that having low expectations is the path to happiness. Happy people usually keep themselves happy because they know the little ways to appreciate themselves and to see the humour and magic in each moment.

Each one of us wishes to be happy all the time and we pursue this goal of ours in various ways, whether it be through leisure, careers, wealth, relationships or whatever the means, the tendency of the soul is towards being happy. However, in this quest to be happy, we end up making others unhappy and at times also make ourselves unhappy. In such a situation, we should ask ourselves, “Why do we lose



our happiness?” What makes us take the wrong path and lose our inner state of buoyancy? When we pursue limited, superficial or false goals, it is very easy to lose happiness, firstly, because we are not being true to the self, and secondly, because we may build up false expectations that are not met through our goals and activities. Remember! Happiness gained through relationships and possessions has seeds of sorrow because they are sown with expectations that stem from greed, selfishness, attachment or ego. Hence before getting yourself involved in anything, we need to ask ourselves, “Will this bring me happiness?” Very few people know about the fact that human beings in their most powerful stage have a good stock of happiness. It is only when we contravene the spiritual and natural laws, we lose happiness & start making others around us unhappy. The repercussions of anger, attachment, greed, ego and desire lead us to loss of peace and happiness. The more we are driven by these forces, the more we will spend the stock of our happiness. Hence awareness and application of spiritual truths is the only way out to sustain & increase our stock of happiness. We need to go within ourselves to tap the eternal source of happiness and for that firstly we need to be true to the self, know the self and be the self.

Once we have understood the happiness that comes from within and as a result of the manner in which we conduct our lives, and ourselves then it is possible to understand how to share that happiness with others. Increasing the happiness of others brings happiness to the self, but this cannot be an escape - that is, it is not a substitute for creating internal happiness. Benefitting the self on a spiritual level will definitely bring internal happiness & resolve past karma. So what are you waiting for? let’s get on the happiness train & reach our final destination of “Happy Nation”.

*(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)*

# Cut out red tapism in public sector share sale



UTTAM GUPTA

The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape undermines the chances of the Government selling CPSU shares to willing investors

In the Budget for 2023-24, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had set a target of Rs 51,000 crore for proceeds of the sale of Union government shareholding in central public sector undertakings (CPSUs). As per available indications, the government may fall short of this target by Rs 30,000 crore. An overwhelming share of the shortfall is due to delays in the disinvestment plans of IDBI Bank (the government plans to sell 30.48 per cent of its stake as well as 30.24 per cent shareholding of LIC aggregating to a total stake sale of 60.72 per cent) and state-owned NMDC Steel. Whereas, in the case of IDBI Bank, this is due to delays in the vetting process for potential buyers by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), The sale of NMDC Steel is hamstrung due to elections in Chhattisgarh where the company’s main plant is located. The shortfall in proceeds during the current fiscal year is in sync with the trend seen since 2015-16 when the Modi - government started disinvestment with a particular focus on ‘strategic’ sale (a sophisticated nomenclature for a share sale that reduces its holding in the CPSU to below 50 per cent or privatization). Barring two years viz. 2017-18 and 2018-19 when the actual proceeds exceeded the target, in the remaining six years, the achievement was far short.

Even during 2017-18 and 2018-19, the government could achieve the target primarily because of the two big-ticket sales of its shares in one CPSU to another viz. (i) sale of its 51.11 per cent shareholding in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) during 2017-18 that yielded Rs 37,000 crore; (ii) sale of its 52.63 per cent stake in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) during 2018-19 yielding Rs 13,000 crore. These sales can’t be termed as strategic as the purchaser being another CPSU namely ONGC/PFC, the Government continues to have effective ownership over the divested entity viz. HPCL/REC. It makes no sense to fix a target for proceeds from share sales. This is because unlike tax revenue, which can be projected with a degree of certainty, the same cannot be said about proceeds from disinvestment. In this case, a lot depends on the market scenario and, in particular, the perception of investors about the company in which share-sale is contemplated. In cases where the strategic sale is mooted, the Government faces a bigger challenge as apart from a favourable market, it needs bidders with deep pockets. The lengthy and cumbersome process of approval and bureaucratic red tape further undermines the chances of the Government kicking the ball rolling just around the time when the strategic investors are ready to put in their bets.

The Niti Aayog identifies companies for disinvestment which are then considered by the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD), a long-drawn process by itself, which takes it to the Alternative Mechanism (AM) - a group of ministers, including finance, road transport & highways, administrative reforms, etc., - for approval. After AM’s approval, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) moved a proposal for in-principal approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs



THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO REMAIN IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT EVEN AFTER STRATEGIC SALE. THIS IS AMPLY REFLECTED IN A STATEMENT IN SITHARAMAN’S BUDGET SPEECH FOR FY 2019-20

(CCEA). Taking all these approvals is a time-consuming process and by the time these are in place, the market scenario could become adverse. At a fundamental level, disinvestment of the government’s shareholding in a PSU is tantamount to the sale of assets. Therefore, receipts arising therefrom can only be treated as ‘capital receipts’ (CRs). While preparing the budget, it won’t be advisable to plan for receipts from this source in the same manner as it is done for revenue receipts (RRs) which are receipts generated from the day-to-day business activities e.g. dividends on shares held by the government.

The government should only provide for proceeds from share sales in CPSU on an ‘actual’ basis after it has happened instead of making provision at the time of presenting the budget. Having delinked from the budgetary process, it should take up disinvestment in CPSUs as an independent exercise guided by the broad principle of where it shouldn’t be in.

In an approach outlined in the Budget for 2021-22, the government divided CPSUs into two broad categories i.e. strategic and non-strategic. The strategic group covers atomic energy, space and defense; transport and telecommunications; power, petroleum, coal and other minerals; and banking, insurance and financial services. The non-strategic category includes all other sectors such as industrial and consumer goods, hotel and tourist services, trading, and marketing. While, the government wants to

sell CPSUs in the strategic sector with the caveat that at least one (and a maximum of four) will be retained in the public sector, it will privatise ‘all’ undertakings in non-strategic sectors. All loss-making undertakings in the latter category will be closed. Based on this template, it is working on a detailed action plan which is fine. But the process is hamstrung because of a host of legacy issues.

For instance, despite the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Niti Aayog recommending the privatisation of all nine CPSUs in the fertiliser sector (it falls in the non-strategic category) coming under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, the latter has opposed it. The ministry feels that with control over fertilizer PSUs gone, the government won’t be able to ensure adequate availability of this politically sensitive agri-input in every nook and corner of the country.

The strategic sale of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) hasn’t happened nearly four years after it was initially mooted in 2019-20. A prime reason is the government’s intent to regulate the prices of petrol and diesel (despite the price of these fuels having been deregulated way back in 2010/2014) which it can do by asking the three oil marketing CPSUs including BPCL to do its bidding. Its ability to influence prices will be hampered if BPCL is privatised.

The government wants to remain in the driver’s seat even after strategic sales. This is amply reflected in

a statement in Sitharaman’s budget speech for FY 2019-20. She had stated the intent was to change the existing policy from “directly” holding 51 per cent or above in a CPSU, to one whereby its total holding, “direct” plus “indirect”, is maintained at 51 per cent.

In yet another glaring instance, even though an order of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) issued last year prohibits participation of CPSUs in the strategic sale of other PSUs, a caveat “...unless otherwise specifically approved by the Central Government in public interest” enables the powers that be to bypass this prohibition if they so wish.

Above all, the majority ownership and control by the Government for several decades has ingrained in the bureaucrat a feeling of exercising command (albeit remote) over the management of the PSU. The latter readily acquiescing has added to the sense of bureaucratic power. Although things have improved under the Modi - dispensation (courtesy of its focus on a ‘policy-driven state’, and increase in ‘transparency’), the basic ingredients remain intact.

Modi needs to play some hardballs to kill the existing mindset of the bureaucracy. The process of share sale should be de-bureaucratised by setting up a holding company (HC) where all government shares in CPSUs are placed. To be manned by eminent professionals, the HC should be fully empowered to make all decisions.

*(The writer is a policy analyst, views are personal)*

# Revolutionising agriculture with the ‘natural produce on wheels’ project

The ‘natural produce on wheels’ project has been a resounding success in Himachal Pradesh, showcasing that natural farming can reshape agricultural practices in the region

A truck arrives at the Agriculture Department of Himachal Pradesh in Baluganj, Shimla. Two women, Nirmala and Sumana Devi, members of Narishakti Mahila Krishi Samooh from Nerwa village, Tutu Block, Shimla, step out, bringing fresh seasonal vegetables. These vegetables, including tomatoes, radishes, French beans, and even fruits like guava and kiwi, have been collected on the same day from the doorsteps of local farmers, primarily by women. Representing their group, the two women, along with Lokesh Bhanot, Farmers Produce Officer (FPO) from the agriculture department, move to the vegetable market or ‘subzi mandi’. Bhanot, who surveyed the market rates the



SARITA BRARA

previous evening, displays the rates on a blackboard, and customers make on-the-spot purchases. The vehicle then heads to another selling venue at the state Secretariat complex, carrying the produce along with a cashier. Upon reaching the venue, vegetables and other products are unloaded and arranged. Several women, mostly regular customers, are already waiting to buy these fresh, chemical-free, and locally-grown products. “The vegetables are fresh, have a longer shelf life, taste better, and, importantly, they are chemical-free, not harmful to our health,” says Sunita, a regular customer. Other customers echo similar sentiments, expressing a preference for naturally farmed, more nutritious produce.

Beyond fresh vegetables, products from forest areas, such as anna dana (dried pomegranate seeds), amla (Indian gooseberry), kachina, Bauhinia variegata, and wild honey, are also available. The villages, falling under forest areas, allow people to collect and sell forest produce. The farmers are paid according to the rates fixed by the FPO. Another pickup van from Basantpur Block brings vegetables from villages in that area, forming a network of women farmers participating in the ‘natural produce on wheels’ project. Three blocks in Shimla district, Totu, Mashobra, and Basantpur, were selected for this initiative, involving 5,000 farmers, including 8% women, practising natural farming. They are

all small and marginal farmers. Four women Self-Help Groups with 20 members are involved in this pilot that aims to procure fresh produce directly from farmers’ doorsteps and sell it at the HP Secretariat & Agriculture Directorate Boileauganj, Shimla. This alleviates the need for middlemen, ensuring farmers receive fair market prices. The project operates twice a week, and its success may lead to increased frequency based on customer response. For farmers, it is a win-win situation; they receive market prices without intermediaries, transport costs are shared among them, and all produce is sold on the same day. A survey conducted a year ago identified areas and farmers engaged in natural farming.

Farmers undergo a two-day training program, and their products are certified and graded by the agriculture department. Initiated earlier this year, the ‘natural produce on wheels’ project addresses the challenge of lower yields in natural farming. Farmers cultivate only a portion of their land using the kitchen garden model, maximising the output on smaller plots. Natural farming, a chemical-free traditional method, relies on nature’s laws, avoiding external inputs like chemical fertilisers and pesticides. The process minimises human intervention, making it distinct from organic farming. Pesticides used are prepared by farmers using cow dung, cow urine, garlic, red chilli, and buttermilk.

While organic vegetables are often costly, products from natural farming are more affordable for daily consumption. A survey indicates that natural farming reduces cultivation costs by 46% and increases profits by 22%. In comparison, organic farming relies on expensive inputs, contributing to higher market prices. The positive impact of natural farming extends to disease incidence. Scab and marssonina incidences in Natural Farming orchards are notably lower than in chemical farming, suggesting its potential to improve crop health. Most women involved in the project own small agricultural plots, not exceeding 6 to 7 bighas of land. Their husbands typically work in various professions, and two

women from each group manage the pickup of produce. “We spend half of our day in our agriculture fields or with livestock, managing sowing to harvesting on our own,” shares one woman. The pickup service provided makes it feasible for them to sell their produce without the challenges of transportation. The ‘natural produce on wheels’ project has seen success, with products selling out quickly, and the demand continues to grow. It exemplifies a sustainable model, benefiting farmers, consumers, and the environment, showcasing the potential for natural farming to reshape agricultural practices in the region.

*(The writer is an independent senior journalist, views are personal. Charkha Features)*



# Israel strikes in and around Gaza’s second largest city

AP ■ KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP)

Israel intensified its bombardment in and around Gaza's second largest city early Tuesday, as ambulances and private cars came racing into a local hospital carrying people wounded in a bloody new phase of the war in Gaza.

Under US pressure to prevent further mass casualties, Israel says it is being more precise as it widens its offensive into southern Gaza after obliterating much of the north. Aerial bombardment and the ground offensive have already driven three-fourths of the territory's 2.3 million people from their homes.

At the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, ambulances brought dozens of wounded people in throughout the night. At one point, a car pulled up and man emerged carrying a young boy in a bloody shirt and whose hand had been blown off. "Where is the Red Cross? ... where is the United Nations?" a woman screamed outside the emergency department. "My children, since 10 p.m., are still under the rubble."

Satellite photos taken Sunday showed tanks and troops massing outside Khan



Palestinians are treated as they lie on the floor after being wounded in an Israeli army bombardment of the Gaza Strip, in the hospital in Khan Younis, Tuesday. *AP/PTI*

Younis, the latest target of the offensive, which was home to more than 400,000 people before the war.

Israel has ordered people out of nearly two dozen neighborhoods instead of the entire region, as it did in the north. But with most of Gaza's population already packed into the south, cramming U.N. shelters and family homes, there are few places left to go. Israel has barred people who fled the north earlier in the war from returning. Palestinians say that

as Israel continues to strike across the besieged territory, there are no areas where they feel safe, and many fear that if they leave their homes they will never be allowed to return.

## THE QUEST TO ELIMINATE HAMAS

Israel says it must dismantle Hamas' extensive military infrastructure and remove it from power in order to prevent a repeat of the Oct. 7 attack that ignited the war. The surprise assault through

the border fence saw Hamas and other Palestinian militants kill about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and capture some 240 men, women and children.

The Israeli military says it makes every effort to spare civilians and accuses Hamas of using them as human shields as it fights in dense residential areas, where it has a labyrinth of tunnels, bunkers, rocket launchers and sniper nests.

But the militant group is deeply rooted in Palestinian society, and its determination to end decades of open-ended Israeli military rule is shared by most Palestinians, even those opposed to its ideology and its attacks on Israeli civilians. That will complicate any effort to eliminate Hamas without causing massive casualties and displacement.

Even after weeks of unrelenting bombardment, Hamas' leaders in Gaza were able to conduct complex cease-fire negotiations and orchestrate the release of more than 100 Israeli and foreign hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners last week. Palestinian militants have also kept up their rocket fire into Israel, both before and after the truce.

The fighting has meanwhile brought unprecedented death and destruction to the coastal strip. The Health Ministry in Gaza said the death toll in the territory since Oct. 7 has surpassed 15,890 people – 70% of them women and children — with more than 42,000 wounded. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths. It says hundreds have been killed or wounded since the cease-fire's end, and many still are trapped under rubble.

An Israeli army official provided a similar figure for the death toll in Gaza on Monday, after weeks in which Israeli officials had cast doubt on the ministry's count.

The official said at least 15,000 people have been killed, including 5,000 militants, without saying how the military arrived at its figures.

# Putin to discuss Israel-Hamas war

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a one-day trip to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia focused on the Israeli-Hamas war and host the Iranian president in Moscow this week, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

Putin will make working visits to both countries on Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

The talks will focus on bilateral relations, the war between Israel and Hamas and other international issues,

Peskov said. Issues related to oil price caps under OPEC+ will also be on the agenda, he added. Putin's trip was first announced on Monday by his foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, who didn't give a date for the visits when he spoke to the Russian news outlet Life.

"I hope that these will be very useful negotiations, which we consider extremely important," Ushakov was quoted as saying by Life.

Putin will make the visit at a time when Russia wants to advance its role as a power broker in the conflict in the

Middle East. Putin will host Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in the Kremlin on Thursday, Peskov added.

The Russian president visited China in October and recently made several trips to former Soviet nations.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin in March for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

Since the warrant was issued, Putin chose not to attend a BRICS summit in South Africa because the

country would be obliged to arrest Putin upon arrival as it is a signatory to the international court's treaty.

Neither Saudi Arabia nor the UAE have signed the ICC's founding treaty.

The notice against Putin in March was the first time the global court issued a warrant against a leader of one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The ICC said in a statement that Putin is accused of the war crime of "unlawful deportation" of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.

# Top US Congressmen introduce bill to reduce Green Card backlog

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Three influential Congressmen have introduced bipartisan legislation in the US House of Representatives to reduce the Green Card backlog and end country-based discrimination for employment-based visas, a bill if passed would benefit thousands of Indian Americans.

Three influential Congressmen who introduced the legislation include Indian Americans, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Pramila Jayapal. Congressman Rich McCormick is the third lawmaker to have joined the two Indian-Americans in introducing the bill on Monday.

If passed and signed into law, it would help thousands of Indian Americans who are currently in decades-long wait for green cards or permanent residency.

HR 6542, the bipartisan Immigration Visa Efficiency and Security Act of 2023, would strengthen the US economy and boost its international competitiveness while reducing the Green Card backlog by allowing American employers to focus on hiring immigrants based on their merit, not their birthplace, a press statement said. A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent



Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently.

The bill would phase out the existing seven per cent per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas while increasing the seven per-country limit on family-sponsored visas to 15 per cent, it said.

"As we work to build the economy of the future, we cannot allow high-skilled workers to languish in the Green Card backlog, left unable to fully establish themselves as Americans and contribute more fully to our nation," Krishnamoorthi said.

"I am proud to partner with my colleagues on our bipartisan legislation to end country-based discrimination for employment-based immigrant visas to reduce visa back-

logs while strengthening our economy and our workforce," he added.

The employment-based visa system provides permanent residence (or "green cards") to individuals whose work contributes to US economic growth and enhances our competitive advantage.

To qualify, a sponsoring employer generally must advertise and prove that they cannot find a qualified US worker to fill the position. Thus, although America's employment-based visa system starts as "merit-based," what happens next has nothing to do with merit or skills — visas are allocated based on the intended immigrant's country of birth, the statement said.

Approximately 95 per cent of employment-based immigrants currently live and work in the United States on temporary visas while waiting for a visa to become available. Some of these individuals remain in temporary status for many years, if not decades, because of the caps applied to their country of nationality, it read.

The statement said the new, phased-in system, established in the bipartisan EAGLE Act, would help ease the backlog for those who wait the longest.

Like the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act that

passed the House in July 2019, the bill phases out the seven per cent per-country cap for employment-based immigrant visas; and raises the seven per cent per-country limit on family-sponsored visas to 15 per cent.

Like the version of the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act that passed the Senate in December 2020, the bill includes a longer nine-year transition period to ensure that no countries are excluded from receiving visas while the per-country caps are phased out, it said.

The bill strengthens the H-1B temporary visa programme and provides an option for individuals who have been waiting in the immigrant visa backlog for two years to file a green card application, although the application cannot be approved until a visa becomes available, according to the statement.

The H-1B visa, the much sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

# Prince Harry challenges UK government’s decision to strip him of security detail

AP ■ LONDON

Prince Harry is challenging on Tuesday the British government's decision to strip him of his security detail after he gave up his status as a working member of the royal family and moved to the United States. The Duke of Sussex said he wants protection when he visits his home and claimed it's partly because an aggressive press jeopardizes his safety and that of his family.

The three-day hearing scheduled to begin in London's High Court is the latest in a string of Harry's legal cases that have kept London judges busy as he takes on the UK government and the British tabloid media. It was not clear if he would attend Tuesday's hearing.

Harry failed to persuade a different judge earlier this year that he should be able to privately pay for London's police force to guard him when he

comes to town. A judge denied that offer after a government lawyer argued that officers shouldn't be used as "private bodyguards for the wealthy."

Harry, the youngest son of King Charles III, said he did not feel safe bringing his wife, former actor Meghan Markle, and their two young children back to Britain and was concerned about his own safety after being chased by paparazzi following a London charity event.

Harry's animosity toward the press dates back to the death of his mother Princess Diana, who died in a car wreck as her driver tried to outrun aggressive photographers in Paris. Harry, whose wife is mixed-raced, cited what he said were racist attitudes and unbearable intrusions of the British media in his decision to leave the United Kingdom.

The 39-year-old prince is challenging the decision by



the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures to provide his security on a "case by case" basis after moving in 2020 to Canada and then California, where he and his family now reside.

He said the committee unfairly nixed his security request without hearing from him personally and did not dis-

close the makeup of the panel, which he later learned included royal family staff. He said Edward Young, the assistant private secretary to the late Queen Elizabeth II, should not have been on the committee because of "significant tensions" between the two men.

The Home Office has argued that any tensions between Harry and the royal household staff was irrelevant and that the committee was entitled to its decision because he had relinquished his role as a working member of the family. The case is one of five that Harry has pending in the High Court.

The four other lawsuits involve Britain's best-known tabloids, including a case that alleges the publisher of the Daily Mail libeled him when it ran a story suggesting he had tried to hide his efforts to continue receiving government-funded security.

# UK police renew appeal over hate crime attack against British Sikh

**London (PTI):** A UK police force investigating a hate crime have renewed their appeal for information related to an incident in which a Sikh man in his late 50s sustained injuries after a group of boys attacked him in Slough, south-east England.

Thames Valley Police said the victim, named locally as Inderjit Singh, was walking through Langley Memorial Park when he was approached by a group of boys. One of the offenders tried to grab the victim's beard and then all the boys circled him, kicking him and pulling him to the ground. Singh sustained three broken ribs as well as swelling and cuts to his hand.

The police were initially investigating it as an incident of GBH (grievous bodily harm), but are now treating it as a hate crime, investigating officer Detective Constable Holly Baxter, who is based at Slough Police Station, said in a statement.

"I am appealing to anybody who was in the area around the time of the incident (at 7 pm local time on November 21), to please get in touch with Thames Valley Police," Baxter's statement said last week.

"We are currently conducting further patrols in the area and anyone with concerns should speak to a uniformed officer or contact us by calling 101 or via our website. We take all reports of hate crime seriously as we know that they have a devastating impact on individual victims and targeted communities," she said.

The police are appealing for anyone with their car dash-cam footage, doorbell video, or any other potential recordings from the day of the attack that could assist the investigation. Following the attack, the offenders – described as teenage boys around 13 to 16 years old – are said to have left in the direction of Marish School.

# EU official warns of security risk in Europe over Xmas

**Brussels (AP):** Europe faces a "huge risk of terrorist attacks" over the Christmas holiday period due to the fallout from the war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, the European Union's home affairs commissioner warned on Tuesday. The warning came as French investigators probe a fatal weekend attack near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Questions were raised about the mental health of the suspect, who swore allegiance to the extremist Islamic State group before stabbing a German-Filipino tourist to death and injuring two other people with a hammer.

"With the war between Israel and Hamas, and the polarisation it causes in our society, with the upcoming holiday season, there is a huge risk of terrorist attacks in the European Union," EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva

Johansson told reporters.

"We saw (it happening) recently in Paris, unfortunately we have seen it earlier as well," she said, as EU interior ministers gathered in Brussels. She provided no details about any information that might have led to her warning.

Her office did not immediately respond to requests for details.

Johansson, whose brief includes security and immigration, said that European Commission will provide an additional 30 million euros (\$32.5 million) to help bolster security in vulnerable areas, notably places of worship.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser sent her condolences to France over the attack, and said that it highlights "just how acute and how serious the threat posed by Islamist terrorism is currently in the EU."

# ‘Harvard muzzled disinfo team after USD500 mn Zuckerberg donation’

**Cambridge (Massachusetts) (AP):** A prominent disinformation scholar who left Harvard University in August has accused the school of muzzling her speech and stifling — then dismantling — her research team as it launched a deep dive in late 2021 into a trove of Facebook files she considers the most important documents in internet history.

The actions impacting Joan Donovan's work coincided with a USD500 million donation to Harvard by a foundation run by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan. In a whistleblower disclosure made public Monday, Donovan seeks investigations into "inap-

propriate influence" from Harvard's general counsel, the Massachusetts attorney general's office and the US Department of Education.

The CEO of Whistleblower Aid, a legal nonprofit supporting Donovan, called the alleged behavior by Harvard's Kennedy School and its dean a "shocking betrayal" of academic integrity at the elite school.

"Whether Harvard acted at the company's direction or took the initiative on their own to protect (Facebook's) interests, the outcome is the same: corporate interests are undermining research and academic freedom to the detriment of the public," CEO Libby Liu said in a press statement.



# Pak EC reserves verdict on plea to bar Khan from heading party

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's election commission on Tuesday reserved its verdict on a petition seeking to remove former premier Imran Khan as the head of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party due to his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Khan, 71, has been in jail since August 5, when he was arrested after a conviction in the Toshakhana case. He was also disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the same case for failing to disclose the proceeds from the sale of gifts he got from the Toshakhana (state repository).

A petition was filed on October 3 with the top election body to bar him from holding any position within his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Two months later, on December 2, the former-cricketer-turned-politician decided against contesting the ECP-mandated intra-party polls for the post of party chairman due to his disqualification in the Toshakhana case.

The jailed former prime minister had instead hand-picked Barrister Gohar Ali Khan to lead the party he founded and other legal challenges earlier this month.

Barrister Gohar was officially elected as the PTI chief unopposed in the intra-party polls held on December 2. On Tuesday, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, leading a five-member bench, presided over the hearing held at the ECP headquarters in Islamabad.

During Tuesday's hearing, PTI lawyer Shoaib Shaheen said the petition had become infructuous as the party has elected its new chairman.

Dawoodi Bohra community head conferred with 'Nishan-e-Pakistan'

**Islamabad (PTI):** Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, head of the Dawoodi Bohra sect of Islam, was on Tuesday conferred with 'Nishan-e-Pakistan', the highest civilian award of Pakistan.

"President Dr Arif Alvi conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, at a special investiture ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr," the president's office said in a post on X. Dr Saifuddin, the head of the Mumbai-headquartered Dawoodi Bohra community spread across over 40 countries, including a sizeable congregation in Pakistan, is the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq of the order. The Dawoodi Bohras carry out developmental works to benefit the underprivileged in all these countries.

Nishan-e-Pakistan is the highest civilian honour awarded for services of the highest distinction to the national interest of Pakistan. The award, conferred at a special investiture ceremony, recognises 77-year-old Saifuddin's services to Pakistan in the field of spiritual guidance and social services, Geo News reported.

The Bohra community head holds a special regard for Pakistan and is an advocate of peace, harmony and goodwill, read the citation read out before the conferment of the award. Recounting his services in the education sector, it was said that he had contributed to the building of the School of Law at the University of Karachi and launched a university project. Multiple healthcare institutions are operating in the name of the Bohra community head providing affordable healthcare to people.

Separately, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar met the Dawoodi Bohra community head and lauded the community's services for the progress of the country. The premier felicitated Dr Saifuddin on being awarded the country's highest civil award and expressed confidence that the Bohra community would continue to play their role in the progress and development of the country.

Each year, the announcement of awards is made on August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day, and the awards are conferred next year on Pakistan National Day, observed on March 23. But in special cases, these dates are not followed and the investiture can be arranged anytime.

# Finance ministry releases ₹17.4 bn for general polls

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government said on Tuesday that it has released Rs 17.4 billion to the election commission for the upcoming general elections, a day after the poll body raised concerns over the non-provision of funds. Cash-strapped Pakistan, which is facing both political and economic instability, is going to the polls on February 8.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Finance Division said it has released Rs 17.4 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in addition to Rs 10 billion released in July 2023 for the conduct of general elections in the country. "This brings the total released

amount to Rs 27.4 billion for holding general elections. The Finance Division remains committed to the provision of funds as and when required by the Election Commission of Pakistan," it added. The development comes a day after the electoral body raised concern over the delay in the release of the urgently needed amount for the conduct of polls.

Addressing the ECP's concerns, caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi had said that the government would meet the financial needs of the ECP ahead of the February 8 general election.

"There is no crisis in meeting the financial needs of the ECP," Solangi said in a post on X. "Whatever budgeted

# China recognises Taliban govt in Af

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has become the first country to confer diplomatic status to a Taliban-nominated official as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Beijing, thereby formally recognising the Taliban-run administration as a legitimate government in Kabul.

"As a long-standing friendly neighbour of Afghanistan, China believes that Afghanistan should not be excluded from the international community," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing on Tuesday when asked whether China recognised the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. Earlier reports from Kabul said China has given Bilal Karimi, a Taliban

# 14 killed in western Thailand bus crash



In this photo provided by Sawang Rungrueang Rescue22 Foundation, rescue workers and volunteers work at the site of a bus accident on Tuesday

AP ■ BANGKOK

A bus crashed in western Thailand early on Tuesday, killing 14 people and injuring more than 30 others, officials said. The accident occurred in Prachuap Khiri Khan province as the bus was travelling from the capital, Bangkok, to Songkhla province in the deep south. It was carrying 49 people when it ran off the road and hit a tree near Hat Wanakorn National Park, a local police official said. Prachuap Khiri Khan province is located on a coastal stretch between the Gulf of

Defending China's move, Wang said, "We hope Afghanistan will further respond to the expectations of the international community, build an open and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, firmly combat all forms of terrorist forces, develop friendly relations with other countries, especially with its neighbours, and integrate itself into the world community."

"We believe that diplomatic recognition of the Afghan government will come naturally as the concerns of various parties are effectively addressed," Wang said.

China, which shares borders with Afghanistan, also has serious concerns over the regrouping of East Turkistan

# Seven injured in blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PTI ■ LONDON

Four minor children were among seven people who were injured on Tuesday when an improvised explosive device exploded near a school here in the capital of Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. According to the police, the blast occurred around 9:10 am on the congested Warsak road near a school and a private bank in Peshawar. At least four kilograms of explosives, planted in a "cemented block" on the side of the road, were used in the blast, Geo News reported. According to a Michni Gate Police Station official, seven people were injured in the blast. Four children between the ages of seven and ten were also injured, Lady Reading Hospital authorities said. Police and rescue teams were sent to the site as soon as the blast was reported, Warsak Superintendent of Police Arshad Khan was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Those injured were moved to a private hospital, where the condition of two children was critical, spokesperson of the Peshawar Lady Reading Hospital Asim Khan said. He added that none of the children were wearing a school uniform. Khan said that the police launched a search operation in the surrounding areas. "The element of extortion is also being considered," he was quoted as saying. "It would be premature to say who was the target," he added.

According to The Express Tribune newspaper, No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan has been hit by a wave of terrorist activities orchestrated by various terror outfits.

# 3 die in mishaps caused by freezing rain in Germany Munich airport suspends flights

AP ■ BERLIN

Freezing rain and cold weather buffeting Germany were blamed for traffic accidents that left three dead on Tuesday while Munich Airport temporarily suspended flights.

One student was killed in a crash involving a school bus in the Erzgebirge mountains in the eastern German state of Saxony, police said. At least 10 other schoolchildren were taken to a hospital. Two adults, including the bus driver, were seriously injured.

The bus skidded into the side of a winter road maintenance vehicle in Sehmatal county near the Czech border, German news agency dpa reported. It then crashed head-on into a tree and the impact was so strong that it completely destroyed the front of the vehicle.

In Munich, all flights were either cancelled or postponed between 6 a.m. and noon (0500-1100 GMT), with the airport warning that many flights scheduled for later in the day might also be affected by the severe weather conditions.

The airport, Germany's second-biggest, announced the temporary shutdown on Monday night as a result of weather forecasts for Tuesday. "The operating areas will be deactivated in the first half of the day. The plan is to allow air traffic to resume from midday," the airport said on its website. "However, it can be assumed that the majority of flights will also have to be cancelled dur-



A plane is cleared of ice in Munich Airport, Germany, on Tuesday

ing the rest of the day for safety reasons."

Tuesday's cancellations came after all flights at Munich Airport were grounded on Saturday following heavy snowfall in the city and in Germany's southern state of Bavaria. Two people died in a collision between a car and a tractor-trailer on the A8 highway in Upper Bavaria. According to the police, their car skidded under the rear of a truck, which had come to a stop across the highway overnight from Monday to Tuesday due to frozen rain on the highway's surface, dpa reported.

The A99 near Munich was shutdown in both direction after 13 vehicles were involved in a mass accident, dpa reported. There was no immediate information about possible injuries. Train operator Deutsche Bahn said traffic in

the Munich region would be affected for several days.

"At present, access to Munich's main station is severely restricted. Only a few long-distance trains are therefore running to and from Munich," it said on its website on Tuesday. Rail services to the Austrian cities of Salzburg and Innsbruck, as well as Zurich in Switzerland, remained suspended. Deutsche Bahn said that there could also be train cancellations and delays in other parts of southern Germany. Passengers were asked to postpone non-essential journeys to Wednesday.

Southern Germany as well as neighbouring Austria and Switzerland have been experiencing heavy snowfall which has affected public transport all over the region and led to alarm about possible avalanches.

# Russian shelling hits southern Ukraine; 2 killed

AP ■ KYIV

Russian artillery struck the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson on Tuesday morning, local officials said, killing at least two people in the street as the 21-month war drags into another winter.

Regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin posted a video of the attack's aftermath, showing two bodies in a city center street and blood near holes in the road caused by the shelling. "The medics who arrived promptly at the scene could only declare their deaths," Prokudin said of the victims on Telegram.

The head of the Kherson city administration, Roman Mrochko, added that a medical facility also was struck, wounding two medics. Russian attacks on the Dnieper river port city have become routine since the Ukrainian army liberated the city last year, with civilian deaths reported almost daily.

With the war's front line apparently static along most of its more than 1,000-kilometre length, and amid wintry weather, both sides in the war have used aerial bombardment to keep up the military pressure.

Russian authorities said Tuesday they repelled another heavy Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea, while Ukraine officials said air defences responded to drones and missiles launched by the

Kremlin's forces. Neither side immediately reported any other casualties or damage. The Russian Defence Ministry said that air defences destroyed 22 Ukrainian drones and intercepted 13 more over Crimea and the Sea of Azov early Tuesday. Shortly after, it added that another four drones were destroyed and two were intercepted. Russian officials commonly say drones were destroyed when they were shot down and say they were intercepted when electronic jamming is used.

Military and logistics sites in Russian-occupied Crimea, annexed by Moscow in 2014, have been a frequent target for Ukraine since the full-scale invasion in February 2022. Last month, Ukraine launched one of its biggest drone attacks on Crimea, according to Russian officials, though they did not mention any casualties or damage. Ukraine's air force, meanwhile, said it downed 10 out of 17 Shahed drones that Russia launched during the night. Moscow's forces also unleashed six S-300 missiles, the air force said without providing further details.

The UK defence ministry said last month that Russia could target Ukraine's power grid again, just like last winter when Moscow aimed to break local resistance by denying civilians home heating and running water.

# Toll in Indonesia volcanic eruption climbs to 22

**Batu Palano (AP):** Rescuers searching the hazardous slopes of Indonesia's Mount Marapi volcano found 11 more bodies of climbers who were caught by a surprise weekend eruption, raising the number of confirmed dead to 22, officials said Tuesday. One person remained missing. More than 50 climbers were rescued after the initial eruption Sunday, and 11 others were initially confirmed dead. New eruptions on Monday and Tuesday spewed more hot ash as high as 800 metres (2,620 feet) into the air, reducing visibility and temporarily halting search and recovery operations, said Abdul Malik, chief of the Padang Search and Rescue Agency. The bodies of two climbers were located on Monday and nine more on Tuesday, the National Search and Rescue Agency said.

One climber remained missing and was presumed dead because of being very close to the eruption site, said Edi Mardianto, the deputy police chief in West Sumatra province. The recovered bodies will be taken to a hospital for identification, he said.

The rescuers contended with bad weather and difficult terrain, along with winds that brought heat from the eruptions. A video released by West Sumatra's Search and Rescue Agency showed rescuers carrying an injured climber on a stretcher off the mountain and into a waiting ambulance to be taken to a hospital. Marapi has stayed at the third highest of four alert levels since 2011, indicating above-normal volcanic activity under which climbers must stay more than 3 kilometres from the peak, according to Indonesia's Centre for Volcanology.

# Nod to bill in France to ban disposable e-cigs

**Paris (AP):** France's National Assembly unanimously approved a bill to ban single-use, disposable electronic cigarettes, in an attempt to protect young people drawn to their flavours and mitigate the environmental impacts of the disposable products known as "puffs."

Lawmakers adopted the bill in a late-night vote on Monday by 104 in favour, zero against. The bill, supported by the government, will then move to the Senate where it is expected to be adopted as well. It could go into effect by September 2024. Disposable e-cigarettes — which cost about 10 euros (nearly USD 11) each — are small, battery-powered devices that are especially popular among teenagers for their

sweet flavours. While they do not contain tobacco, many include nicotine, a dangerous chemical known for its addictive properties. They differ from reusable vaping devices in that they are not designed to be refilled or recharged. Their small, non-rechargeable lithium batteries often end up in landfills. This bill is part of a broader trend. The UK, Ireland, and Germany are considering similar measures. New Zealand and Australia have already implemented restrictions, with the former mandating lower nicotine levels and restrictions on vape shop locations near schools. Three years ago, the US Food and Drug Administration cracked down on kid-friendly flavoured reusable e-cigarettes like Juul.

# Indian-origin filmmaker re-launches Mandela documentary

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Internationally-renowned South African filmmaker of Indian origin, Anant Singh, has re-released on an OTT platform his special documentary on the life of the late Nelson Mandela as the country marked his 10th death anniversary on Tuesday.

After serving 27 years in prison under the minority white apartheid government, the globally celebrated leader became President of South Africa in 1994. Mandela died on December 5, 2013. Singh's documentary feature 'Viva Madiba: A Hero for All Seasons' will be seen globally on Netflix and will be available to audiences of the streaming service throughout Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands for the first time.

Initially produced as a tribute to Mandela, the documen-

tary is a celebration of Mandela's epic life and his status as an international icon. The film takes one on a journey behind the headlines and away from the public eye and looks at Madiba through different lenses - as a loyal friend, a faithful comrade, a trusted confidant, a respected mentor, and a man who has touched and transformed countless lives globally.

Mandela's life of struggle, humanity, destiny, and greatness is recalled and celebrated by those who knew him best and who worked with him and "the film takes us beyond the political and into the personal realm and features exclusive interviews with politicians, close friends and comrades," Singh said. These include Archbishop Desmond Tutu; former ANC leader Oliver Tambo; George Bizos, the lawyer who defended



Mandela and his co-accused at the infamous Rivonia Trial that sent them to prison; long-time fellow prisoner and confidant Ahmed Kathrada, and his former jailer, Christo Brand. Also featured in the documentary is current President Cyril Ramaphosa, the country's fourth after Mandela stepped down fol-

lowing just one term in office. Singh recalled how he had been at the Royal Premiere of his movie 'Long Walk to Freedom' in London when he received news of 95-year-old Mandela's passing after a long illness. Just 15 minutes before the end of the film 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom', based on the autobiography of the same name, Singh got the news that Mandela had died. What was expected to be a standing ovation for Singh and the cast of the film from the celebrity audience, including Prince William and his wife Kate, turned into shocked disbelief as he waited for the end of the film to give the audience the tragic news and called for a minute's silence to honour the global icon.

"Even though we had all expected it to happen one day, it was such a shock to hear it

while sitting in the theatre watching the movie exactly as it happened," he said. A planned after-party was also cancelled as cast members left in tears. Singh had spent almost two decades planning the multi-million-rand film, which won accolades all over the world.

Earlier he explained how he had told Mandela after first reading the manuscript for the book that it had to be made into a film. "It is amazing how quickly 10 years have passed — it feels like it was yesterday that we got the dreaded news of Madiba's passing," Singh said, referring to Mandela's clan name. "Whilst the world is poorer without Nelson Mandela, despite his passing 10 years ago, the gravitas of Madiba is still respected and acknowledged not only in South Africa but around the world," Singh concluded.



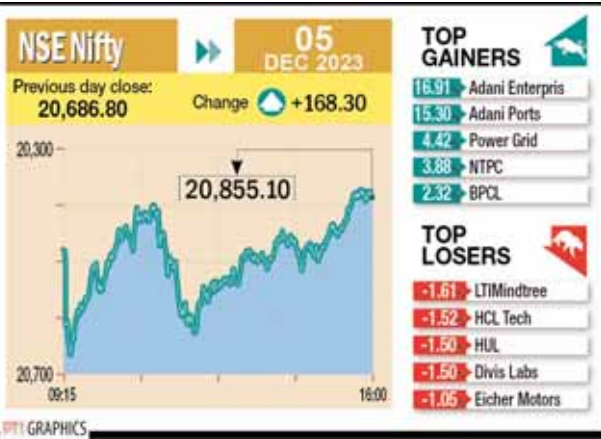
# Stock markets hit new record highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

## SENSEX BREACHES 69K-MARK, NIFTY EYES 21K LEVEL

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty settled at new peaks on Tuesday, rallying for the sixth straight session amid massive buying in power and utility sector shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 431.02 points, or 0.63 per cent, to close at a new record high of 69,296.14. The broader index Nifty also climbed 168.50 points, or 0.81 per cent to hit its lifetime high of 20,855.30.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged by more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore to cross Rs 350 lakh crore on Tuesday. Analysts said the positive sentiment was fuelled by unabated inflow of foreign funds on the back of robust sentiment built up over favourable macroeconomic data in the previous week and the results of assembly polls of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh that raised expectations of longer political stability in the country. Also, investors



are expecting the Reserve Bank to maintain the status quo on the interest rate in its bi-monthly monetary policy decision to be announced on Friday, they said. Among major Sensex movers, Power Grid rose the most by 4.46 per cent, NTPC by 3.89 per cent, SBI by 2.31 per cent and ICICI Bank by 2.28 per cent.

Other gainers included Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan and Maruti. On the other hand, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance remained laggards with losses of up to 1.49 per cent. As many as 20 stocks of the 30-share benchmark closed with gains, while among Nifty firms,

32 shares registered gains. Foreign institutional investors purchased shares worth Rs 2,073.21 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. "The domestic market extended the gains and hit fresh highs despite cautiousness among global peers ahead of key US job data this week. The aura of the

state election results and other positive factors like above-expected earnings and GDP growth data are supporting the return of FII flows to the Indian market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "The RBI's monetary policy meeting is expected to be status quo. However, the com-

mentary on economic growth, foodgrain prices and inflation trajectory will be closely watched," he added. Meanwhile, in Asian markets, Hang Seng and Nikkei 225 were trading lower by 2.07 per cent and 1.37 per cent, respectively, while China's Shanghai Composite was trading 1.67 per cent lower. European markets were mixed. Germany's DAX gained 1.51 per cent and France's CAC 40 by 0.69 per cent. London's FTSE 100 declined 0.22 per cent. The US markets ended on a mixed note with S&P 500 registering a loss of 0.54 per cent on Monday. Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude advanced 1 per cent to USD 78.81 a barrel. On Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,383.93 points, or 2.05 per cent, to close at a lifetime high of 68,865.12. The barometer logged its biggest single-day jump since May 20, 2022. Nifty also climbed 418.90 points, or 2.07 per cent, to hit 20,686.80.

# Indian Chamber of Commerce unveils first overseas office in Italy

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Marking a milestone in its international expansion strategy, the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has inaugurated its first overseas office in Italy. The ICC said this strategic move underscores its commitment to fostering robust trade relations between India and Italy and expanding opportunities for Indian businesses in the European market. ICC has appointed Vas Shenoy, a businessman and seasoned geopolitical strategist and analyst, as Chief Representative for Italy who will play a major role in driving the chamber's engagement with the Italian business community and government entities. ICC President Ameya Prabhu said, "The opening of our first overseas office in Italy marks a pivotal step in ICC's

global expansion strategy." ICC Italy's primary focus will be on promoting India as an attractive investment destination for Italian companies and facilitating the entry of Indian businesses into the Italian market. The establishment of ICC Italy aligns with the recent strengthening of diplomatic ties between India and Italy. The two countries have upgraded their relationship to a strategic partnership and signed defence cooperation and manpower mobility agreements in 2023. The growing economic ties between India and Italy are evident in the surge in bilateral trade, which reached Euro 14.88 billion in 2022. India's exports to Italy have also witnessed a substantial increase, highlighting the deepening economic relationship between the two nations.

# Banks write off ₹10.57 lakh crore in 5 years



'Make NPA recovery worth ₹7.17 lakh cr'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banks have written off Rs 10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years, of which Rs 5.52 lakh crore was in respect of loans pertaining to large industries, the government informed the Parliament on Tuesday. "As per RBI data, scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have written off an aggregate loan amount of Rs 10.57 lakh crore during the last five financial years," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha. The scheduled commercial banks have also recovered Rs 7.15 lakh crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) during the five-year period. "Comprehensive steps have been taken to recover NPAs, enabled by which, SCBs have made an aggregate recovery of Rs 7.15,507 crore (RBI provisional data for FY 2022-23) in NPA accounts, including written-off loans, during the last five financial years," he said.

In reply to a separate question, Karad said: "Scheduled commercial banks have written off an aggregate amount of Rs 5.52 lakh crore in respect of loans pertaining to large industries and services during the last five financial years (FYs), i.e. From FY 2018-19 to FY 2022-23." He also said that this includes Rs 93,874 crore written off by all the banks on account of fraud during the five-year period. Karad said banks regularly evaluate the impact of write-offs as part of the exercise to clean up their balance sheet, avail tax benefit and optimise capital, in accordance with the said guidelines and policies of the respective boards. "Such write-off does not result in waiver of liabilities of borrowers to repay and therefore, write-off does not benefit the borrowers. The borrowers of written-off loans continue to be liable for repayment and banks continue to pursue recovery actions initiated in written-off accounts through various recovery mechanisms available to them..." Karad said.

# COP28: Adani pitches for balanced approach to energy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As world leaders dwell on the language of the final outcome of climate talks, billionaire Gautam Adani on Tuesday made a pitch for adopting a balanced approach that takes into account energy costs and availability while continuing to accelerate on green ambitions. At the 28th UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, called COP28, 118 governments pledged to triple the world's renewable energy capacity by 2030 but have not been able to arrive at the language to be used in the outcome document for cutting the share of fossil fuels in the world's energy production. "In the midst of initial encouraging signs from COP 28, it is relevant to remember that while in sum total (given our 1.4 bil-

lion population) we are the world's third largest primary energy consumer, our per capita electricity consumption @ 1250 kWh is still less than one-third of the global average and less than one-seventh of the developed world," Adani said in a post on X. India, he said, is also the only large nation ahead of its target in meeting its UNFCCC commitment to reduce its emissions intensity by 45 per cent from the 2005 level by 2030. "The fastest growing economy must balance its energy cost, energy availability and green energy objectives while continuing to accelerate its massive green ambitions," he added. On his post, the coal-to-edible oil conglomerate he heads commented: "With a pledge of investing USD 75 billion by 2030, Adani group is playing a



pivotal role in accomplishing this" task of reducing emission intensity. To keep global warming from rising no more than 1.5 Celcius by 2050, fossil fuel use needs to be greatly reduced

and unabated coal use needs to be completely phased out, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has argued. But India is not agreeable to phasing out of coal as 73 per cent of

its current electricity is produced from burning the fossil fuel. The share of coal-fired electricity generation in India's power mix is slated to rise to 77 per

# Solar power potential 75,000 GW by 2050 possible with long-duration storage: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Solar power generation capacity can go up to 75,000 gigawatts by 2050 globally with long-duration storage capacity, a report by the International Solar Association (ISA) and LDES Council, said. The report released on Tuesday by ISA and the Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Council unveils a bold vision for the future of renewable energy, showcasing the pivotal role of Long Duration Energy Storage in realizing ambitious solar targets. The report, presented at COP28 in Dubai, emphasized the transformative potential of combining solar energy with LDES to ensure continuous, reliable, and affordable renewable energy, a statement said. The report emphasized the necessity of LDES to fully real-



ize the potential of solar installations for complete decarbonization and achieving a solar capacity of 75,000 GW by 2050. It presented a case study of isolated island utilities in the US, demonstrating the financial viability of LDES in areas with limited interconnectivity and high local fuel costs. The combination of solar, wind, and LDES emerges as the most

cost-effective solution for achieving 100 per cent renewable energy. The LDES Council estimates that LDES will become a USD 4 trillion industry by 2040, with an installed capacity potential of 8 TW, the statement said. This growth is essential for enabling solar energy to meet global electricity demands affordably and reliably.

The report also identified barriers to the widespread adoption of solar and LDES, including regulatory challenges, financing issues, and technical limitations, and proposed solutions to overcome these hurdles. "Solar, already the most economical source of new electricity globally, will further strengthen its competitive advantage. Combined with Long Duration Energy Storage, solar becomes a continuous, reliable 24/7 energy source," stated Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General ISA. "Developing long-duration energy storage is the best pathway to full decarbonization for economies worldwide. LDES provides the scaffolding for reliable, resilient, around-the-clock renewable energy for industry and the electric grid," asserted Julia Souder, Chief Executive Office, LDES Council.



# 21,791 fake GST registrations

Suspected tax evasion of ₹24,000 cr detected in special drive: FM

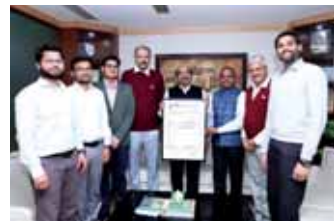
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said GST officers have detected 21,791 fake GST registrations and over Rs 24,000 crore of suspected tax evasion during a two-month-long special drive. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, the minister said to safeguard the interest of honest taxpayers and avoid extreme hardship to taxpayers, instructions have been issued from time to time, directing officers to exercise due caution and care in the exercise of powers such as summons, provisional attachment of property, blocking of tax credit etc. "A total of 21,791 entities (11,392 entities pertaining to state tax jurisdiction and 10,399 entities pertaining to CBIC jurisdiction) having GST registration were discovered to be non-existent. An amount of Rs 24,010 crore (state - Rs 8,805 crore + Centre - Rs 15,205 crore) of suspected tax evasion was detected during the special drive," Sitharaman said. The minister was replying to a question on the number of entities identified as having fake registrations, and the total amount of evasion detected during the special drive against fake GST registrations conducted by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) from May 16 to July 15, 2023. To a query on whether the government has considered the challenges faced by e-commerce enterprises in obtaining GST

registrations, especially operating in virtual spaces, Sitharaman said that considering the special nature of e-commerce operators, a simplified procedure for registration of e-commerce operators has already been notified. It provides that when an e-commerce operator applies for registration in a particular state or Union Territory where he/she does not have a physical presence, he/she can apply for registration by giving details of the principal place of business located in another state or Union Territory. Further, amendments have been made in GST Rules to strengthen the registration process, including biometric-based Aadhaar authentication, for high-risk registrants, along with the verification of the original copy of the documents. A pilot project for this was launched in Gujarat. In July, the pilot project was extended to Puducherry and in November to Andhra Pradesh. Also, details of bank account, name and PAN of the registered person are required to be furnished within 30 days of the grant of registration or before filing of the statement of outward supply, whichever is earlier. Entities who do not furnish the details of valid bank accounts within the time period prescribed will be suspended automatically by the system. However, upon compliance with this provision subsequently, by the registered persons such system-based suspension would be automatically revoked by the system.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### POWERGRID LAB GETS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION



Gurugram: POWERGRID Advanced Research & Technology Centre (PARTeC), the technology development centre of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), Maha-ratna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has received an UCA International Users Group (UCAIug) accreditation, to perform IEC 61850 Conformance Testing of Intelligent Electronic Devices (IEDs).

### INTERNATIONAL HARDWARE FAIR 2023

New Delhi: Over 200 international exhibitors and 7000 trade buyers created a vibrant platform for cutting edge hardware products and solutions at the International Hardware Fair 2023 in national Capital last week.

### RISE IN GLOBAL PRICES OF DAP FERTILISERS

New Delhi: Fertiliser industry body (FAI) pointed out that global prices of Di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) have risen in the last few months and said there will be a need to increase either the government subsidy or retail prices if the rates remain high in the international market.

### DIGITAL INVESTMENT PLATFORM EXPANDING

New Delhi: Digital investment platform Vested said it is expanding its alternative investment portfolio by offering of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending via Vested Edge, and INR (Indian Rupee) bonds and solar projects via Vested Solar. With its solar offering, Vested is looking to give individuals the opportunity to earn while helping India transition to clean energy, a company statement said. Through Vested Solar, investors can own solar panels in rooftop projects and earn 10-13 per cent rate of return from the electricity generated over the panel's lifetime. The INR bonds offer another alternate fixed income investment opportunity to Vested customers. Vested offers a curated selection of listed corporate and government bonds, with corporate bonds rated A and above, and government bonds backed by the Indian Government.

# Rapido forays into cab services segment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ride hailing firm Rapido on Tuesday announced its foray into the cab services segment, where it will compete with established unicorns Ola and Uber. The company has started the service in Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad and Bengaluru with around 1.2 lakh cabs and plans to scale it to around 35 cities by September 2024, Rapido Co-founder Pavan Guntupalli said. "Over the course of 10 years not more than 25 per cent are participating in app based services. Our motive is to bring all these guys online and increase the market. "With a zero commission model, we will maximise their revenues in a way that it is not a burden on users," Guntupalli said. The captains or the driver partners will get direct payment from customers without any commission cut by Rapido. However, they will have to pay a subscription fee after crossing a certain level of earnings. While the company claimed that it will provide the lowest price in the market, a random



check on the app showed that the fare of Rapido cab was higher compared to the prices offered by the established online players. Guntupalli said that the service has just been launched and the company will work with cab partners to get the cheapest fare across 80 per cent of the route in the city where it operates. Software-as-a-service-based Rapido will invest in adding electric vehicles to its fleet but it will operate rest of cab services at break-even level, he said. The company plans to expand the services to Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai in January-March 2024 and cover a total of 35 cities by September 2024, Guntupalli said.



# Gold nosedives ₹1,050 to ₹63,250 per 10 gram

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold nosedived Rs 1,050 to Rs 63,250 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, retreating from its all-time high due to weak trends in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal settled at Rs 64,300 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also tumbled Rs 1,700 to Rs 78,500 per kilogram. "Gold prices plunged on Tuesday in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 63,250/10 grams, down by Rs 1,050, following a bearish trend in the overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at

HDFC Securities, said. In the futures trade, February contract of gold climbed Rs 46 to Rs 62,415 per 10 grams on the MCX. However, silver's March contract declined Rs 389 to Rs 75,779 per kilogram on the bourse. In the international markets, gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 2,037 per ounce and USD 24.50 per ounce, respectively. Gold retreated from its record high as the dollar and US Treasury yields advanced amid signs that traders' believe aggressive monetary policy of Federal Reserve rate cuts may have gone too far, Gandhi said.



# INDIA TO PLAY FEARLESS CRICKET

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India women team's new head coach Amol Muzumdar wants his players to play 'fearless cricket' while also making it clear that there would be no compromise on fitness and fielding, ahead of the three-match T20I series against England beginning here on Wednesday.

"We need to play a certain brand of cricket, which we have been known for so far. Fearless cricket is something which I have always advocated. We would be playing that brand of cricket," Muzumdar told reporters on Tuesday ahead of the team's training session at the Wankhede Stadium.

"Shafali (Verma) and Jemimah (Rodrigues) are both very important cog in the wheel. I would like them to continue what they have been doing," Muzumdar said that every step taken from here-on will be important as the team has embarked on its preparations for next year's T20 World Cup (September-October 2024 in Bangladesh).

"We are moving towards the World Cup. Every series and match will have its own importance. The series against England and Australia will count a lot," said Muzumdar who is starting his coaching stint with the women's national team during the three-match T20I series against England.

"We had a chat about it with the team and they (players) are all raring to go. Every step that we take (hereon) is (about) moving towards the World Cup.

"England and Australia will be a superb series to start the preparations (for the World Cup). (Both) will be tough series (and) will give us an indication of where we are. Going forward, the tougher the opposition, the better it is," he said.

After the contest against England, India face

## NO COMPROMISE ON FITNESS AND FIELDING: WOMEN'S TEAM COACH MUZUMDAR



Australia in another home series.

Muzumdar said there will not be any compromise on fielding and fitness standards, as parameters have been set and are being followed already.

"Fielding and fitness are of highest priority. There is no compromise on fielding or fitness. There will be a lot of camps post this series - a lot of cricket will be played - at NCA or some other place," he said.

"That means more exposure. All the fringe and new players will also get an opportunity." India's record of only seven wins in 27 matches against England in T20Is (home and away) does not bother the new coach who has urged his team to leave the past behind.

"As a team, we have decided to leave the statistics and whatever has happened behind us. We are looking forward to a fresh start," said the domestic batting stalwart.

"The numbers are there to be seen, but these girls and the team are looking forward to the season ahead. We are not going to go back in history — of course it is important — but at the same time, it is also important to look forward to the season ahead. They are all raring to go."

Muzumdar informed that Troy Cooley has been named the bowling coach for the series against England (three T20Is, one Test) and Australia (one Test, three T20Is and three ODIs).

He said women's cricket in India is on 'cusp of something big' with the inaugural Women's Premier League garnering a lot of response from the fans.

"It was a fantastic advertisement for women's cricket last year. We all saw how many people turned up for the game. We all are on the cusp of getting it big in women's cricket. The crowd turning up for the game is absolutely a boost for everyone," he said.



## Bangladesh looking to secure first test series win over NZ

AP ■ MIRPUR (BANGLADESH)

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha wants his players to guard against complacency as it tries to secure a first series win against New Zealand in the second and final test.

Bangladesh won the first test in Sylhet by 150 runs to close in on a landmark series victory. The only top-level teams that Bangladesh has ever beaten in a two-match test series are Zimbabwe and West Indies.

"I can't see complacency in the team. If I see any action of complacency, I will have one to one chat," Hathurusingha said ahead of Wednesday's opening day.

"We had a good chat inside the dressing room yesterday. Strong and experienced leaders like Mushy (Mushfiqur Rahim) and Mominul (Haque) spoke very emotionally. They spoke in Bengali. I can see there's no tall poppies in the dressing room." The Sylhet test victory was only Bangladesh's second against New Zealand in 18 meetings, and it came courtesy of captain Najmul Hossain Shanto's second-innings century.

In doing so, Shanto became the first Bangladeshi cricketer to hit a century on his debut as captain.

"Captaincy and leadership are two things," Hathurusingha said. "Shanto's) captaincy was excellent. He was tactically on the mark. He was step ahead of the game most of the time. Very impressive field placements as well. Sometimes unorthodox, but very effective.

"(His) leadership was excellent. He led from the front with his performance. He was commanding respect, and demanding the standard. I think he has

a long future ahead."

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, who took 10-184 in the first test, will be a Bangladesh's most crucial weapon in Mirpur, which traditionally has a slow wicket with unven bounce.

"He goes under the radar because he plays second fiddle to Shakib (Al Hasan) in most of the games," Hathurusingha said of Islam. "His record is phenomenal. He has nearly 200 wickets. He is very consistent." New Zealand skipper Tim Southee said the team's spinners need to show more consistency if they are to avoid a first series defeat against Bangladesh.

"We're expecting obviously spin-friendly conditions, but we spoke about it after the last game about being more consistent for longer as a bowling group," Southee said. "And then, obviously, partnerships as a batting unit. We've had a great couple of days of training. So, we're looking forward to getting into another test match."

While Bangladesh's spinners claimed 18 wickets at an economic rate of 2.48, New Zealand's spinners took 14 wickets at a rate of 3.73 runs.

New Zealand's frontline spinners Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi also had a limited impact in the match, and the team could include Rachin Ravindra and Mitchell Santner in the squad for the second test.

"They're (Ravindra and Santner) obviously capable spinners. But we went with what we thought was the best side to win that first test match," Southee said. "It's just a tough one to try and get your 15 great players to fit into an 11. So, it's about picking a side that you think is going to do the job for the five days ahead of you."

## This tour is going to be valuable: Heather

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The T20 series in India gain significance as it will show how the young visiting players excel in conditions which will be similar to what the team will experience in Bangladesh during next year's T20 World Cup, said England women's skipper Heather Knight.

India and England are set to face off in a three-match T20 series, starting here on Wednesday.

"I learned a lot about my game playing in Indian conditions, it really tests you as a cricketer, your skill level and how you do with the noise and the heat," Knight told reporters ahead of England's training session here on Tuesday.

"It is a really good place to accelerate development, to see how our young players cope with it. We have got a T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later on in the year (2024) so this tour is going to be valuable in terms of having similar conditions."

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be hosted by Bangladesh between September and October in 2024.

A lot of members of the

England's T20I squad arrived in India two days before the start of the series which will be played at the Wankhede Stadium on Dec 6, 9 and 10.

Knight said it will be challenging for her team to silence the Indian crowd as despite their dominant record against the hosts, presence of "world-class" players make India a "brilliant" team.

"We have had some really good T20 games against them. They have got some world-class players in and in home conditions they are going to be tough (to face)," Knight said.

After winning the ODI World Cup beating India in the final, Australia captain Pat Cummins had said that he took delight in silencing the Indian fans.

Knight said passionate crowds in India can be imposing on the visiting sides and her team will look to keep its focus amid all the noise.

"Sometimes you can feel like things are accelerating; rushed actually, when there is crowd and the game is happening quite quickly. We have talked a lot about trying to get our own pace, maintain our concentration in the moment," the



England captain said.

"Trying to silence the crowd will be tougher - watching the men's World Cup it is all you see and

and even if there is not many of them they are usually very loud.

"We have to have quick turnaround, adapting to conditions has to be accelerated a bit. How we do that, how we communicate, how we are going to take 10 wickets, how we are going to score runs?" Knight said the past experience of playing in India, including the Women's Premier League (WPL) earlier this year should hold her side in good stead.

"We have got some good experience of players playing in India as well which will be valuable. It will be a brilliant series between two best teams," she said.

Having played in the WPL for Royal Challengers Bangalore wherein Knight shared the dressing room with some Indian players like Smriti Mandhana, Shreyanka Patil and Kanika Ahuja, the England

captain said knowledge-sharing works two-ways.

"It is brilliant that some of the RCB girls have got the chance to play for India on the back of what they did in the WPL. It works both ways, obviously I know those players better and they also know my game better," Knight said.

England have seven wins in nine T20Is against India in their backyard and overall 20 wins from 27 matches, but Knight said it does not feel like they have a comforting factor as far as knowledge of conditions is concerned.

"It feels like a long time actually since we have been to India, before that 2019 series we had a lot of tours here," she said.

"It is how the Future Tours Programme pans out, and obviously, playing another WPL here in the calendar, there is going to be a lot of cricket here which is brilliant."

## Rajeshwari, Vivaan win season's first trap shooting national trials

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Paris Olympics quota winner Rajeshwari Kumari on Tuesday won the national selection trial 1 in women's trap, while Vivaan Kapoor triumphed in the men's category on a day when both the finals went into shoot-offs.

India's No. 1 woman trap shooter Rajeshwari had topped the qualification round held at the Karni Singh ranges over three days, with a score of 118.

Teenager Bhavya Tripathi of Delhi, who won silver, shot 114 to grab one of the six qualifying spots, but improved upon her fifth position to end tied at 43 hits with Rajeshwari in the final.

Bhavya then missed the first shoot-off shot as Rajeshwari made no mistake to win the match. Shreyasi Singh was third.

Vivaan's path to winning the trial was a bit different as he shot 121 in qualification to finish second to Shardul Vihaan, who shot a



table-topping 122.

The Rajasthan trap shooter then hit 44 targets in the final and

found himself tied with Zoravar Singh Sandhu after the regulation 50 targets. It was the second time Vivaan faced Zoravar in a shoot-off on the day.

At the end of the qualification, Vivaan had piped Zoravar 1-0 to take the higher bib number going into the final. In the final, Zoravar put up a better fight, but missed his third shoot-off target as Vivaan blasted all three.

Former world champion Manavjit Sandhu came third.



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No:- GM/CC/Veh/2023-24/8163 Bhopal, Dated : 05.12.2023

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Name of Unit/Office	Particulars	Due Date of submission of offer	Opening Date & Time
The DGM STM City Circle Bhopal	Type-C, Mini Pickup (Double Cabin with Ladder for Single Shift	18.12.2023 upto 03:00 P.M.	18.12.2023 at 03:30 P.M.

Other details, terms and conditions are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> or the under signed office.

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Tender No.	Particulars	Date & Time of Closing of online submission	Date & Time of E-Opening of tender
WT-4493/TID-2023_MPPGC_317960_1	Transportation with loading of coal from Sharda UG of Kanhan Area Mine of M/s. WCL to STPS, Sarni by Contractor in completely covered and sealed Tipppers/Trucks and unloading the Coal in Coal Yard at MPPGCL, Sarni as per instruction of Engineer-in-Charge.	11.12.2023 Up to 15:00 Hrs.	12.12.2023 From 15:30 hrs. onwards

"Save Energy and for free Fly Ash supply, Contract No." 9425611055

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फोन: 7745015751

**जयश्रुदा वाहनो की नालामी हेतु सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बैंक की निम्न शाखाओं द्वारा निम्न विस्तारित वाहनो को ऋण न चुकाने पर जप्त किया गया है। निम्न वाहन, जैसे-जैसे हैं, जो कुछ भी हैं, जिस हालत में हैं, जो आधार पर बैंक की निम्न सूचना व शर्तों के अधीन आम नीलामी / बोली द्वारा दिनांक **15-12-2023** (दिन शुक्रवार) को विक्रय किये जाने हैं :-

क्रं.	शाखा	ऋणी का नाम व पता	वाहन का विवरण	आरक्षित मूल्य	घरोहर राशि
1.	शाखा जीवाजीपुर (5698) विदिशा	1. श्री उमेश गिरि पुत्र श्री तोरन गिरि पता : ग्राम काजर पोस्ट लखनपुर जिला विदिशा म.प्र. पिन- 464001 खाता नं. : 5698768000045	Loading Auto, ATUL Gam Premium XL REG. MP40 LA 1739	₹ 75,000.00	₹ 7,500.00

नियम व शर्त :- 1. उक्त ऋणियों को एकद्वारा अंतिम बार नोटिस दिया जाता है कि इस नीलामी सूचना प्रकाशन से 7 दिवस के अंदर अपना ऋण खाता बंद कर संबंधित शाखा / सेक्टर से एनओसी प्राप्त कर लेवे अन्यथा उनका जबरजुस्त वाहन नीलाम कर दिया जायेगा और नीलामी से प्राप्त राशि उनके वाहन ऋण खाते में जमा कर बकाया ऋण राशि के लिए ऋणी व गारंटर को विवेक विवेक वसूली प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ की जायेगी, जिसमें होने वाले समस्त हर्ज-खर्च की जिम्मेवारी ऋणी व गारंटर की होगी। 2. वाहन कब्र करने हेतु रसोई एवं घरोहर राशि पेआउट / डीडी द्वारा (जो कि शाखा के नाम से हो), फोटो परिचय पत्र एवं पते के प्रमाण पत्र की छायाप्रति (पिन कार्ड (अनिवार्य) / आधार कार्ड / ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस इत्यादि) के साथ संलग्न कर नीलामी से पूर्व जमा करे। 3. वाहन का विक्रय आरक्षित मूल्य से कम पर नहीं किया जायेगा। अधिकतम राशि की बोली लगाने वाले को वाहन विक्रय करने अथवा ना करने का अधिकार बैंक के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। बोली स्वीकृत होने पर विक्रय राशि का 25% (पूर्व में जमा 10% घरोहर राशि को मिलाकर) नीलामी वाले दिन ही जमा करना होगा यह राशि जमा न करने पर घरोहर राशि जप्त कर ली जायेगी। बाकी की 75% विक्रय राशि बोली के दिन के ही जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा, उसी के उपरान्त वाहन की सुपुर्दगी दी जायेगी, बकाया 75% राशि जमा न करने पर 25% राशि (घरोहर राशि सहित) जप्त कर ली जायेगी, क्रेता को वाहन के विक्रय (नीलामी) एवं हस्तांतरण संबंधी समस्त दस्तावेज संबंधित शाखा से स्वयं प्राप्त करने होंगे। 4. नीलामी स्थल पर सॉलिंग / फिकसिंग / अगड़ा करने वालों को नीलामी प्रक्रिया से बाहर कर दिया जायेगा इस नीलामी प्रक्रिया की नियम एवं शर्तों में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन करने का अधिकार बैंक को है। किसी भी प्रकार का वाद-विवाद होने पर प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, केनरा बैंक, न्यायिक का निर्णय सर्वमान्य होगा। 5. उपरोक्त सभी वाहन कार्यालयीन समय में प्राधिकृत अधिकारी की अनुमति दिनांक **14-12-2023** (दिन शनिवार) तक देखे जा सकते हैं। बोलीदाताओं को निर्दिष्ट किया जाता है कि वाहनो को मौखिक रूप से देखकर पूर्ण रूप से संतुष्ट होने के बाद ही नीलामी में भाग लें, नीलामी परवात किसी भी प्रकार की शिकायत / आपत्ति स्वीकार्य नहीं होगी। 6. नीलामी, दिनांक **15-12-2023** (सोमवार) को दोपहर 3 बजे से केनरा बैंक, जीवाजीपुर पोस्ट लखनपुर जिला विदिशा पर होगी। 7. नीलामी द्वारा विक्रय किये गये वाहनो के विक्रय, हस्तांतरण, नीलामी स्थल से ले जाने सम्बंधित व अन्य समस्त व्यय सफल क्रेता को ही वहन करने होंगे। 8. नीलामी सम्बंधित अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राप्त: 12 बजे से सायं 5 बजे तक फोन नं. **7745015751, 8989992605, 8770193173** पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं (बदलावा वाले दिन को छोड़ कर)। 9. नीलाम किये गये वाहन के विक्रय / पंजीकरण / परमिट संबंधित सभी कार्यवाही (वाहन ऋणी के नाम से बैंक के नाम होने एवं फिर बैंक के नाम से खरीददार के नाम ट्रांसफर) क्रेता को ही करवानी होगी एवं समस्त व्यय क्रेता को ही वहन करने होंगे। 10. उक्त नियम व शर्तों में किसी भी प्रकार का परिवर्तन करने का अधिकार एवं नीलामी को बिना कोई कारण बताए किसी भी समय निरस्त करने का अधिकार केनरा बैंक को है।

स्थान: जीवाजीपुर, दिनांक : 05.12.2023

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी केनरा बैंक





**ZONAL OFFICE, CIVIL LINES, Jabalpur- 482001**  
**Ph: 0761-2624977. Email: zojabalpur@indianbank.co.in**

**APPENDIX- IV-A" [RULE 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of the amounts and Interest due to Indian Bank branch thereon mentioned against account herein below. The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

**Date and Time of E-Auction** **22-12-2023**  
**11.00 AM TO 4.00 PM**

S. No.	Branch Name Name of the Account Name of the Borrower/ Prop./Director/ Partner / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Detailed description of the Property For E- Auction	Amount Outstanding Encumbrances On Property	Reserve Price
			Type of Possession	EMD Amount Bid incremental amount
1.	Civil Lines Branch Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor - M/s Krishna Poly Extrusion Prop: Shri Preetam Das Moorjani S/o Ghanashyam Das Moorjani and Smt. Deepa Moorjani W/o Preetam Das Moorjani, Shri Devendra Moorjani S/o Ghanashyam Das Moorjani and Smt. Jaini Moorjani W/o Devendra Moorjani	<b>Property No. 1. Property Owner - Shri Preetam Das Moorjani as proprietor M/S Krishna Poly Extrusion</b> Plot no.86 & 87, Sector B, Industrial growth Center, Maneri Industrial area, Dist-Mandla, M.P., Area: 2000 sq. mtr. <b>Boundaries</b> - North: Plot No. 92, South: 18 M Wide Road, East: Plot no. 88, West : 18M Wide Road Value of P&M: Rs.45.64 lacs, Value of Land & Factory Shed : Rs.42.36 lacs, Total value: Rs.88.00 lacs <b>Property No.2: Mouza/village: Dhangawan, NB No.359, PC No.69, New 81/65, RNW Ponda, Khasra No.831=0.74 Hectare &amp; Khasra No.833/2=0.32 Hectare, Tehsil- Sihora, Dist-Jabalpur Out of Khasra no.831=0.44 Hectare diverted land &amp; Khasra No.833/2=0.32 Hectare out of which 0.08 Hectare acquired by NHAJ, available land 0.24 Hectare (0.32 Hectare-0.08 Hectare= 0.24 Hectare). Total diverted land area=0.44 Hectare (khasra no.831) + 0.24 Hectare (Khasra no.833/2)=0.68 Hectare at Mouza/Village-Dhangawan, RNM Ponda, Tehsil - Sihora Dist- Jabalpur <b>Boundaries</b> - North: Land of Munna Saga, South: Land of Tejilal, East : Pahadi, West : Jabalpur Katni Highway</b>	<b>Rs. 1,15,89,729 /-</b> (as on 11.10.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Physical Possession</b>	<b>Rs 88,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 8,80,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b> <b>Rs 85,50,000/-</b> <b>Rs 8,55,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
2.	Civil Lines Branch Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor - Mr. Jagir Singh S/o Sri Diler Singh and Mrs. Hema Chauhan W/o Mr. Jagir Singh Residing at Flat No.103, A-7, Ground Floor, IDB Royal city, Lamhetaghat Road, Chokital, Jabalpur -482001, M.P.	<b>Property Owner- Mr. Jagir Singh S/o. Shri Diler Singh</b> Residential Flat No.102 on ground floor (3 BHK), Block -A-4, having builtup area of 891.68 Sq.ft and Super builtup area of 1204 Sqft, Undivided Share area 401 Sqft, constructed on multi Storied Apartment/Building known as "IBD Royal City" Developed on land bearing Khasra No. 33/3,out of total area 11.25 acre bearing part of diversion Khasra No. 28, 33/1, 34/1 Khasra No. 28/2, 28/3, 33/3, 34/6 & 34/7, Situated at : Mauza Chowkital S.No.162, P.C. No. 35 (old), New- 20, R.I.Circle - Jabalpur- 2 & Vikas Khand - Jabalpur, Maharana Pratap Ward No.,Tehsil & District-Jabalpur M. P. <b>Boundaries</b> - North-Flat No, A-5/107, South- Flat No.A-4/101, East-Corridor, West-Open Road	<b>Rs. 19,84,626 /-</b> (as on 02.05.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 20,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
3.	City Office Branch M/s Baa Rewa Tiles Manufacturer (Prop: Mr. Rajeev Kumar Tiwari) (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor)	Mauza Mahjawan N.B. 716 P.H. No. 16 RNM Maharajpur Khasra No 176 Area sold 0.200 hectare out of Total area 1.300 hectare diverted Khasra no 176/02 area 21000 sqft. Vide order 134/a-2/9-10 Challan no nil Rs. 34521/- dated 26.02.2010 Jabalpur. <b>Property Owner- M/s Baa Rewa Tiles, Prop.- Mr. Rajeev Kumar</b> <b>Boundaries</b> - North: Land of Vendor, South: Land of Mejawahar Sunil, East: Village Padariya road and Land of Jawahar, West: Property Badri Prasad	<b>Rs. 13,30,056 /-</b> (as on 27.08.2019) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 26,75,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,67,500/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
4.	City Office Branch M/s Rahul Traders (Prop: Mr. Rahul Sharma) (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor).	House No.426 (Old), 561 (New), Plot No.516 (Sheet no.55) at Singhai Colony, Mahatma Gandhi Ward, Jabalpur. (M.P.) <b>Boundaries:-</b> North: H/O Shri Lok Nath Gupta, South: Road, East: Shri Namdeo ji, West: Side road	<b>Rs. 24,67,012 /-</b> (as on 30.08.2022) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 28,50,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,85,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
5.	City Office Branch Mrs. Jasbeer Kaur W/o Late Raghuveer Singh Reel and Mr. Gurudeep Singh Reel S/o Raghuveer Singh Reel and along with all known and unknown legal heir of Late Mr. Raghuveer Singh Reel (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor).	Land and Building situated at 646/A Gorakhpur George D' Silva Ward Jabalpur having area 1522 Sq ft <b>Property Owner- Shri Sardar Raghuveer Singh Reel</b> <b>Boundaries</b> - North: Amar Jeet Singh Farwala, South: Property of Shri Pranath Arya ( Ravi Printing Press ), East : Open land, West : Road	<b>Rs. 12,64,341 /-</b> (as on 19.12.2022) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 42,50,000/-</b> <b>Rs 4,25,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
6.	Wright Town Branch Mr. Preetam Lal S/o. Mr. Kanthi Lal (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor).	Residential Part of Plot No 27, Part of P-II Khasra No. 420/1, after mutation New Khasra No. 420/1/1/1 at Mouza Karmeta, N.B. No.497, PH No-78, Behind Anganwadi Kendra, Karmeta, Khatu Shyam Colony Ward no.73, in front of RTO office, Maharajpur, New Laxmipur Tehsil, New Adhartal, and district Jabalpur, M.P. having area of 1000 sq ft. <b>Property Owner- Shri Preetam Lal S/o Mr. Kanthi Lal</b> <b>Boundaries</b> - North-Side Road, South-Plot No-29, East-Side Road, West-Plot No 24	<b>Rs. 33,54,694 /-</b> (as on 10.04.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 34,24,000/-</b> <b>Rs 3,42,400/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
7.	Wright Town Branch Sandeep Singh Chhabra S/o. Late Mr. Jagjeet Singh Chhabra (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor).	Residential Flat No.211 admeasuring 1550 sqft. (super builtup area)on the 2nd floor of residential building at "Mohit Skyline" multistoried apartment building, with undivided interest of 546.23 sqft. On layout plot No.1 to 4 having total area 27767.05 sqft. Forming part of Khasra No.270/1, 270/3, 269/1, 286/1, 287/1 after mutation new khasra No.270, 286/1, Sheet No.24 (New) 231(Old) P.C. No. 33/28 Situated At Mauza- Tilhari District- Jabalpur. <b>Property Owner- Sandeep Singh Chhabra</b> <b>Boundaries</b> - North- Flat No-201, South-Flat No-210, East- Corridor, West- Open to Sky	<b>Rs. 21,49,686 /-</b> (as on 28.01.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 38,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 3,80,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
8.	Shahpura Bhitoni Branch 1.Shri Himanshu Pathak S/o Shri Rajesh Pathak R/o Police Station ke Peeche, Ward No 02, Shahpura, Jabalpur, M.P. 483119. (Borrower) 2. Shri Rajesh Pathak S/o Shri Guru Dayal Pathak R/o House No 121, Behind Police Station, Ward No 02, Shahpura, Jabalpur, M P 483119. (Borrower) (Since reported deceased), through legal heirs, both known and unknown. 3. Shri Rajesh Pathak S/o Shri Gurdal Pathka R/o House No 121, Behind Police Station, Ward No 02, Shahpura, Jabalpur, M P 483119. (Guarantor)	<b>Property Owner - Shri Himanshu Pathak.</b> Residential building bearing Khasra No. 12/2, Mouza /Village - Bilkharwa, N.B no 36, P.C. No 52/37, Bhimrao Ambedkar, Ward No 15 R.N.M. - Shahpura, Tehsil-Shahpura, Distt - Jabalpur, it is measuring area 60 x20 = 1200 sq. ft. (111.52 sq mts) <b>Boundaries</b> - East : Land of Rajesh Pathak, West : Land of Rajesh Pathak, North : Side Road, South : Land of Umesh Awasthi	<b>Rs. 16,61,820 /-</b> (as on 16.05.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 10,80,000/-</b> <b>Rs 1,08,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
9.	Madhotal Branch 1. M/s Prakash Music Palace, Prop. Prakash Ahirwar, Business Address: Katangi Road, Jabalpur M.P. ( Proprietor & Borrower) 2. Sri Prakash Ahirwar S/o Athaeal Ahirwar ( Borrower & Mortgager) 3. Athaeal Ahirwar S/o Accchelal Ahirwar ( Guarantor) Address: R/o HN 3303/4, ITI, Nai Basti Madhotal, Jabalpur	Plot situated at S.No. 497 Mouza:- Karmeta, PH No. 23, RNM - Maharajpur, Tehsil:- Adhartal, Jabalpur (MP), (part of Khasra No. 225/2, after diversion 225/55)Area of property 935 sq. ft. ( 42.5 ft X 22ft ). <b>Boundaries</b> :- North: Plot of Mr. Panchu Choudhury South: Side Road, East: Plot of Mr. Jaiswal, West: Plot of Mr. Halke Choudhury <b>Property ID - IDIB010696943357</b>	<b>Rs. 19,65,089 /-</b> (as on 30.11.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 12,50,100/-</b> <b>Rs 1,25,010/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
10.	Madhotal Branch Borrower - M/s. Aastha Ware House - Prop. Smt. Alka Patel W/o Shri Sushil Kumar Patel At Village Gadarkheda, Gram Panchayat - Dhanpuri, PO - Deori ( Patpara), Tehsil & Dist- Jabalpur, M.P. Business Address - M/s Aastha Ware House, At- Village Gadarkheda, Gram Panchayat - Dhanpuri, Po-Deori( Patpara), Tehsil & Dist- Jabalpur, M P Guarantor - 2. Sushil Kumar Patel S/o Late Girani Lal Patel 3. Sri Sunil Kumar Patel S/o Late Girani Lal Patel Address :- Village Gadarkheda, Gram Panchayat- Dhanpuri, Po - Deori( Patpara), Tehsil & Dist- Jabalpur, M.P.	<b>1. Property Owner - Mrs. Alka Patel W/o. Mr. Sushil Kumar Patel</b> Mouza Deori, part of Kh. No.406, N.B No. 363, P.H.C. No.- 57/92, R.I.C - Khamariya, Tehsil Jabalpur M.P. Having plot area- 0.200 Hectare <b>Boundaries:-</b> North - Property of Sanjay Kumar Patel, South - Property of Sanjay Kumar Patel, East - Nala, West - Side Road <b>Property ID - IDIB030102346043</b>	<b>Rs. 58,59,542 /-</b> (as on 30.11.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 70,94,700/-</b> <b>Rs 7,09,470/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
11.	Madhotal Branch Borrower -1. Mrs. Pallavi Sonkar W/o Mr. Ansul Sonkar 2. Akash Sonkar, S/o. Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Sonkar 3. Mrs. Amita Sonkar W/o Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Sonkar All Residing at Address : Rain Basera, Gour River, Mandla Road, Jabalpur MP-482001	<b>1. Property Owner - Mrs. Amita Sonkar w/o Sudarshan Sonkar</b> Flat situated at Katanga, JDA Scheme No.27, JDA lease, Plot/Quarter No.5, HIG Flat No. 5, Measuring Area 945 Sq Ft. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East : Open to Space, West : Common Passage and Stairs, North : Open to Space, South : Balcony & Open to Space <b>Property ID - IDIB030273912321</b>	<b>Rs. 86,18,667 /-</b> (as on 30.11.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 27,64,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,76,400/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
12.	Madhotal Branch Borrower & Mortgagor - Mr. Ansul Sonkar, S/o Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Sonkar Co-Borrower - Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Sonkar S/o Mr. Suggi Lal Sonkar Both at Address: Rain Basera, Gour River, Mandla Road, Jabalpur M.P. (482001)	<b>1. Property Owner - Mrs. Anshul Sonkar S/o Sudarshan Sonkar</b> Sale Deed No. 1172 dated :-06.08.2013 , Volume no.1193, Block. No. A/1, registered in Page No to 81, Sub registrar Office in Jabalpur. Property situated at Mouza Padariya, PC No.50/71, Plot No- 295, N.B 185, RNM Khamariya Tehsil and Dist. Jabalpur (M.P.), its admeasuring area 1000 sq. ft. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East : Open to Space, West : Common Passage to Stairs, North : Open to Space, South : Balcony & Open to Space <b>Property ID - IDIB030261958031</b>	<b>Rs. 31,06,591 /-</b> (as on 30.11.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 24,48,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,44,800/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
13.	Madhotal Branch 1. Smt. Janki Soni W/o Shri Rishi Kumar Soni Address: R/o H.No. 133, Mangal Chantli Mandir Kc Pass, Bandhaiya Moholla, Jabalpur M.P (Borrower) 2. Shri Rishi Kumar Soni, S/o Shri Kishan Lal Soni Address: R/o H.No. 33, North Miloniganj, Bandhaiya Moholla, Govind Wallabh Pant Ward, Jabalpur M.P. ( Guarantor & Mortgagor)	<b>1. Property Owner - Mr. Rishi Kumar Soni S/o Mr. Krishna Kumar Soni.</b> Property Situated at Mauna Block No. 19. Part of Plot 53/1, Old Miloniganj Ward then Rajiv Gandhi ward, Presently Govind Ballabh Pant Ward. Tehsil and District. Jabalpur, along with all its building and structure. <b>Boundaries:-</b> North : House of Prakash Chandra Soni, South : House of Gajendra Soni, East : House of Bhupendra Dubey, West : Road and House of Seller <b>Property ID - IDIB030146735027</b>	<b>Rs. 29,25,005 /-</b> (as on 02.12.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 18,90,000/-</b> <b>Rs 1,89,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
14.	Damoh Branch Borrower & Mortgagor- Shri Ramraj Dixit S/o Shri Neelmani Dixit Unit Address: Plot No: A-83, Industrial Area, Gram Marutaa, Damoh (MP) - 470661 Res. Add: Lala Lalpat Rai Ward no: 18, 212, Naya Bazar No: 2, Damoh, (M.P.) - 470661 Mortgagor & Guarantor- 1. Shri Arvind Kumar Dixit S/o Shri Shiv Shankar Dixit 2. Shri Raghvendra Dixit S/o Shri Shiv Shankar Dixit Both Residing at - 212, Naya Bazar No: 2, Near Dr. Kedar Sharma, Damoh Khas, Damoh (MP) - 470661	<b>Property No: 1- Owned by Shri Ramraj Dixit S/o Shri Neelmani Dixit</b> Unit situated at Sector A-83, out of Khasra No: 1/148 & 1/151, PH No: 71, Sector: A-83 Industrial Area: Marutal, Damoh (MP) and its admeasuring plot area 1125 sq. mtr., along with all its future construction thereon. (Leased by DITC Damoh in favour of Shri Ramraj Dixit) <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot No. A-84, West: Plot No. A-82, North: Plot No. A-68, South: Road <b>Property No: 2- Owned by Shri Raghvendra Dixit S/o Shri Shiv Shankar Dixit</b> Residential building and Plot situated at Mouza: Damoh Khasa, Civil Ward No: 7, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Nagar Housing Board Colony, PH No: 59A/16, NB: 006, RNM: Damoh-2, The & Distt: Damoh (MP), House No: Jr.MIG-156 and its admeasuring plot area 1164.07 sq. ft., along with all its future construction thereon. <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Junior MIG No: 155, West: Junior MIG No: 157, North: Junior MIG No: 165, South: Colony Road <b>Property No: 3 - Owned by Shri Arvind Kumar Dixit S/o Shri Shiv Shankar Dixit</b> Residential plot situated at Diversion Khasra No: 137/2, 137/9, PH No: 14/29 (Beside Village Road), Gram: Laadanbag, Teh & Distt: Damoh (MP) and its admeasuring plot area 1844.4 sq. ft., along with all its future construction thereon. <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Land of Shri Khanduja, West: Path left by Seller (Shri Rohit Gupta), North: Land of Shri Abhishek Dubey, South: Land of Shri Monu Chourasia & Shri Rakesh Agrawal	<b>Rs. 28,14,144 /-</b> (as on 12.07.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 22,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,20,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b> <b>Rs 20,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b> <b>Rs 23,50,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,35,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
15.	Shahpura Bhitoni Branch 1. Shri Jagganath Soni (Borrower) Village- Ramkhiriya, Thuntha, Tehsil- Shahpura, Dist.- Jabalpur (M.P.) 483119 2. Shri Sharad Pratam Singh, (Guarantor) R/o Ward No. 05, Tehsil, Dist. Jabalpur (M.P.) 483119 3. Smt. Kiran Soni W/o Shri Jagannath Soni (Guarantor) Village- Ramkhiriya, Thuntha, Tehsil- Shahpura, Dist.- Jabalpur (M.P.) 483119	Land with Building situated at Mouza-Ganj Katanga, Part of Khasra 236/14, P H no-32, R.I.- Shahpura, Jabalpur, MP 483119, Measuring area of 2030Sqft out of 0.100 Hectare <b>Property Owner- Jagganath Soni</b> <b>Boundaries</b> - North- Road, South- Property of Agrawal Ji, East - Property of Seller, West - Property of Rathod ji	<b>Rs. 9,61,086 /-</b> (as on 24.08.2022) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 20,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 2,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
16.	Shahpura Bhitoni Branch 1. M/s Khushi Traders, Prop.- Shri Hemendra Gatwar S/o Shri Ramgopal Gatwar, Ward No. 1, near Behroo Mata Mandir, Kaithra, Shahpura, Jabalpur (M.P.) 483119 2. Shri Jagganath Soni S/o Shri Mulayam Singh Ward No. 2, near Police Thana, Shahpura, Jabalpur (M.P.) 483119 3. Smt. Parvati Gatwar W/o Shri Ramgopal Gatwar Ward No. 01, near Behroo Mata Mandir, Main Road, Shahpura, Jabalpur (M.P.) 483119	Land with Building situated at khasra Number 8/1, Gram Panchayat Jhojhi, Janpad Shahpura, R I- Shahpura, Tehsil Patan, Jabalpur, M. P. 483119, Measuring area of 975 Sqft out of 0.263 Hectare <b>Property Owner- Parvati Gatwar</b> <b>Boundaries</b> - North- Land of Narmada Prasad, South- Government Road, East - Property of Ramkali Bai, West - Land of Seller	<b>Rs. 24,57,573 /-</b> (as on 18.02.2022) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 13,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 1,30,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
17.	Chhindwara Branch M/s Sidheswari Industries (Prop.- Smt Sarla Sahu), and Shri Damdi Lal Sahu S/o Balkram Sahu and Shri Mohan Lal Sahu Borrower/Guarantor/ Mortgagor)	All that part and parcel of property and construction thereon situated at Kh No.75/26 BNo.44, PH No.22, New Municipal Ward No.16, Opp. New Mandi Gate, Bypass Road, Village Kabadiya, Chhindwara. Area of the property 2500 sqft along with all its building and structure thereon standing in the Name of Smt. Sarla Sahu <b>Boundaries</b> - North: Plot of Bharat Kumar, South: Rough Road, East: Plot of Ajay Sahu, West: Boundary wall of Purchaser <b>Property ID - IDIB50085114393</b>	<b>Rs. 1,15,40,832 /-</b> (as on 29.11.2023) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 11,00,000/-</b> <b>Rs 1,10,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
18.	Raipur Hoshangabad Branch Shri Sunil Kumar Sarathe and Sarita Sarathe (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor)	One residential house no 03 area 360 Sq Ft i.e. 35.45 Sq. Mt. out of plot no 137 diverted khasra no 60/1, situated at Mouza Rasuliya popularly known as "Ashutosh Nagar" ward no 25 new no 22 PC NO 17 Settlement no 270, Narmadapuram Tehsil and Dist Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram) M.P. <b>Property Owner- Sunil Kumar Sarathe and Sarita Sarathe</b> <b>Boundaries</b> :- North: Road, South: Plot of Shiv Pariwar Shankar Mandir, East: Area Of Seller, West: House of Lalchand Yadav	<b>Rs. 10,30,702 /-</b> (as on 07.11.2019) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 15,84,000/-</b> <b>Rs 1,60,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
19.	Raipur Hoshangabad Branch Mr. Krishan Kumar & Mrs. Tanvi Singh (Borrower)	One Residential Plot Area East to West 27 Ft & North to South 16 Ft. Total Area 421 Sq.Ft. i.e. 40.14 Sq.Mt. Out of Diverted Khasra No. 436/13, Situated at Mouza Malakhedi. P.C. No. 17. Ward No. 10. Hoshangabad, Tehsil & District Hoshangabad <b>Property Owner- Smt. Tanvi Singh W/o Shri Krishna Kumar Singh R/o</b> Babai Road, Tehsil & Dist Hoshangabd. <b>Boundaries:-</b> North- House of Others, South-Remaining of Seller, East- Others Land. West- Rough Road.	<b>Rs. 8,22,992 /-</b> (as on 11.02.2020) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 9,56,000/-</b> <b>Rs 96,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
20.	Raipur Hoshangabad Branch Shri Virendra Sarathe & Sonam Sarathe (Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor)	One residential plot area East to West 30 Ft North to South 10 FT. Total area 300 Sq Ft. i.e. 27.88 Sq Mt and construction thereon, out of diverted Khasra no 436/13 Situated at Mouza Malakhedi P.C. NO 17 Ward no 10 Hoshangabad teshil and Dist Hoshangabad (Now Narmadapuram).	<b>Rs. 6,58,369 /-</b> (as on 07.09.2019) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 6,80,000/-</b> <b>Rs 68,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>
21.	Raipur Hoshangabad Branch Borrower / Mortgagor - Shri Lal Chand Yadav	One Residential Diverted plot no 137 with house no 02 Area 360 sq ft i.e. 33.45 Sq. Mt Diverted Khasra no 60/1 situated in Mouza Rasuliya (Ashutosh Nagar Colony ) Ward no 22 Tehsil and Dist Narmadapuram M.P <b>Property Owner - Lal Chand Yadav</b> <b>Boundaries:-</b> North : 10 Ft Wide Road Left by seller, South: Open Plot of Mehto Ji, East : House of Sunil Sarathe, West : Other Road	<b>Rs. 11,18,690 /-</b> (as on 28.03.2021) <b>+ interest and other expenses</b> <b>Not Known</b> <b>Symbolic Possession</b>	<b>Rs 15,84,000/-</b> <b>Rs 1,60,000/-</b> <b>Rs 10,000/-</b>

Bidders are advised to visit the website ([www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact [lbapiop@mstcecommerce.com](mailto:lbapiop@mstcecommerce.com) and for EMD status please contact [lbapiin@mstcecommerce.com](mailto:lbapiin@mstcecommerce.com) For property details and photograph of the auction terms and conditions please visit: <http://lbapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131". Platform for e-auction: <http://lbapi.in> and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com). This is also a notice to the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date and other details.